

Southern Accents

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As it welcomes its fourth generation of the Barry family, a Highland Park house finally gets the makeover it deserves

The console on the landing displays red coral from Peggy Barry's shell collection, which she began during her childhood summers in Rockport, Massachusetts. LEFT: In the foyer, an old bird aviary displays more shells from the collection. Antique amber crystal drops were added to the antique sconces to complement the chandelier. Floral design is by Christopher Whanger.



BY DAVID FELD
PHOTOGRAPHED BY PIETER ESTERSOHN



Dallas and Tulsa with designer Mary Anne Smiley. Their camaraderie helped Smiley create the look that Peggy had always dreamed of. "Peggy told me she wanted the house to be a jewel box," says Smiley, "so that's just what we created."

Although the Barrys aimed for furnishings with sophistication and elegance, they were equally intent on creating a space that would stand up to playful grandchildren and the neighborhood kids who drop in to get a drink of water or play with the pets. Sticky hands, muddy feet, and the family's bird, cat, and two dogs require practical decoration, if not Teflon coating. Smiley managed to create wash-and-wear interiors underneath all the pretty Continental panache.

"It looks formal," says Peggy, "but it's really not. We use the living room every day. We eat in the dining room every night. Even when my young grandsons visit, there is no surface in the house I worry about." Smiley pulled some obvious tricks out of her

ABOVE: The antique screen with a hand-painted hot-air balloon (reflected in the mirror) was the inspiration for the dining room. The balloon chandelier had just a wire frame, but Smiley transformed it with antique crystals. She found the chairs at a local estate sale and updated them in a leopard-print linen velvet. **RIGHT:** The documentary print on the Louis XV daybed and the rose print on the pillows bring bold color to the sunroom.





LEFT: In the often used breakfast room, reproduction chairs were selected over antiques. Mustard-colored walls create a warm counterpoint to the black-and-white curtains. The antique carved-wood wall decoration is one of a pair. **ABOVE:** In the living room, Smiley upholstered antique chairs in hand-painted linen. An antique bronze chandelier, found in shambles at an antiques mall, was refurbished with antique crystal drops. The mirrored coffee table is from Schumacher.

hat to toughen the décor, such as washable slipcovers and durable upholstery. Other more subtle sleights of hand include leopard-print velvet cushions in the dining room to hide spills and an antelope-print stair runner to mask dirt.

The wood floors were kept bare and rustic. Throughout the house, they were antiqued with a rice-grain color and then distressed and embellished with a hand-painted diamond pattern in sage green. "A contractor came in and wanted to do a basketball court finish on them, and we said no way," says Smiley. "We decided to just beat them up and let them look antique. If a dog scratches them, it just looks better."

Smiley drew detailed elevations for each room, from the architecture to the flooring to the furnishings. "We'd start out with the practical aspects first and then figure out how to create the understated elegance that Peggy wanted," she says. Chandeliers and sconces turned out to be one of the most labor-intensive elements. Smiley repainted and rewired antique fixtures and

The fabric on the draperies, settee, bed, and headboard echoes the citrus-colored walls. The antique chandelier and Louis XV two-drawer chest were local finds. OPPOSITE PAGE: The stylish music wallpaper is by Hines. The mirrors were made from one larger antique piece.



painstakingly embellished them by adding more antique crystals or replacing the existing ones. She says the Barrys wanted glamour, but glamour that fit within the budget.

The couple did splurge on a few things. The master bathroom has limestone flooring with an intricate mosaic tile border and luxurious églomisé mirrored cabinets designed by Smiley,

who was inspired by the mirrored coffee table in the living room. And a spacious, sunlit laundry room stocked with state-of-the-art appliances makes Peggy's life easier, even if she has fewer clothes to wash these days. "After getting married so young," she says, "we finally have our grown-up house." ♦

For details, see Sourcebook, page 204.