

Larchmont Chronicle

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Suzan Filipek



ANNE with cavalier King Charles spaniel Max in her office.



THE KITCHEN retained a vintage oven and was updated with antique-glazed cabinets and emerald-green granite.

INSPIRATION LED TO MANSOUR'S INTERIOR DECORATING CAREER

When Anne Mansour was a college student, she heard a lecture by Frank Gehry that was, well, life altering.

“He was very instrumental at making me look at architecture in a different way...

“He made it approachable,” says Anne, describing how his initial plans for Disney Hall were sketched on a paper napkin.

An artist herself, Anne branched into interior design but often teams with architects and picks up where they leave off, she said in her art-and-design studio in the back of her S. Plymouth Blvd. home.

She and her husband, Jack, were living on Highland Ave. when they saw the Mediterranean-style home and looked past the louver windows and dated wood paneling of the family room.

“I saw the moldings and the spaces and the height of the ceilings,” beams Anne.

The couple bought the house and embarked on a seven-month remodel, from updating the plumbing and electrical to replacing the louvers with double-hung sash windows throughout the two-story home.

Emerald granite countertops and antique-glazed cream cabinets were added to the renovated kitchen, and a vintage stove—purchased from the previous owner—was restored.

Wood paneling in the family room was painted sage and a skylight added light. The original exquisitely detailed crown moldings keep the historic character of the 1926 Windsor Square home.

After graduating from Cal State Northridge and working as an assistant for an interior decorator, Anne branched out on her own.

Her first job in 1996 was for Pasadena Showcase, an annual fundraiser and decorating feat. It was an ambitious and successful undertaking, providing her first client and a bountiful network.

She slowed down for a few years to care for her children —Jack Jr., 6 ½, and Elizabeth, 3 ½—but is back in full swing at her business, Designs by Anne—this time with help from her mom, Robin Osterberg—a retired teacher from Third Street School.

Several artists are in her family tree, including her mom and grandmother. Her two sisters and brother have all worked in the art departments for the film business.

Anne keeps her artist's palette fresh in her garage-converted studio. Recent subjects include Griffith Observatory and Lake Hollywood from a plein air painting class at Barnsdall Park. A horse portrait dates back to when, growing up on Beachwood Dr. and Clinton St., she studied oil painting from another inspirational figure: Beth Vacanti, who taught on N. Larchmont Blvd.

“She was a wonderful art teacher,” who has relocated to Arkansas.

The horse painting hangs in her children's travertine-tiled bathroom.

The children share Anne's downstairs office, which has built-in cabinets and desks with computers in each corner—one per family member, including her husband, a financier.

The couple met while they were in grade school, and reconnected

during a fundraiser for Loyola High School. “Our families knew each other,” she says.

They celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in June.

Around the house, her husband manages the “granddaddy of all barbecues,” he says outside, boasting a huge grill, counter space and mini refrigerator.

“I leave the decorating to her,” Jack says.

The backyard also features a fountain, veranda paved with vintage bricks, and a playground for the children.

“We love it,” smiles Anne.

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