

LUXE

THE DALLAS | FORT WORTH HOME REDEFINED™



SPRING
72







ENGLISH APPEAL

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WHEN DO YOU SCRAP YOUR DREAM HOME TO PURSUE ANOTHER? WHEN THE NEW ONE IS TOO GOOD TO PASS UP. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ONE COUPLE IN THE PRESTON HOLLOW NEIGHBORHOOD OF DALLAS. After contracting with Richard Drummond Davis, a local architect, to design and price an extensive remodel of their current house into a classical Italianate Renaissance villa, a choice piece of land went up for sale in the neighborhood they had come to love.

ARCHITECT Richard Drummond Davis		
HOME BUILDER John Sebastian	INTERIOR DESIGNER Sherry Hayslip	
BEDROOMS 6	BATHROOMS 8	SQUARE FEET 23,000



THE FURNITURE IS MOSTLY 17TH-CENTURY BAROQUE
WITH A MIX OF MODERN ELEMENTS

HOUSE PICK

Opulent grandeur comes through in its purest form in this painted and parcel gilt salon chair. *Louis XVI Chair*, price available upon request. althorplivinghistory.com



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Not only was it the kind of property that offered the seclusion and wooded setting the couple wanted, but its size—nearly five acres—would allow them to build the “forever” dream home they wanted as a gathering place for their large extended family, as well as serve as an elegant setting to hold fundraisers for different community interests.

“We were starting with a clean slate, so the first step was site planning because of the size of the lot,” says Davis. “We needed to do that to take advantage of the view.”

**GRAND AFFAIR**

The grand entryway and main oval hall, which spins off like a butterfly into different rooms of the house, makes a stunning statement with its intricately detailed medallion and frieze carvings.



COUPLE DESIRED A HOME THAT RESEMBLED
AN ENGLISH COUNTRY ESTATE



ENGLISH LESSONS

The home's exterior stone and detailing remind one of an English country house, with all its associated charms.

STATELY SPREAD

The extensive wooded acreage surrounding the home offers privacy in a decidedly urban setting in Dallas.



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The couple desired a home that resembled an English country estate—perfect for the wooded setting of the homesite. Great care was taken when it came to authenticity; for example, the layout of the home is a “butterfly” plan—so named because all the rooms spin off an oval room in the center of the house. That oval concept is a standard in English country houses; turn-of-the-century British architect Edwin Lutchens often used it.

The 23,000-square-foot estate includes a basement with a media room, gameroom, workout area with tanning bed, and a bar. An elevator leads to the first floor, with the entry foyer, living room, kitchen and master bedroom all spinning off the oval.



**PLUM SETTING**

The great room off the front entry features rich wall colors, banners made from architectural textiles, and a stunning chandelier. All work together to create intimacy in a room that boasts 44-foot high ceilings.





LAVISH LIFE

The master bedroom is at once feminine and masculine, with sumptuous bedding and draperies, luxurious wood furnishings, and rugs that caress.

HOUSE PICK

Suitable for just about any décor, this feminine chair features carvings and curves that give a nod towards the Louis XV style. *Onassis Oval Back Chair*, \$1,474. crlaine.com



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"The butterfly plan allowed us to put more rooms in sequence because they flow easily and naturally from one to the next," says Davis. "It creates a three-dimensional dynamic that also adds intimacy."

The second floor has six bedrooms and six baths—ideal for the couple's extended family of more than 30—and the third floor is used for storage. Despite its size, the interior of the home is warm and inviting, thanks in large part to the homeowner's involvement. "The best part about this project was Carol Aaron," says Sherry Hayslip, ASID, IIDA, of Hayslip Design Associates in Dallas. "It takes effort to make a great house, and she had the vision to make the house special. Even on a grand scale, there's a warmth there, an intimacy."



ORGANIZED LIVING

The custom designed master closet offers a relaxing space to prepare for the day, with everything in its place and the same rich colors that are reflective of the rest of the house.

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That vision includes complex, rich tones like eggplant and loden green that add color impact without overwhelming the rooms because of the abundance of natural light. Banners crafted from architectural textiles in the great room soften the vertical space, and two 12-foot high chandeliers, made special with personal carvings of Tudor roses to honor a family name, helped give the room a more human scale, an important element with 44-foot high ceilings.

The furniture is mostly 17th-century Baroque with a mix of modern elements, like painted and tooled leather between mahogany panels in the study.



**REFINED ELEGANCE**

The incredible master bath reminds one of a Victorian boudoir, with tufted chairs, velvet drapery, sheer florals, marble floors and a sunken tub with views of the wooded acreage.

EVEN ON A GRAND SCALE, THERE'S A WARMTH
AND A **SENSE OF INTIMACY**



HOUSE PICK

With its distinct shape and unexpected bold floral print, this unique canopy style chair makes a statement. *Canopy Arm Chair, \$3,600. downtown20.net*

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But the most dramatic feature of the house is the carved, intricate detailing in the main oval hall, like carved medallions and friezes. It's the kind of home that is clearly a labor of love.

"We had an enthusiastic, engaged client who wanted to be involved, and that made it a special project," says John Sebastian, the home builder, whose specialty is complex residential projects. "You really feel like you're in the English countryside, and it's a wonderful, peaceful feeling." **L**

**PICTURE PERFECT**

The home's carefully designed plan belies its square footage, creating intimate spaces that are ideal for entertaining. Family heirlooms, inviting velvet chairs and stunning artwork complete the picture.