



A Modern Impressionist painting above the living room fireplace, by Russian artist Avtandi, inspired the homeowners' blend of contemporary and Art Deco elements. From the ballroom entry to the intimate living room, geometric shapes create movement in an ambiance that feels "sophisticated yet vibrant," notes the designer of her approach.

Casual ELEGANCE

AN EDINA FAMILY CREATES THEIR
IDEAL ART DECO HOME.

BY ROBERTA CRUGER
PHOTOS BY TODD BUCHANAN

On entering the reception hall of this home in the Edina Country Club neighborhood, a spacious ballroom opens up, evoking another era – a gracious time on the cusp of modern aesthetics. The airy space invites a smooth glide, dip and twirl across the rich wood floors and onto the patio. Consummate entertainers, homeowners Bonnie and Lee McGrath desired an ideal space for their parties, passion for dancing, and family fun.



Art Deco light fixtures from the original house and chrome barstools emphasize the melding of modern vintage looks on the downstairs kitchen. Durable Centiva vinyl flooring picks up the color scheme of copper, purple and deep reds, carried through the lower level.

RIGHT: A surprise for her husband, the impressive home office duplicates the Oval Office with an authentic Presidential seal woven into the carpet. The commanding space includes a historically recreated desk, wainscoting, columns and gold window treatments. "I did my homework," says the designer.



When they acquired the generous corner lot across the street from where they lived, the couple decided to start over with a new build instead of incurring the higher cost of renovating the existing Art Deco house. They chose designer Jaque Bethke of Pure Design, for her fresh, fun and unique vision. "Jaque was able to bring my ideas to life and create our dream home," says Bonnie who didn't want Art Deco to be the only influence.

"The goal was to stay true to the original architecture and integrity of the traditional neighborhood," the designer said. "That drove the style of the design." With a deft hand Bethke incorporated some of her clients' quality pieces, creating period-inspired touches that feel contemporary, not dated.

In the living room, geometric shapes and swirls reflect the Art Deco lines.

Barrel-backed chairs and a curved silk sofa emphasize the intimate feel, adjacent to the high-ceiling grand room. Clad in the same stone as the structural pillars, the fireplace anchors the space and resonates with the walls' Venetian finish. Throughout the home, the designer's "sophisticated yet vibrant" ambiance aims for beauty that balances with the practical.

"Comfort is an essential aspect of this home with young children. It fosters togetherness and reflects their love of family and life," explains Bethke who created all the architectural elements

from moldings and doorways to built-ins.

To accommodate an entire family at the kitchen island, the custom-made glass counter is an extra long 176 inches, echoing the soft curve of the stove's hood. Iridescent glass tiles glisten with raspberry tints on the luscious backsplash to "give the room a pop."

Since her client loved purple, Bethke was careful to layer the color scheme with complementary tones, like the reddish tones of the sapele wood floors which establishes the rooms' warmth. She avoided

BELOW: Multicolored chairs and a whimsical series of three connected pendant fixtures to match the scale of the island, reflect the clients' wishes: "We imagined a home that was stylish, warm, fun, and welcoming, yet very functional." Warm Venetian plastered walls offer a practical and elegant solution with young children.





the more typical regal themes with heavy textures and gold leaf which didn't match the homeowners' personality. Even the granite counter slab in the dining room breakfast has a hint of purple.

A crosshatch motif in the kitchen cabinetry is repeated in the dining room on chairbacks and the Deco-esque

LEFT: Textured ultra-suede rugs replicate the pattern of glass mosaic tiles in spa blue, green and pearlescent white. Glass brick marries mid-century modern with the Art Deco-esque coppery ceiling while custom-dyed green concrete basins present a contemporary look.



The tray ceiling molding frames an abstract sky, evoking the magic hour between day and night, painted "like moving color", says the designer. Lush fabrics in soothing tones present a sumptuous bedroom sanctuary with glamorous Deco touches.



The casual and cozy media room spans several decades from the homeowner's Art Deco club chairs, reupholstered in a blend of merlot and cream fabrics, to trendy Seventies styled sofas.

mirrored doors. To strike a more social than formal sensibility, the immense custom-made solid maple dining table is round. The challenge was finding a large enough tree to seat twelve and carpenter with equipment to handle the size. "Jaquie has an amazing collection of resources," notes Bonnie, "both in terms of people and products – and with bringing the right people together."

In the master bedroom suite, the "ahh" factor of a sumptuous resort offers a tranquil nest. Subdued organic green, gold and spa blue, carried through from the pearlescent bath tiles, express a scaled-back luxury dressed in satin and silk. Sparkling beaded bolsters add a dash of understated glamour just as wall sconces and black lacquer suggest elegant Art Deco. "You want dramatic and interesting materials," says the designer, "yet

classic and timeless."

On the delightful lower level Bethke melds mid-century modern with Deco elements. Geared for the kids, there's another dance floor lit by a disco ball, a stage for theatrical productions, cozy media room, and games area. The retro rec room atmosphere "makes you feel like Elvis could walk around the corner any minute," says Bonnie McGrath.

"I didn't want it to feel jarring, like you were moving from Russia to China when you went downstairs," the designer explains about the casual everyday section of the sizable home. Bethke seeks to let a home reveal itself over time. "It's not just a one-time experience," she says about her detailed work. "With the McGrath home, my eyes just dance from space to space." LD