



AFTER, (right and left): Casual furniture, light draperies, natural textures, and unadorned vaulted ceilings make up the great room.

BEFORE, (below): Formal furnishings, heavy draperies, ornate cabinetry, and decorative beams filled the space.

Tailor Made.

When you work with an interior designer, the result will be a home created just for you and how you live.

A Kansas City family appreciated the architecture of their house, its size, structure, and location. But the home's design details felt too ornate, fancy, and formal for their casual, shoes-off lifestyle.

An interior designer stepped in and transformed the space.

"We honored the existing architecture," says Lisa Schmitz of Lisa Schmitz Interior Design, "but we expanded a window for additional daylight and lightened the overall aesthetic with simpler shapes that emphasized the high ceilings."

The homeowners are thrilled with the entire space.

"Now it's peaceful, grounded, and welcoming," one of the homeowners says. "We couldn't possibly be happier with the outcome."

The homeowners' love of nature and yoga influenced the design, creating a more serene and calming interior. A neutral palette balanced with textured surfaces makes the space feel warm and inviting.





AFTER: An integrated hutch, steel-and-glass cabinetry, and softer space define the updated kitchen.



CUSTOM SOLUTIONS

The homeowners like to cook and entertain for their extended family and community of friends, so a lot of thought went into designing the kitchen. A wine cooler, liquor storage, and an additional dishwasher are integrated into kitchen cabinetry to create a bar and coffee station.

The design team “attended to both the practical and the beautiful with the kitchen design,” one of the homeowners said. “The functionality is irresistible; I feel compelled and delighted to cook.”

Whether it’s creating cabinetry, concealing or minimizing audio-visual equipment, or spotlighting artwork, an interior designer can guide the way.



BEFORE: A heavy range hood and ornate cabinetry with sharp angles were strong elements in the kitchen.



HOSTESS HOUSE

The design initiative was to give the 1980s home the most open floor plan possible and to make a connection to the backyard. The entire first level was opened up, connecting the kitchen to the dining and living rooms, allowing light to flow from the back of the house to the front.



TAILORED HOUSE

Sleek storage doors, fireplace, and a hidden TV cabinet unified a long, thin space designed with clean forms, combining oak cabinetry, linear stone, and a fireplace. The scene is topped with illuminated floating shelves and a fireplace, both made of black steel.



Left to right, Lisa Schmitz Interior Design designers Carly Pumphrey, Lisa Schmitz, and Kristyn Saunders.

Schmitz attributes her firm's success in residential design to her team's shared experience of working in commercial architecture firms. The team also collaborates with local and national artisans to develop truly one-of-a-kind pieces. For example, ceramic artist Erica Iman created sinks for powder rooms, and furniture-maker Matt Castilleja crafted lounge chairs, tables, and other custom items.

Whatever the designers innovate, they want the style to reflect what a space calls for as well as what makes sense for the homeowners' lifestyle – functionally and aesthetically.

"We aim for curated and timeless looks with specific guidance based on our design meetings with the client," says Kristyn Saunders of Lisa Schmitz Interior Design. "Once we understand their needs, we strive to create a beautiful space they hadn't imagined. It's a really fun process."

BEHIND THE SCENES

They are always on the lookout for fresh materials, beautiful furnishings, and innovative designs. One of the ways they communicate with clients is by creating visual and textural inspiration boards with swatches, hand-sketches, digital renderings, and finish samples presented in their extensive materials library.

Together, they've designed new houses, renovations, and second homes in Kansas City, Colorado, and the coast of California. lischmitzinteriordesign.com



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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