



Dining Redefined

KATIE AND PHILLIP HOEHN WANTED THEIR DINING ROOM TO REFLECT THEIR MATURING TASTES—BUT REMAIN KID-FRIENDLY

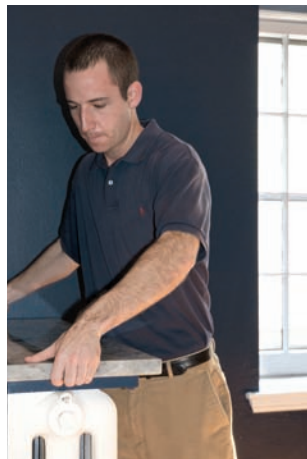
By *Margaret Bauer* Photography by *Anne Matheis*

After years of hard work building a marriage, starting a family and establishing their respective careers (she's a lawyer, he's a project manager), Katie and Phillip Hoehn finally stopped long enough to catch their breath and look around—and realized it was high time they made their University City home into a more adult space. Once they'd redone the kitchen and painted the upstairs bedrooms, they faced a more onerous task: reclaiming that little-used, nebulous space known as the formal dining room.

"It was pretty plain," says Mrs. Hoehn. "There was nothing there. I liked our buffet, and [to match] we wanted to do a little more mature dining room, even though we have two little girls." After the Hoehns' initial consultation with designer Ellen Alvey Edwards of Inspired Spaces, the trio embarked upon a makeover mission: to update the dining room with materials both classic enough to reflect the parents' tastes and durable enough to resist daughters Lilly and Emily's cookie-covered hands.

At that first meeting Mrs. Hoehn brought along a photo that reflected her desired color scheme—dark blue with lime green

MADE OVER



accents. Mr. Hoehn wasn't quite as into lime green, but loved the blue. A compromise was reached involving a lot of silver, a lot of crystal and gorgeous Naples Blue Sherwin-Williams paint on the walls, giving the space a classic feel to match the rest of the home. McIntyre Millwork created crown molding to be added around the ceiling's edge; with a coat of white paint, the moldings, window seat and window mullions would buffer the walls' dark blue, while bolstering the room's connection to the home's architecture. White-and-blue faux silk drapes created by local firm Material Girl, in turn, would soften the windows' harsh edges.

Bright color—though still not a ton of chartreuse—provided a fun counterpoint, as Ms. Alvey Edwards commissioned Material Girl to create a set of pillows in colorful faux silk for the window seat. "All the fabrics are really luxurious and really saturated in color, so it brings it all together. It's very eclectic—we have lots of different stuff going on," says Ms. Alvey Edwards. Not only that, she notes, the commercial-grade fabrics used throughout the room are fade-resistant, child-safe and washable. "When you have children, it's nice to add a little whimsy," she says.

Pieces from Mrs. Hoehn's aunt, including the aforementioned buffet, a long dining room table and a set of dark wood chairs, were already in the space, but looked worn around the edges, their surfaces faded and chipped. For this project the buffet



“When you have **CHILDREN**, it's nice to add a **LITTLE WHIMSY.**”

—ELLEN ALVEY EDWARDS

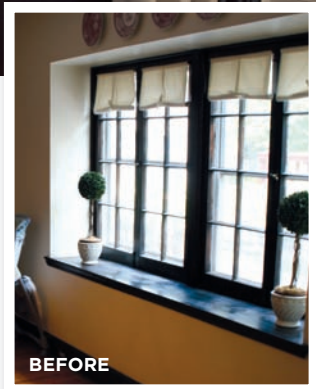
and chairs were sent off to St. Louis Restoration for refinishing; they came back smooth and flawless. Ms. Alvey Edwards reupholstered the seats with lush, blue-and-off-white Vervain fabric. "We also put bolsters in the captain's chairs, so if you're sitting there for a while, you can lean back," she says.

A wooden curtain rod, rings and brackets were found to match the furniture's rich coloration, and a variegated gray granite slab from Chesterfield's Stone Trends was secured atop the radiator, providing a classy-but-convenient sideboard space. An antiqued mirror, silver-framed prints from Arch Framing and black-and-white photos of the family were brought in to line the walls. "I wanted to bring in the family photos to make it a real personal space, because they do dine in here every day," says Ms. Alvey Edwards. "So it is very personal."

But the real stunner in this space is the octopus-like Czechoslovakian crystal chandelier, a 1920s piece Ms. Alvey



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
THE SPARKLING NEW
CHANDELIER; PUTTING
THE NEW UPHOLSTERY
ON; A CHILD'S-EYE
VIEW OF THE FRESHLY
FINISHED, SLEEK TABLE
SETTING; THE WINDOW
SEAT, REIMAGINED



BEFORE



“We **WANTED TO DO A** little more mature dining room, **EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE TWO** little girls.” —KATIE HOEHN

Edwards acquired from Jon’ Paul Designs & Collectibles. “It’s interesting—very few chandeliers have arms that go up like this,” says Ms. Alvey Edwards. “It was the only one there like that—it’s uplifting.” The chandelier is a sparkling centerpiece, and matches the couple’s wedding crystal and silver—a set the family now has space to use.

The Hoehns were central to the makeover process—but they’d never seen everything put in place. So on a Monday in late September, once all the pieces were in place, Mrs. Hoehn took a break from work to check out the results. She lingered a bit nervously in the kitchen as Ms. Alvey Edwards surveyed the flowers, decorations and dishes one last time, lighting votive candles around chartreuse and white flowers from Walter Knoll Florist.

Mrs. Hoehn was then led in through the room’s open French doors. “Oh my God!” she cried. “This is beautiful. This turned out really nice—it doesn’t even really feel like my house anymore!” She walked around the room, feeling the heft of the drapes, checking out the framed photos (“Aww, my girls!”), and then broke out her own camera to snap photos. “I’m happy,” she said. “Thank you so much!”

Ms. Alvey Edwards expressed her own gratitude for the many people who helped her in the makeover effort: “I had a great group of subcontractors. They make me look good. I can’t do the framing, I can’t do the painting or the sewing, so you surround yourself with the right people, and they are definitely a good group of people.” ^{AH}

BOTTOM LINE: What Would It Cost?

Custom sewing for pillows, drapes, MATERIAL GIRL	\$1,003
Fabricut and Vervain fabrics for pillows, drapes, MATERIAL GIRL	\$788.09
Kirsch drapery rod, MATERIAL GIRL	\$97.62
Contractor and labor costs, ARC CONSTRUCTION	\$1,400
Remnant granite sideboard, STONE TRENDS	\$200
Crystal chandelier, JON’ PAUL DESIGNS & COLLECTIBLES	\$2,000
Primer and paint, SHERWIN-WILLIAMS	\$130
Crown molding, MCINTYRE MILLWORK	\$545
Photo frames, 2 @ \$9.99, GARDEN RIDGE	\$19.98
Napkin rings, 6 @ \$0.99, GARDEN RIDGE	\$5.94
Place mats, 6 @ \$3.99, GARDEN RIDGE	\$23.94
Crystal and china dishes and silverware, HOMEOWNER’S	
Candleholders and candles, HOMEOWNER’S	
Vases, HOMEOWNER’S	

Grand Total: \$6,213.57



KATIE HOEHN



TIPS FROM ELLEN ALVEY EDWARDS

1. Be brave with color. And don’t be afraid to add a little “bling.” Silver and crystal really brighten a room.
2. Invest in quality. If you have good pieces, consider refinishing or reupholstering.
3. Fabrics make a room—but use trendy accents sparingly.
4. The space must be able to function the way you live. Just say no to “off-limits” rooms.
5. A room should reflect your personality. Have fun with it!