

BY CANDACE ORD MANROE PHOTOGRAPHY BY GORDON BEALL PRODUCED BY LISA MOWRY

Susan Jamieson reupholstered her grandmother's Empire sofa for the living room. The coffee table and lamp echo its curves, which are offset by the straight lines of the puddling draperies. An urn brimming with white roses reinforces the neoclassical architecture.

→ Greek Revival-style home with a serene yet saucy spirit



Designed by Susan, the faux snakeskin-framed mirror above the original hand-carved marble mantel brings textural interest to the monochromatic living room. Right: Susan added metallic glint with the table, the custom fireplace screen, and the silver-tone nailhead trim on a pair of suede chairs.



Beneath the dated moiré wallpaper, the navy blue wall-to-wall carpet,

and the loudly contrasting peach paint, Susan Jamieson recognized a 1924 classic. Not for a minute did she doubt that she could mute the visual cacophony lingering from the '80s to produce the kind of serene spaces she and her husband, John, could proudly call home. "As soon as we walked into the foyer, we knew this was the one. It had all the right features—Greek Revival-style architectural details with the kind of rich, well-crafted character that you can best find in an older home," Susan says.

John, a software consultant, was happy to defer to his wife's judgment. As an ASID member who studied design in Florence and holds a BFA in art history and a masters degree in interior design, Susan was the better qualified to make the call. And as she saw it, all the house needed was a good molting to bring out its natural beauty, which she would then enhance with her own special feathering—an impeccable selection of fine antiques and art plus new and custom furnishings and a grand finale of her own signature window treatments.

"I couldn't wait for the work crews to arrive," she recalls. "The day of the closing, I was removing the moiré wallpaper and ripping up the carpet." Ridding the kitchen of its yellow laminate and linoleum came later.

Beginning in the living room, she introduced the creamy colors that weave all the spaces together. "Although I enjoy working with color, this house called for a neutral palette that radiates a sense of pure and classic elegance," Susan notes. "The soft tones of cream, white, and gray make the living room's European hand-carved marble mantel a dramatic focal point."

Designed with four formal rooms that form a perfect square, the architecture required some care with color. "Each of these rooms feeds into the next through architecturally detailed openings, so it was very important to make the design flow from one room to the other." Adhering to her basic palette of pale neutrals prevented jarring disconnections, but Susan still managed to individualize rooms by taking each one a step up or down in tone from its adjacent spaces. "I changed the wall