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JULY 2020

CURRENTS



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finds purpose
after pain

Tasty BBQ at
THE CRAZY PIG

RYDER RIDES IN STYLE

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Photography by Dustin Peck Photography.

Learn how to design home spaces especially for your pets. p. 48

Where All are **WELCOME**

DESIGNERS SHARE
THEIR TIPS FOR
CREATING SPACES
FOR PETS IN HOMES

by Renee Roberson

Photo by Jim Schmid Photography





I JUST WANT
TO DRINK WINE.
SAVE ANIMALS
& TAKE
NAPS

Left: Custom cabinetry provides a cozy place for the dogs to sleep.

Top: This alcove discreetly hides a cat's litter box from view.

Because pets can play such an important part of our lives, it's only natural that our home spaces be accommodating to them as well. With a little creativity, you can incorporate the perfect places to suit your lifestyle as well as your pets, whether renovating a home, changing up the décor or planning a new build. We reached out to a few area experts to learn some of their tips and projects they've worked on.

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These draperies have “tear-away” bottoms so they can detach for easy cleaning in the event of pet “accidents.”

Photography by Ken Nobilzada.

Planning ahead

Jennifer Pippin, founder of Pippin Home Designs and a nationally acclaimed Residential Design Specialist, says she typically asks clients whether they have pets or are planning to have them in the future when discussing home plans and designs.

“It’s very rare that we come across a client that doesn’t have a pet or grandpet,” she says. “We have several clients that have four or five “granddogs” that they watch.” Pippin has also worked on home plans with clients that have cats and the occasional bird or iguana. She once had a client who wanted a “bird room” built, and it had enough space for the cages and tree stumps so the birds could fly from tree to tree and feel like they were in their natural habitat.

There are definitely benefits to working with design professionals when including furry friends into the décor

and structural elements.

“As an interior design firm, we plan for pets every day in our designs and have worked through the nuances of what can be done and how it should be integrated into the design for best results,” says Starr Miller, president and principal designer for Starr Miller Interior Design. “We know the vendors, the materials and the do’s and don’ts of pet design.”

Pippin says working with professionals ensures that clients think about how they organize their home to best accommodate their pets. Where do they normally have the pets? How is the house really going to function and what is the best scenario in terms of layout and design, currently and in the future?

Multipurpose spaces

“One of my favorite design elements is hidden under the attached bench,” says Wendy Yeakley, principal designer and

owner of Homestyles Interior Design. "Arlo is a very large retriever who loves to snack in the cat's litter box. There is an opening to the laundry room for the cat located under the bench. Arlo cannot fit!"

Pippin agrees that she's helped design a lot of spaces to put litterboxes for cats.

"If we can put a litterbox adjacent to the garage, [the homeowner] can actually go out and empty the litterbox right into the trash can."

Materials matter

Pets play an important role when deciding on finishes and other materials for your home, such as paint and fabrics.

Miller says she has planned "tear-away" bottoms of draperies to allow for the client to launder away any dog or cat "accidents." These draperies Velcro back in place for an easy finished look.

"For a family with a rambunctious pet, I always



A room designed especially for one lucky dog named Bruno.

Designing dog wash stations has also become popular in recent years and can be built into drop-zone and laundry areas of a home. This makes it much more convenient to bathe your pet, and you can organize storage to have all the cleaning supplies, towels and a spraying wand nearby. Miller says a professional designer can really help during this type of space planning.

Yeakley says often times during construction, her team designs spaces specifically for dog beds. "Whether it's an opening under the stairs, or kennels built-in by the cabinet maker, we want to be sure our pet clients are as comfortable as their owners."

suggest no high gloss on the floor finish," she says. "If they are building a home, many floors are made to withstand water, scratching and dog oops." Miller recommends choosing the best-performance paint if your dog likes to rub up against walls. She suggests eggshell finishes such as Sherwin Williams Duration or Benjamin Moore Aura.

Bring in the professionals

"There are so many pet bed choices available at retail stores which makes it easy to spoil our furry friends," says Yeakley. "But of course, they usually like the new sofa so much better. Because of that



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Photography by Wes Stearns.

These pets are right at home in a master bedroom.

we recommend Performance or Crypton fabrics for stain resistance and easy cleaning.”

The possibilities are endless when planning home spaces our pets can enjoy just as much as we do, whether finding a custom

dog gate to accentuate the style of your home, or an area of the house they can have all to themselves, complete with a comfy bed or cool tile floor. There’s no reason your pets’ needs can’t be included in the overall design and décor. ■

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