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# RETRO *Flair*

Designers take on the challenge of remodeling a 1940s home and giving it a modern makeover that evokes vintage style



photography by Dustin Pe  
text by Lauren Gentry Walk



WHEN A COUPLE PURCHASED a 1940s home that had been poorly flipped and needed a full makeover, they enlisted designers Starr Miller and Dianna Lomangino of StarrMiller Interior Design. The clients requested a separate main suite that could be closed off from the rest of the house when they were not home, and it would also need the capacity to sleep three to four guests at a time.

While the designers knew the home needed modernizing, they were also careful to keep its original footprint intact as much as possible. After the foundation, insulation, windows, electrical, and plumbing were updated to manage the needs of daily living, the entire home was reconfigured to accommodate a large open living room, kitchen, dining space, and main suite on the first floor, with two bedrooms and a large guest bathroom on the third level. A bar, seating area, and laundry room were also added to the basement level.







From the beginning of this project, designers Starr Miller and Dianna Lomangino found their muse in famed high society designer Dorothy Draper and her work on The Greenbrier luxury resort. Dorothy's signature flair—including the exuberant use of color and large, bold prints—inspired the design duo to challenge more typical choices and bring "grand" style to the cozy cottage.

The design began with a black-and-white color palette that would create a cohesive flow throughout the entire home. They then added soft curves, florals, and bright colors to pay homage to the design styles of the 1940s. Showstopping light fixtures and custom stair railings were installed, and a custom pink range quickly became the centerpiece of the home. The front door was painted in the same shade of pink for an extra pop of fun as guests enter the house.



The main bedroom was dressed in a palette of deep black and bold emerald, including black grass cloth wallpaper to add even more drama and texture. The main bathroom exudes a glamorous vibe that still manages to remain serene in classic black and white with brass fixtures. The bright, blue guest room feels welcoming and playful with a zebra wallpaper-clad powder bath wows all on its own.





The basement was transformed into a lounge-like wine room with plenty of plush seating. Familiar shades of green, black, white, and yellow are seen throughout the space, and the sectional sofa allows for casual relaxing while the bar is complete with a few counter stools.



