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House Beautiful

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Makeover Mania!

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SWEET HOME CHICAGO

A score of top designers combine their talents and imaginations to re-create a neglected gem in *House Beautiful*'s 2004 Makeover Showhouse

Harrison Design Associates more than doubled the space of this Mediterranean-style 1920s house on a large corner lot in the Chicago suburb of Glencoe. Harrison added a front porch, stoop, and columns to give it a dressier look, and cladded the building with attractive oversize handmade brick from General Shale.

Writer: Jan Parr Photographer: Gordon Beall

Producers: David M. Murphy and Elizabeth Blair Quinn

IN GLENCOE, a leafy suburb north of Chicago, a large Mediterranean-style brick house with a slate roof sits on a corner lot. It looks as though it's been there forever. But in fact, this 1920s home, *House Beautiful*'s third annual showhouse, was completely transformed in six months from a drab and neglected 4,500-square-foot house to a magnificent 10,800-square-foot showpiece.

For the first time, the magazine chose the Chicago area to showcase the talent of both local and national designers. "Chicago is a great design market," says Mark Mayfield, *House Beautiful*'s editor-in-chief.

This great old foursquare had been mostly ignored for some 70 years before the magazine enlisted Harrison Design Associates to add a 6,300-square-foot addition. The result was a large yet seamless series of wings and a back section that have nothing in common with typical McMansions of similar size. In fact, on a walk through the house it's difficult to believe it's as big as it actually is; the proportions and scale seem human and just right. It's a light and airy space where rooms open onto one another.

For the interiors, the magazine tapped

This view and lower left: Chicago-based designer Alessandra Branca created two seating areas in the living room—one near the fireplace, and one with views of the front yard. She placed a round skirted table in the middle of the room below a 19th-century English copper lantern from Hollyhock. Benches are custom made by the designer and covered in Bourbon II in hibiscus from Manuel Canovas. She also designed the wallpaper, which is made of hand-painted silk paper by de Gournay. Upper left: In the entrance hallway, designer Jamie Drake made an urban statement with bold purple walls and abstract paintings. The marble floor is from Paris Ceramics.

This page: The dining room had yellow oak wainscoting of an awkward height that posed a challenge for designer Tom Stringer, who replaced it, painted it white, and set it off with walls painted deep coral. He also lined the walls with sepia-tone photographs by Douglas Hill. The chairs and rug are from Stringer's new line for TexStyle. Opposite: The kitchen, by Gary Paul, features Wood-Mode cabinetry stained a celadon green and a 13-by-6-foot mahogany island topped with marble. Sink and faucets by Rohl. Inset: The English Arts & Crafts table, circa 1900, is from John Alexander, Ltd.

some of the Chicago area's finest designers, as well as leading decorators from across the country. Their mission: to create a family home. "We wanted it to look like a family lives there, but just went out for dinner," says Mayfield.

This family has a modern sensibility while remaining grounded in tradition. Flat-screen plasma televisions throughout the house remind visitors that this is a thoroughly modern space for a thoroughly modern family. A very urban entryway designed by Jamie Drake greets visitors with its bold purple walls, modern abstract art, and marble floor. On either side are two more classically decorated rooms: a pretty, formal dining area by Tom Stringer and a living room by Alessandra Branca. Stringer's room is painted a dramatic deep coral and is sumptuously appointed with furniture and textiles from his own collection. "I designed a dining room that I would like

This view and opposite, above: Alexa Hampton's serene and sophisticated master bedroom suite is in a subtle light blue, with paint from Farrow & Ball; the furniture is from Hampton's own line by Hickory Chair. Carpeting from Stark softens the floor. In the Hollywood-glamorous master bath by Michael Berman (opposite, below), a claw-foot tub with a view of the landscaped grounds peacefully coexists with an oversize shower featuring iridescent glass mosaic tile and curtains of a vintage fabric reissue and tiebacks. Greek fishing baskets were transformed into light fixtures.

to own," Stringer says. "It has a telltale bit of masculinity about it."

Indeed, except for Madeline Roth's whimsical, over-the-top teen's room with its cartoonlike sense of fun, every space in this six-bedroom, nine-bathroom residence has a nice gender neutrality about it. Neither are the rooms readily identifiable as modern or traditional; they blend lots of disparate elements. Branca's living room is, as she says, "feminine but tailored, high and low, comfortable and elegant, uptown and downtown, rock and roll and country." That's a tall order for any room, but one she fills. Antique and modern furniture share space here; door panels were removed from steel cabinets, which were then lined with a coral red silk. It's a perfect example of taking something old and making it new. Likewise, Gustavian chairs were updated in gingham fabric. A round skirted table anchors the room and invites people to stop and linger, as opposed to rushing past to one of two seating areas.

Clockwise from top left: In the family room, Barclay Butera surrounded a bar with traditional square-backed flare-arm chairs from Hickory Chair. Another view of the room shows Butera's Mulholland Sofa in Belgian linen with silk brocade trim under an oversize Italian lampshade. The library, designed by Alex Jordan and Dan Smieszny of Gregga Jordan Smieszny, includes a Philips plasma television screen above the fireplace. Another library view shows a sofa and leather armchairs from O.G.Z. Opposite, above: Designer Tony Stavish placed the sunroom fireplace flush with the floor to give the room an outdoor pavilion feel. Opposite, below: Culliton Quinn filled the backyard with perennials; teak furniture on a pea gravel patio is by Barlow Tyrie.

On the second floor, Alexa Hampton's master bedroom suite with a separate sitting area and fireplace features much of her own line of furniture; its walls are bathed in a sophisticated, subtle light blue. The guest rooms nearby make creative use of texture; in one, a faux treatment makes it look as though walls are lined with a textured cloth; in another, natural woven paper covers other walls. Kathryn M. Ireland's guest suite looks as though it were plucked straight out of a Paris hotel, with its bead-board ceiling and coordinated fabric. It's a garret room with all its eccentricities.

Surprising touches are scattered throughout the house: steel lattice replaces glass doors on living room cabinets; vintage fabrics cover window seats; an oversize gold-leafed mirror adds depth to a guest room; antique Greek fishing baskets serve as light fixtures in the California-glam master bath; a giant lampshade fixture adds whimsy to the family room; antique clocks from a train station keep things running smoothly in the kitchen.

In the former attic space on the third floor, Soucie Horner created an intimate reading/study area that beckons with its sloped ceilings—a nice contrast to the grandness of the main floor's rooms. Here, the design loosens up a bit, incorporating ethnic elements and bold colors.

"Our larger goal was to avoid the showhouse syndrome, where none of the rooms flow together," Stringer says. To that end, the coral in Stringer's dining room jumps across the hallway into the living room; the chocolate colors in his room likewise are repeated in the large eat-in kitchen. Mission accomplished.

"It will be the finest house in Glencoe," Mayfield says. And that's saying a lot. When that family returns from dinner, they'll be glad they're home. ●

House Beautiful's *Fall 2004 Makeover Showhouse in Glencoe, IL, will be open to the public from September 12 through October 10, from 9:30 A.M.–3 P.M. on weekdays and from 11 A.M.–4 P.M. on weekends. Admission is $30, with proceeds going to the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago. For information, visit www.hbmakeovershowhouse.com or call 847-242-9818.*