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VILLA DIVINE

*Take refuge in the art-infused interior and
classic architecture of a Preston Hollow residence*

BY LISA MARTIN | PHOTOS BY JOHN SMITH
INTERIOR DESIGN BY SHERRY HAYSLIP, ASID, IIDA
ARCHITECTURE BY RICHARD DRUMMOND DAVIS

FLOWERS BY GARDEN GATE FLORAL DESIGN



From the gracefully landscaped courtyards to the family-friendly bocce court, the classic architecture and art-filled interior of an Italian-themed home nestled in Preston Hollow is a testament to the breathtaking combination of form and function.

Designed by architect Richard Drummond Davis with the interiors done by Sherry Hayslip, ASID, IIDA, this 7,500-square-foot villa is filled with luminous spaces that, according to the homeowner, make the residence a true pleasure.

"Living here is almost like being on vacation," she confesses with a contented smile.

The serene atmosphere will no doubt suffer somewhat when a substantial remodeling project starts this year. Davis, the original architect, has drawn the blueprints for an expansion that includes a new library, an extended media room, a "hers" wing of the master bath, a wine cellar/tasting room and a five-car garage. The original contractor, Cy Barcus of Barcus Homes, Inc., will build the additions while Hayslip, principal and founder of Dallas-based Hayslip Design Associates, has exercised considerable influence over the interior's appearance.

"The homeowners love their home and they want this remodel to help them show off their collections and to enhance the architectural details," Hayslip explains.

Adds Davis: "It's a great house right now, but when we finish the addition, it's truly going to be an estate."

As it is, the treasure-filled residence is enchanting. An extensive museum-quality collection of Asian porcelains provides a burst of color in many of the rooms. Meanwhile, Hayslip's strategic use of textiles, antique furniture and spectacular window treatments contribute to the ambiance of gracious living.

Consider, for instance, the family room, a cozy space with views of the pool and manicured back yard, which is maintained by Lambert Landscape Company. The room's architecture, from the French doors and arched windows to the hand-painted beams and the stone mantel, makes the room appear airy, light and luxurious. The cheery yellow walls and red oak floor serve to enhance the inviting quality of the environment.

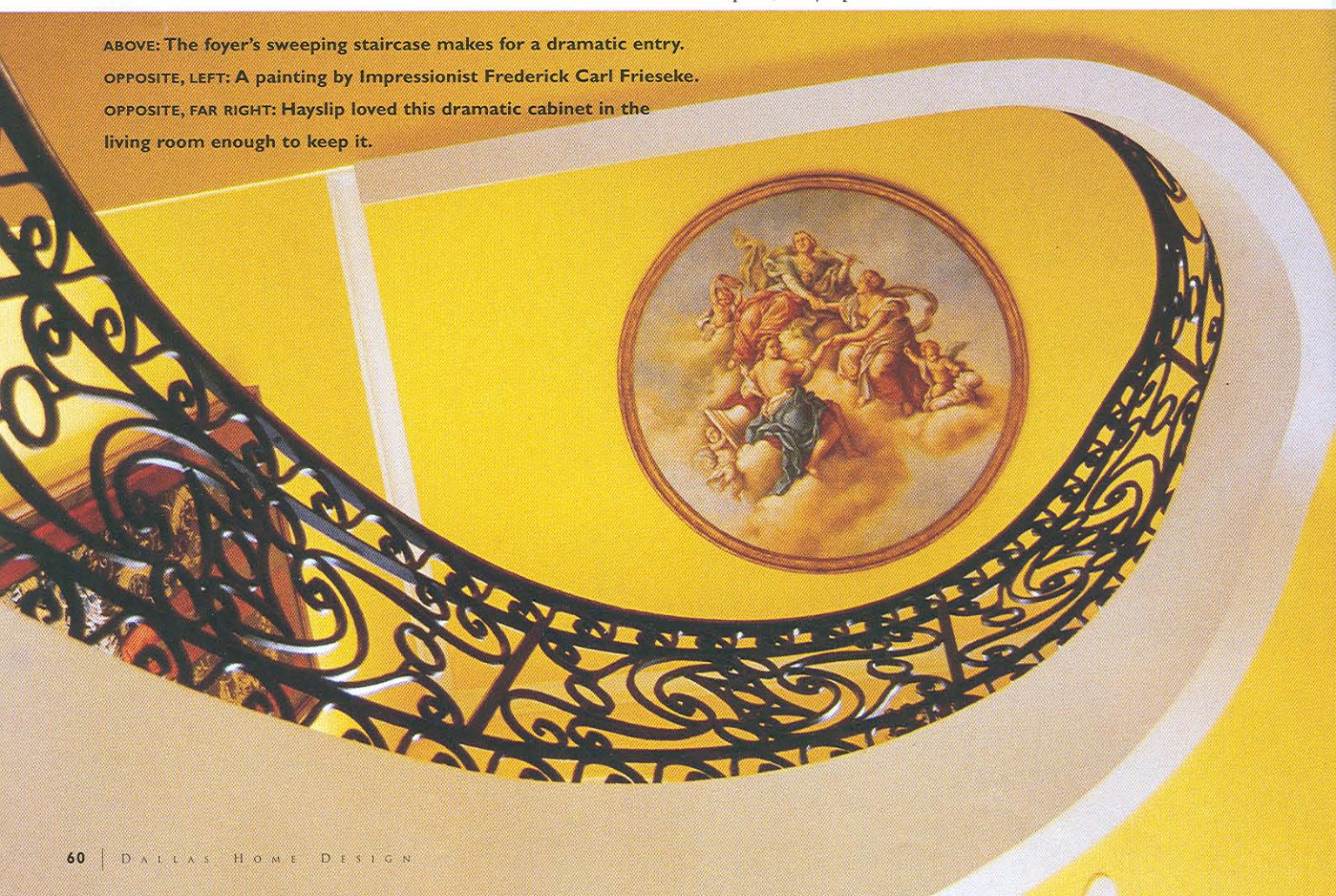
Commanding attention above the mantel is a large and dramatic still life painted by Jianmin Dou, a contemporary Chinese artist. The homeowners purchased the exquisite oil painting from Galerie Kornye West in Fort Worth.

Near the fireplace sit two large European chairs from Inessa Stewart's Antiques, covered in rich red fabric. The twin sofas that face each other migrated with the couple from their previous residence, which was contemporary in style. At the homeowners' request, Hayslip had the couches remodeled and recovered to

ABOVE: The foyer's sweeping staircase makes for a dramatic entry.

OPPOSITE, LEFT: A painting by Impressionist Frederick Carl Frieseke.

OPPOSITE, FAR RIGHT: Hayslip loved this dramatic cabinet in the living room enough to keep it.





blend with this more traditional setting. With the heavy fringe and supple upholstery, they've proven ideal for watching the nearby big-screen TV. Behind one of the sofas stands a large cabinet that was found in an apothecary shop in Italy.

"Sherry said it needed more lighting, so we had it wired," explains the homeowner.

Adds Hayslip: "It's really perfect for displaying the family history, a way for them to tell their story in one specific area." Included in the display behind the glass doors are Korean War metals (won by the homeowner's stepfather), turn-of-the-twentieth-century Tom Swift books and framed family photos.

Adjacent to family room and behind a door off the breakfast room is the wine closet, which contains 3,000 bottles of Bordeauxs, Pinot Noirs and other fine vintages from around the world. The new wine tasting room, designed to assume the space of the existing garage, will afford the couple far more square footage for their mutual passion.

The items and objects are mounted to the wall outside the wine closet hint at what's contained inside: a large mirror with a grape-themed gilt frame; a 100-year-old thermometer that



the late Plano landowner Meyer Levy gave the couple and several antique wine openers, including an ivory-handled model the homeowners purchased in Florence.

The buttery yellow on the breakfast room's walls is a more muted hue than the vibrant shade in the dining room. Hayslip found many of the fine furnishing in the formal room, including a Japanese-style mirrored armoire cabinet that was created in France in the 1920s. Etched on the doors of the mirrored piece, which came from the East & Orient Company, are etched with a pair of Art Deco-style figurines in Far Eastern garb.

"It's one of the owner's favorite pieces," the designer says. "But it was originally too short and out of proportion for the space, so we built a base that raised it." A clever touch: the base houses a drawer for extra storage.

The large English dining table dates to the mid-19th century. The chairs, a relatively recent acquisition, were made during the William and Mary period, in 1695.

"They are the most beautiful dining chairs I've ever seen," says Hayslip.



ABOVE: Ernest Lawson's "The Bathers" above the fireplace is just one of several important works of art throughout the room. Subtle contributions of color are courtesy of Kangxi porcelain vases and a plate from the Ming Dynasty on the mantel. Hayslip used hand-printed Fortuny window treatments, the "ultimate fabric."



On the French mantel rest part of the family's collection of porcelain pots. These precious and pristine vessels are from the Kangxi period, which dates from 1662-1722.

Above the dining room's marble mantel hangs a lovely Childe Hassam oil painting from the 1930s. The American Impressionist's canvases reside in some of the finest museums in the country, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago and the National Gallery of Art. A second Hassam painting, *Isle of Shoals*, depicting a rough watery scene created in 1902, adorns the foyer.

The painting above the marble-topped console near the glass and wrought-iron front door is one of the family's canvases by Frederick Carl Frieseke, another well-known American Impressionist. Among the family's other Frieseke is *The Sleeper* from 1920 that hangs above the console opposite the downstairs powder room and a portrait that's upstairs in the master bedroom.

Decorated in a soft, subdued palette, the master bedroom serves as a luxurious retreat. The 19th century bed, which is framed in fabric, is at once elegant and inviting. Hayslip purchased the 18th century mirror situated above the room's marble mantel through Sotheby's London office. Two other antiques, the carved and painted armoire and chest, came from Connie Williamson Antiques in Dallas.

Back downstairs in the living room is yet another sumptuous painting by Frederick Carl Frieseke, this one a depiction of his wife dating to the mid-1920s. It's one of several important pieces of art in the room.

On the marble mantel, for instance, are more important examples of Kangxi porcelain including large vases purchased



ABOVE: The family displays photos and history in a lighted cabinet found in an Italian apothecary shop (left). Note the hand-painted beams, stone fireplace and dramatic still life over the fireplace by contemporary Chinese artist Jianmin Dou. **BELOW, LEFT:** Stunning light fixtures command attention in the hall. **BELOW, RIGHT:** One of a pair of trumeau hangings in the dining room.

"The 11-foot ceilings really do make the rooms feel spacious and elegant," says architect Davis. The thick, white moldings around the perimeter of the room highlight the elongated proportions.

As a final touch, Hayslip ordered Fortuny fabric curtains, hand-printed in Italy on exceptionally fine cotton, to adorn the room's myriad windows.

"Most damask is on silk, but for this pattern, the cotton keeps it from being ostentatious," the designer says. "It's really the ultimate fabric."

Hayslip's team, which includes project manager Emily Braden, worked with Manor House on the custom-designed drapery rods and oversized rings. The window treatments truly provide the finishing touch on a spectacular room.

"It's really a timeless look," says Hayslip.

