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Before



AFTER

Photos courtesy of Susan Fredman Design Group

Old World Decor Meets Contemporary Design

By: Susan Fredman Design Group, Chicago

Location: Lakeview

When this couple moved into their new construction home in Lakeview, they were tasked with merging their own distinctly different design styles: one was an antique lover, the other a minimalist. Enter: Lonnie Unger, ASID, and Ruth Delf, ASID, both with the Susan Fredman Design Group. The two worked in tandem to create this sleek, contemporary space, which provides the perfect modern backdrop for the Asian-style antiques the homeowner had been collecting for years.

Though they had different visions, the two residents agreed the room would need an overhaul. "The clients wanted to keep the open space, but redo everything else," Unger says. And, aside from the hardwood floors, the new room is almost unrecognizable from the old. The green walls and busy Oriental-style rug were replaced by a neutral wall color and floor covering, which creates a more polished sense of warmth. A cushy taupe couch and two brown armchairs fit nicely within the color palette, and a well-edited selection of antiques with Asian flair—also largely neutral in color—punctuate the space. Textured materials, such as a silk and wool rug (which mirrors an identical rug in the adjoining dining room) bring depth to the room and keep it from feeling monotone.

In addition, a brushed-limestone mantel, surround and hearth, positioned against a Macassar ebony backdrop, became a focal point. The overhauled room may have begun with a compromise, but the end product looks like a cohesive whole.