

METRO DETROIT'S GUIDE TO FASHION, BEAUTY AND HOME

styleline

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TREATMENTS
THAT TURN
BACK TIME

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HAIR AND
RED LIPS

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Icing on the Cake

DESIGNER GETS HER CLIENTS
TO THE FINISH LINE IN STYLE



Wendy Ryan

By Jeanine Matlow Photos by Gene Meadows

Perhaps it was fate that led one of the homeowners to Bay Design Store in Ann Arbor. The husband happened upon the shop one day and liked what he saw. That visit would lead to a creative collaboration between Wendy Ryan and her clients for their Island Lake home in Novi.

“There was a great connection,” says Ryan, showroom manager and interior designer for Bay Design Store. Her gift for melding existing pieces with newer finds is evident throughout the 8,000-square-foot house, which includes a finished lower level.

The endeavor began with the stately living room and conservatory. Many of the well-appointed pieces in the living room came from Bay Design Store. Ryan skillfully combined

Facing page: Lake views are part of the conservatory’s charm, where a blend of old and new pieces create a cohesive look.





Facing page: The family room offers waterfront views. Detailed moulding and trim add another tasteful accent to the already well-appointed interiors. Above: The living room is filled with soothing hues, making it an elegant environment that is comfortable, too. The painting above the sofa is one of many pieces from Bay Design Store in Ann Arbor.

them with vintage Henredon pieces that were pulled from other rooms. “We moved a lot of things around the home,” she says. Ryan describes the timeless interiors as “revved up traditional,” which consists of classic and modern elements.

Combined Design A piano in the conservatory joins a table and chairs the homeowners already had, as well as an armoire that came from another room. “It’s elegant, but the needlepoint leopard

pillows are fun and a little unexpected,” Ryan says.

The family room is a favorite spot to soak up the lakefront views. Dentil mouldings, columns, a mirror and surround create a breathtaking backdrop long after the sun goes down. The creamy khaki on the walls relates to the caramel color of the conservatory.

“It leads your eye around, so you don’t visually stop somewhere,” Ryan says of the complementary color scheme. “We kept a lot of the upholstery in solids and brought in pattern with



The deluxe master bedroom's existing details were given a boost with a sophisticated seating area near the fireplace that includes a sumptuous love seat and attractive cocktail table. Top, right: Ceramic sculptures handmade by Ryan grace a table in the living room. Bottom, right: A view of the foyer and dining room.

throw pillows." The neutral tones provide a seamless transition to the outdoors. "Personally, I think a home should be the whole environment," Ryan says.

Movers and Shakers Rather than replace the classic dining room furniture, Ryan worked around it, adding new window treatments and upholstery for the chairs. A rug, some paint and wallpaper give the space a new feel. The designer's idea to move the cabinets closer together and remove one of the table leaves made a big difference, the wife says.

Ryan also made the floral arrangement for the table and added a silver leaf treatment and medallions to the tray ceiling. The homeowners' artwork was updated with new frames. "I don't think you have to redo everything," Ryan says. "It's your home, and it should have memories."

In the end, the designer credits her clients for their contribution. "They had a great vision, and they were very involved," Ryan says. "The home really reflects their personalities. It's warm and inviting and classic and elegant." □