

CULINARY GENIUS IN TAOS

Great Valentine's Gifts | The Wonder of White Sands

SANTA FEAN

JAN/FEB 2006

Home *of the* Year



RICHARD TUTTLE teams up with ARTfeast

4 perfect places to relax and rejuvenate

Nothing But Trouble for mystery writer MICHAEL MCGARRITY

www.santafean.com

\$4.95



0 72246 48125 7

2006 HOME OF THE YEAR WINNER

building design OWEN NELSON

interior design MARTY NELSON



Radical Reform

A Northside remodel showcases the talents of a husband-and-wife team who revamped their own home

When Owen and Marty Nelson first saw the place they now call home, the indoor swimming pool looked more like a black lagoon. In the thirty-something-year-old house, beams were sagging, joists were cracking, and the kitchen looked straight out of *The Brady Bunch* (think Formica, a huge round center island, and low plastered ceilings). The Northside property had been sitting vacant for more than a year following a bank foreclosure, but for this design duo, the principals behind Inside Out Design and Build, nothing could have been better. "We come upon something like that and think, this is exactly what we need," says Owen, a builder and landscape designer.

A year later, the 5,600-square-foot residence has been totally transformed: walls knocked down, ceilings raised, bathrooms relocated, fireplaces added, the pool covered to become a family room. "This was a rehabilitation project rather than a remodel," says Marty, who earned her masters in hotel and restaurant management at Cornell University before turning to interior design 18 years ago. "This was much, much more than new paint and some TLC."

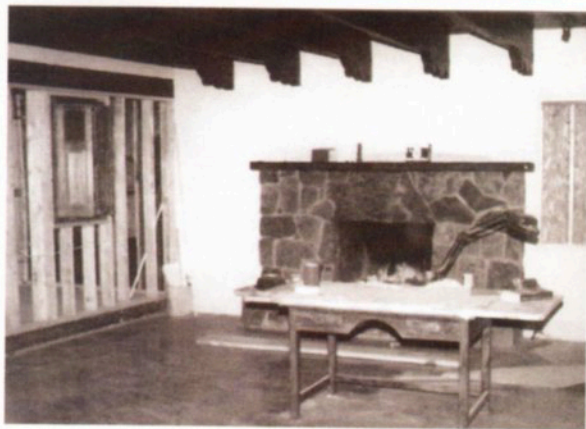
The result is a cozy yet roomy residence—complete with a children's quarters for the couple's two young kids and a guest wing—tied together through the use

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL KOHLMAN



PHOTOS COURTESY MARTY NELSON

From the beginning: The Nelsons' overhauled formal dining room is a melding of bold color and pattern; inset, the opposite corner of the same room before it was rehabilitated.



Close neighbors: Top, building a wall (with shuttered windows) between the kitchen and living room increased the coziness in both; inset, the living room during reconstruction

of dramatic textures, rich colors, and theatrically inspired lighting. Stacked quartzite stone now lines the wall of one bathroom; in another, the warm tones of a thickly woven wall covering complement a tiled backsplash, an enormous enameled pot-turned-sink, and aged shutters that enclose a mirrored medicine cabinet. The not-for-the-faint-of-heart formal dining room pairs zebra prints, tapestries, and cracked wainscoting with a refurbished fireplace and custom-carved mantel, all of it wrapped within pomegranate-colored walls. "I love a red dining room," says Marty unabashedly.

In the completely overhauled kitchen, a rare find of Breccia Vendôme marble became the center island's countertop, surrounded by tiled columns that support the newly raised roof, Italian tile set harlequin-like on the stove backsplash, and an added wall with two shuttered windows to separate the once-open floor plan of the kitchen and living-room areas. Nearby,

just off an informal den, a hallway/butler's pantry allows more natural flow to the dining room. (Before, guests had to walk through the foyer.) To add visual interest, the side panels of a wrought-iron arbor were transformed into the dining-room door, while the rounded top found a home as the railing for the master-bedroom balcony, now the centerpiece of an Italian street scene—their means of reinventing an awkward outdoor space that was once the entrance to the indoor pool. (The elevated nook also serves as the perfect stage for belting out show tunes karaoke style at parties, Marty confides.)

Also in the master bedroom, the bathroom and closet—once set against the outside wall, where they blocked the main source of natural light—were moved to the interior and outfitted with custom carved cabinets, a half-wall to allow for an unenclosed shower space, and a tiny shuttered window above the bath that looks out into the hall. "It's very different from a typical Santa Fe home, but it still fits, style-wise," says Marty. "We're designers, so we pay attention to new surfaces, new things that are out there, and make them work."

In addition to replacing all of the doors and windows, the couple also rewired the entire home. Sconces, chandeliers, and tracks are now combined in almost every room, set on separate circuits with

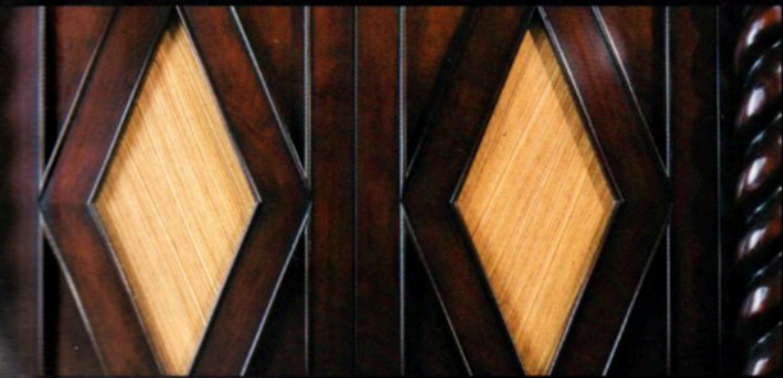


Clockwise from top left: Stacked quartzite in the guest bathroom; a dramatic skylight in the front hall; the kitchen, transformed through the use of stone, tile, and a raised ceiling; the faux Italian street scene off the master bedroom

Rahli Designs, Inc.



Custom Furniture & Interiors
Santa Fe & Los Angeles



www.RahliDesigns.com

505.983.4469

Radical Reform

dimers so that "we can play them up and down to get dramatic effects," says Owen. "We pay attention to details," he stresses: "fanatic, obsessive attention to details. It's never 'That's good enough'—and it's not always a financial decision."

That diligence, coupled with a flair for visual creativity, earned the pair a 2003 Chrysalis Award for "Best Whole House Remodel \$220K–\$500K," while another project snagged an ASID/*Sunset* competition in 2000. "We find houses that we know are good—that the bones are good," says Owen. Then they work together to upgrade and restyle the existing structure. "I like to say that I listen to the house, that I try to figure out how it reads rather than turning it into something it's not," adds Marty. In terms of their own residence, "We do what is fun, interesting, and appealing to our passion," says Owen, "and see if people respond."—*Asbleigh Morris* **SF**

LOCAL RESOURCES

ARCHITECTURAL/INTERIOR DESIGN

Marty and Owen Nelson,
Inside Out Design and Build, 505-920-2281
www.insideoutdesignsantafe.com

CABINETS

Santa Fe Custom Works, 505-344-2551

DOORS

Jackalope, 505-471-8539
Santa Fe Door, Albuquerque, 505-345-3160

ELECTRICIAN

Felix Martinez, Chimayó, 505-470-4074

FAUX FINISHES

Abigail Ryan, 505-983-3925
Old Paint Faux Finishes, 505-986-3431

FIXTURES

Dahl Electric Supply, 505-471-9285
Dahl Plumbing, 505-438-5032

MARBLE AND GRANITE

J. Harris Marble & Granite, 505-471-7596
Stone Pro, 505-474-3955

PLASTER

Experienced Plasterer Contractor,
505-470-2636

PAINTING

R. Sergio Avila, Española, 505-204-2262

STONE

Milestone, 505-989-1999
New Mexico Stone, 505-820-7625
Stone Source Santa Fe, 505-982-5758

WALNUT FLOORING

Plaza Hardwood, 505-992-3260