

HOME TOURS

A Dream Project and a Dream Makeover



Transforming this spacious Dallas house into the client’s forever home was “a dream, dream project,” says Martha Swezey, one of the eponymous partners in design firm [Collins & Swezey](#). “The client was ready to get rid of everything. She trusted us, and we decided to go in a different direction.”

That direction, European graciousness with splashes of the unexpected, is something of a Collins & Swezey specialty. Martha describes the aesthetic of this particular home as “Louis XVI with transitional pieces and contemporary, so it has a really good balance. It’s a very Southern home—columns, red brick—but when you walk inside it’s got a twist.”

Twists, of course, can be risky. But here the risks paid off. “I think the house flows so beautifully,” says Martha’s business partner, Katie Collins. “When you walk in the front door and travel from room to room, there’s so much light. It feels lighthearted and comfortable.”

The client agrees. She stayed in another home during the two-and-a-half-month revamp, but “as soon as she walked in she said, ‘I love this house,’” Katie says.



The Kitchen

It's tough to believe that the kitchen had once been dark and cavernous. To brighten it up, the designers finally persuaded the client to replace tiny windows and a banquette with a large picture window overlooking the verdant grounds. "It makes it seem like a vacation when you look out," Martha says. Pale engineered-wood flooring replaced dark wood; the island's blue quartzite countertop is an unexpected splash of the client's favorite color. "And who can wrong with fantastic [Christopher Peacock](#) cabinetry?" Martha adds.

The wet bar at left came about because "the client wanted a separate space for kids and guests away from the cooking area," Christopher explains. "The glass cabinetry was chosen to show off the client's glassware collection. We also added a fridge and ice maker below for ease of space."