

Inspirations

A NEWSLETTER OF INSPIRING HOME IDEAS • FEBRUARY 2015

Welcome ... to the
February 2015 issue of
Inspirations!

We are beginning the year
2015, and it is a great time
to plan for the next 11
months ahead: and to be
inspired by new Interior
Design ideas that will
give you a fresh approach
to your house and your
newest projects.

This year, in *Inspirations*,
follow me as I write and
illustrate the latest trends
in color schemes, fabric
trunk shows at The
Mansion, and read along
as my current clients'
fantastic interiors unfold
in this newsletter!

—Rhonda—



Where do you find *your* inspiration?



PHOTO BY LIZ BOEMAN

In spite of the multitude of bright, colorful, fabrics and accessories introduced this past year in the interior design industry, there is much to be said for neutral color schemes in homes.

The calming influence of creams, beiges, golds, and grays, is appealing to many of my clients and myself for the main living areas especially. For those of us with a busy work schedule, and long days when you leave home in the dark and come home in the dark, a light, neutral palette is psychologically appealing.

Also, for my clients with colorful art collections, or clients with window walls that over-look woods, golf-courses, gardens, or lakes, neutral interiors are a perfect background. Most of these fabrics and wall-coverings are from Kravet's new fabric collection by New York artist Hunt Slonem. For more information about the artist and his collection, see my article on p.4 "Inspired by Art".

Contemporary Remodel and Addition for a North Liberty Family Home



Last month my clients' remodeling and addition project was completed after many months of construction.

The new kitchen is the most outstanding kitchen I have consulted on for clients—ever.

On the main floor, a formerly cramped sunroom was opened to the living room and kitchen, and the blow-out created a new family dining space that spans the south wall of windows overlooking their acreage.

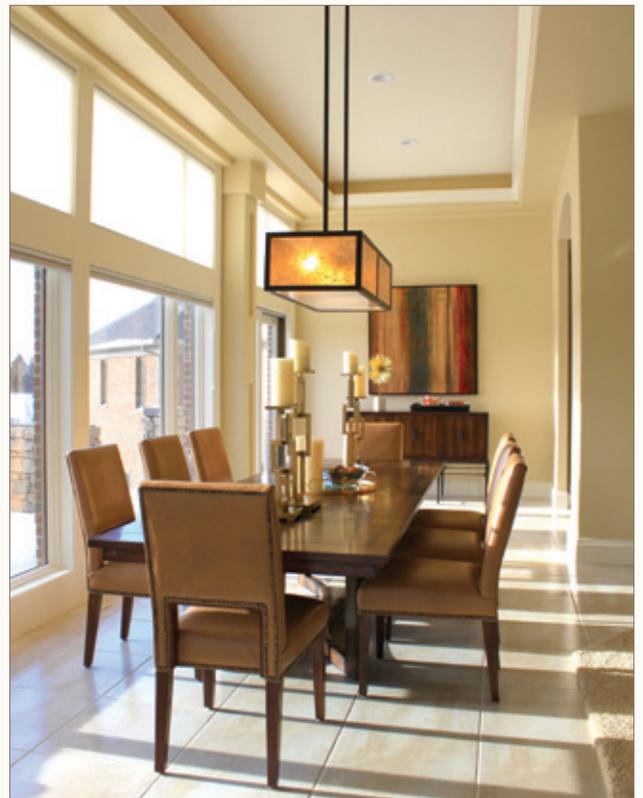
The former living room fireplace wall now is the anchor to the entire main floor: all of the fireplace face and mantel was fabricated from limestone, and the fabricators and cabinet company used my sketch to plan the wall.

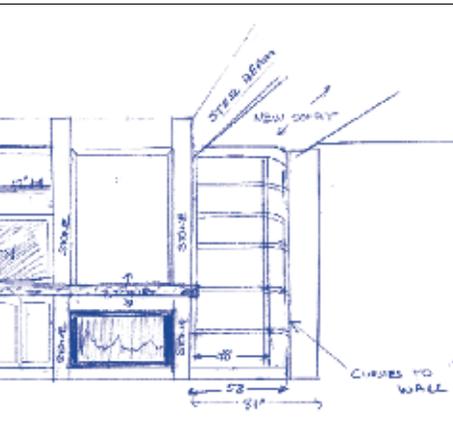
For the living room furnishings, I used an angled sofa and cocktail table my clients had previously purchased from Dwell, and added new custom chairs and a thick shag custom carpet from The Mansion.

I still have additional furnishings to add to the rooms, but the entire project is close to completion!



PHOTOS BY LIZ BOEMAN



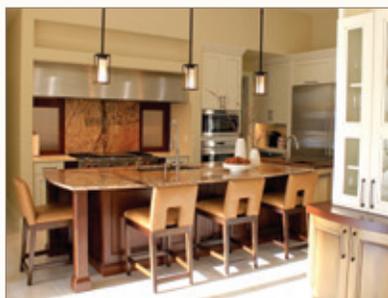


It's all about the details

Details include the artful mix of three cabinet finishes, sliding condiment doors framed in steel and cherry flanking the range, and the Café Rainforest marble that was my first inspiration for the project.



Kitchen design and cabinetry by **Cabinet Studio** in Cedar Rapids. Marble from **Epic Stone** in Davenport.



Leather barstools and dining chairs from Charles Stewart, at **The Mansion**.

Custom-height iron pendants from Visual Comfort, at **The Mansion**.



In THE KNOW

CR LAINE

Style. Comfort. Color.

We recently received the fabrics from CR Laine, our new upholstery line at The Mansion. Their impressive selection of bright, fashion-forward textiles are a refreshing addition to our design studio. For those who prefer a more muted palette, they also offer many lovely, durable, family-friendly neutrals. Please stop in to see and feel these fabrics for yourself. A cream Claybourne Sofa and a pair of the Winthrop chairs, in the Caspian Rain fabric shown above, will be arriving soon at The Mansion.



CENTURY FURNITURE

Infinite Possibilities. Unlimited Attention.

We love Century Furniture for their broad selection of wood and upholstered pieces for every room in your home. They offer an abundance of styles, spanning from traditional to transitional and modern. Their commitment to making furniture that will last a lifetime ensures attention to quality and makes them a member of the sustainable furnishings industry. For inspiration, explore centuryfurniture.com and come into The Mansion to see their gorgeous fabrics and finishes.

By Emily Hughes, Interior Designer at The Mansion.



REINVENTION

SLIPCOVERS: PRACTICAL & PRETTY

Slipcovers have come a long way in the last few years. No longer does this term need to conjure up images of overstuffed, shabby chic sofas in ruffled whites and floral prints. Lee Industries offers many of its sofas and chairs, including those with a clean-lined, modern look, to be ordered slipcovered. The relaxed sophistication of slipcovered furniture is a natural complement to the industrial, farm house style that has grown in popularity in the last few years.

One obvious reason to use slipcovers is for ease of cleaning. Lee Industries offers over 200 washable fabrics and even more that can be dry cleaned. When stubborn stains won't come out or when your fabric is showing wear, you can purchase a new slipcover for less than half the cost to purchase a new sofa or reupholster.

Slipcovers also provide versatility and functionality. They allow you to change your look from a lighter, summer linen to a heavier velvet in the winter. Or, easily change your color scheme by switching from a slipcover in a colorful, bold patterned fabric to one in a neutral, textured fabric. Functional casters are cleverly hidden under the skirt of this slipcovered dining chair in striped linen from Lee Industries.



See Lee's full selection of furniture and fabrics at www.leeindustries.com and in person at The Mansion.

By Emily Hughes, Interior Designer at The Mansion.



Designing an Indoor Sport Court

My clients' recent remodeling project for their North Liberty home (article, p.2-3) includes a new indoor sport court, located in the lower level beyond a media room, billiard area, and wine bar.

We agreed the color scheme would be primary colors that appeal to all guests, young and adult, rather than a particular high school or college team.

The successful results:

- 20' + cement walls are covered in 12' wide light gold commercial carpet from Randy's Carpets. (In the planning-stage: sports' teams banners will hang from the walls.)
- Joe Glitch of Sport Construction (www.sportconstruction.com) planned the floor, "Response" High Resiliency, with colorful boundary lines in the grey ground.
- Wood tread stairs designed and installed by Steve Johannes
- Stainless steel railing and upper level counter by Charlie's Welding
- Anderson windows with impact-resistant glass and motorized window openings
- Air handler for air circulation rather than fans
- 120" TV from NVI-Audio Video Integrastore
- Climbing rope
- Basketball hoops, and retractable batting cage on pulley
- Weight room with colorful carpet and mirrored walls on upper level
- Upper level gym bath with shower and sauna. Sink counter in recycled glass.



PHOTOS BY LIZ BOEMAN



Let the fun begin!

Inspired by Art

In the fall of 2013 a new client invited me to her Summit Street Victorian home, and wanted to begin decorating the renovated front parlor. It was empty except for the preserved 1880's tile fireplace, and a newly acquired Hunt Slonem original painting of one of his favorite subjects, parrots. I was thrilled to design and furnish the parlor around the art, and I have followed his projects since.



PHOTO BY LIZ BOEMAN

Hunt Slonem is a prolific artist whose studio is in New York City, and for decades his favorite subjects are rabbits, butterflies, parrots and turtles—painted with both vibrant colors and occasional neutrals (see his fabrics on p.1). His love of bunnies evolved when he found out he was born in the year-of-the rabbit, and his love of parrots is evident by several of them who fly loose in his studio!

This month, he introduced his art as a fabric and carpet collection for our resource, Kravet (Kravet.com), and his newest book was released in October, *When Art Meets Design*.

In THE NEXT ISSUE

Sneak Preview of two 2015 Parade Homes under construction by Prime Ventures Construction in Iowa City and North Liberty

And more!

Questions?
Comments?

Please contact me,
Rhonda Staley IIDA
319-338-2830
The Mansion, Iowa City
rstaley@themansion-interiors.com
www.rhondastaley.com

Visit my projects on Houzz at:
houzz.com/pro/intdsigner/rhonda-staley-iida
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