

Photo by Sam Upshaw Jr.

comfort zone

decor how-to from the pros

DRESSING A DINING ROOM

Designer: Robin Miller of Lee W. Robinson Co.
Style: Cozy Eclectic

"My jumping-off point for this room was the wonderful draperies that Leigh Anne had already picked," explains designer Robin Miller. "I like things that have natural elements, and I know that she loves that fabric and design."

Taking her cue from the park-like setting of the home, Robin added pieces to help the Preston family achieve a look that was casual yet chic and would be a welcoming entertainment area. "I like to mix old with new and add in a little funky."

She used turquoise accessories to build layers of color that related to the color in the draperies. "I worked in repeating heights with the color to make a statement. The blue chair cushions stair-step to the blue bowl of lemons on the table and end with the sky in the painting on the wall, guiding the eye through the room."

Robin placed a black armoire at a corner to serve as a bar and storage area. Black, bamboo-style dining chairs were coupled with a pair of gold upholstered armchairs that flank the table. A barrel lamp composed of natural elements and wooden window shades complement the jute rug, giving the room a cozy, stylish feel.

Home columnist Marsha Roth asks three decorators to trick out a dining room just in time for holiday dinners.

Not many people would jump at the chance to buy a house that had just been destroyed by a falling tree. But Leigh Anne Preston and her husband, Jeff, have always loved a challenge when it comes to home renovation, and this broken piece of real estate was right up their alley. Their newest project near both Cherokee and Seneca parks wasn't their first refurbish, and they were ready to tackle it.

They purchased the home in 2007 and moved in a year later, totally rehabbing the second floor and reconfiguring much of the first. Walls and doors were moved and painted. New furniture was mixed with their favorite old pieces.

Until they reached the dining room.

With two young children, Leigh Anne was reluctant to buy anything that might be too delicate for their rough-and-tumble station in life. So, she put off decorating that room ... indefinitely.

However, recently she found a wall color (Super Spice by Louisville company Dages Paint) and draperies from Work the Metal that inspired her to take another look at the 13 1/2-foot square room. Adding a new, 60-inch round wooden table with wrought-iron legs was a good start for furniture, but Leigh Anne still wasn't sure which direction to take in turning this collection of jumbled furniture pieces into a welcoming, attractive room.

And that's when our experts stepped in.

Keeping the wall color and the table, three designers with three different concepts worked to give Leigh Anne the dining room she has been waiting for. It's a happy ending for this Cinderella house tale.

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