

GLOSS

MAY 2008

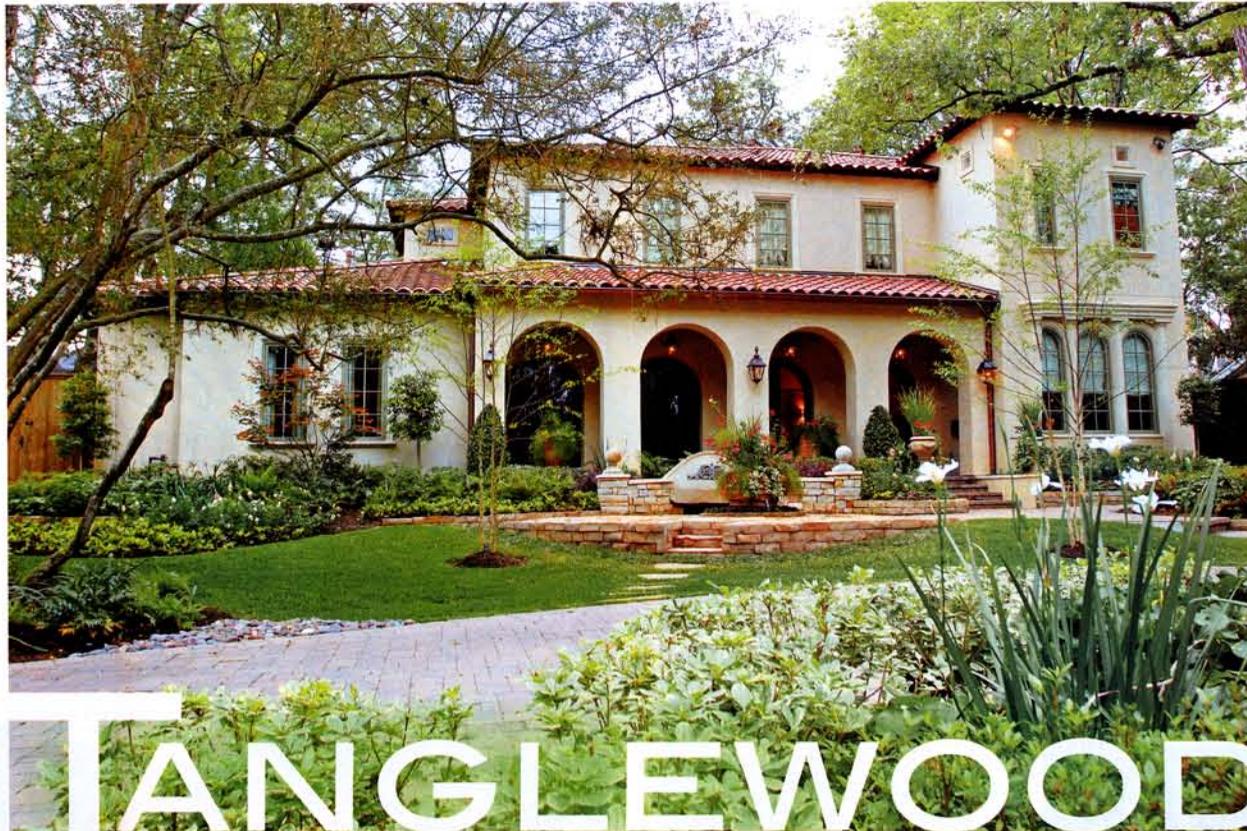
MAGAZINE VOL 3 NO 9

Special
home
issue

Poolside
glamour
makes a
splash

Weekend
getaways
start summer
off **right**





TANGLEWOOD

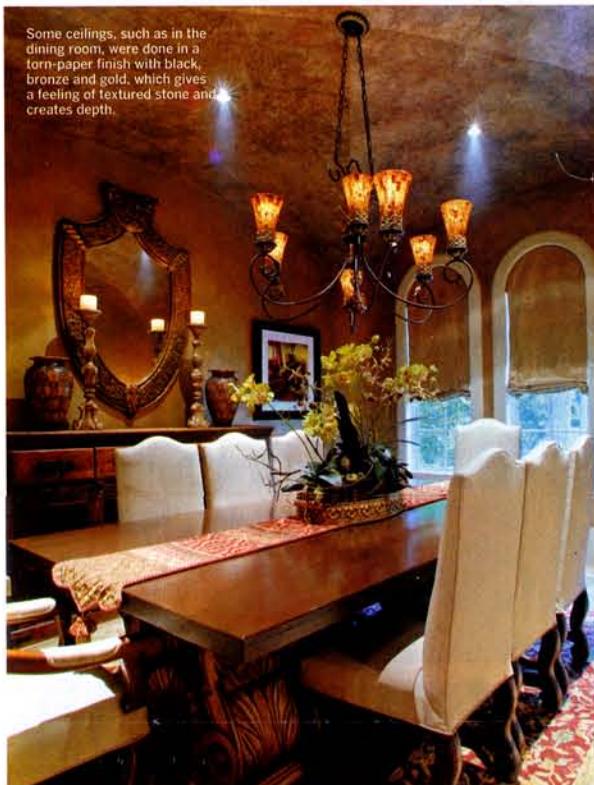
HOME GETS CUSTOM TREATMENT

PHOTOS BY JOE GAYLE/AC STUDIOS

BY JENNIFER PATRICK | *Luxury Living Correspondent*

It takes a talented interior decorator to marry two different styles and create one beautiful environment where people with different tastes are at home. Such was the case with Peggy Hull, ASID,

owner of Creative Touch Interiors. She was challenged with taking a new Covington Builders spec home in Tanglewood and turning it into a perfect blend of the owners', Louis and Christine Messina, personalities.



Some ceilings, such as in the dining room, were done in a torn-paper finish with black, bronze and gold, which gives a feeling of textured stone and creates depth.



To showcase artist Pino Daeni's portrait of Christine Messina holding their daughter, local lighting designer Michael Smith, FAIA, designed projection lighting on to the ceiling to shine on the portrait.

The result? A beautiful and multifunctional home where they both feel comfortable.

Louis, a local music and concert promoter, had once lived in a home with a Mexican flair while Christine favors a more contemporary look. When they purchased their new 6,500-square-foot spec home, they wanted Hull to customize it. Additionally, they wanted to be able to entertain and provide an environment where their 1-year-old daughter could roam and play.

An impossible feat? Not for Hull, who has been in the industry for more than 17 years. Already familiar with the builder's style, Hull was able to jump in quickly.

"Covington enjoys a great reputation in his design style; however, even a high-end spec home has to appeal to 75 to 80 percent of the population," she said. "The builder does this by using a neutral palette, so for the Messinas, I used a lot of color, texture and unique finishes and furnishings in order to create a custom feel for their home."

Hull began by getting to know the Messinas and assessing their personalities and tastes. She toured their previous home, taking pictures and measuring furniture the couple wanted to keep.

To create a feeling of warmth throughout the space, Hull worked with Garber Fine Art, a faux finisher. Together they used more than 15 techniques for different walls throughout the home from torn paper to Venetian plaster and hand-painted wall coverings.

"We didn't leave anything beige; everything was painted," Hull said. Bronze, cappuccino and warm neutral colors with bursts of paprika and sage used within many rooms complemented the Mediterranean-style design of the house and tied everything together.

Hull also brought in a lot of rugs. "The patterns and textures broke up the rooms with color," she said. Additionally, a lot of family photos were placed throughout the home to personalize the design and make it feel like their own.

The first floor of the home was designed with a bit more formality. To create a space where the couple can entertain friends and clients, Hull created many elegant and unique features.

She used the ceiling, a surface many people neglect when decorating their homes, to create drama and height. In the hallway, Hull used 3-by-6-inch brick pavers, traditionally used on the floor, for ambience above. To spotlight this feature and provide ample lighting underfoot, Hull had sconces custom made to cast light toward the ceiling and the floor.

"The glow gives the area a Moroccan feel," Hull said. Ceilings in other rooms were done in a torn-paper finish with blacks, bronze and gold, which gives a feeling of textured stone and creates depth. The master bedroom ceiling, a beautiful coffered or step-style ceiling, has rope lighting that shines on the upper portion, and Hull used the torn-paper technique in metallic blue and latte colors for a gorgeous effect.

"The kitchen is a place people tend to gravitate, and the builder did an outstanding job, especially with the huge pantry and beautiful wine closet," Hull said. She took out the spec backsplash and light fixtures and replaced them with custom fixtures.

"Lone Star Hood designed a new vent hood for over the



cooktop done in an oil-rubbed bronze color, which coordinated with the faucet and brought in the honed travertine-marble tile floor," Hull said. Glazed cabinets added dimension and texture, and the couple's beautiful Italian and Mexican earthenware were displayed on top to provide punches of green and paprika color.

The family room, another gathering area, became a showcase for the couple's artwork.

"They've acquired a lot of work done by artist Pino Daeni, who paints women in a romantic and beautiful way," Hull said.

Recently, Louis commissioned the artist to paint Christine's portrait holding their daughter. To showcase this work of art, local lighting designer Michael Smith, FAIA, designed projection lighting on to the ceiling to shine on the portrait.

"Because it is the focal point of room, we wanted to get it just right," Hull said. "The entire process took about 12 hours."

Louis' study, a more private space downstairs, was inspired by his hometown, New Orleans. Hull used dark stain throughout and hung a beautiful



Owner Louis Messina's study was inspired by his hometown, New Orleans. Designer Peggy Hull used dark stain and hung the framed silver, gold and platinum records Messina has received.



portrait of his parents along with his "gallery of successful artists," consisting of nicely framed silver, gold and platinum records he's received.

The second floor of the home was decorated a bit more casually and with family time in mind. The nursery has a natural tone, highlighted with a cherry blossom tree mural in one corner. Done in pinks and greens, butterflies, bugs, birds, and flowers and trees accent the walls; the ceiling "sky" has white, wispy painted clouds; and the floor is covered in green grass-like lattice carpet.

Their daughter's space spills over to the playroom, where the key to keeping things in order is "all about organization of toys. A house can be child-friendly while still be presentable to walk through," Hull said.