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LIVING ROOM (left)

Entertainment center \$899; Art \$886; Chairs \$1,198; Sofa \$1,250; Shelves \$900; Desk chair \$251; House \$345; Table lamp \$135

DINING ROOM (above)

Armchairs \$596; Chairs \$512; Occasional Table \$268; Weng table \$238; Floor lamp \$558

Miscellaneous items that ap both rooms

Venitian Plaster \$400; Graphic \$650; Painting \$2,800; Art work \$390; Rods \$100; E-wire \$250

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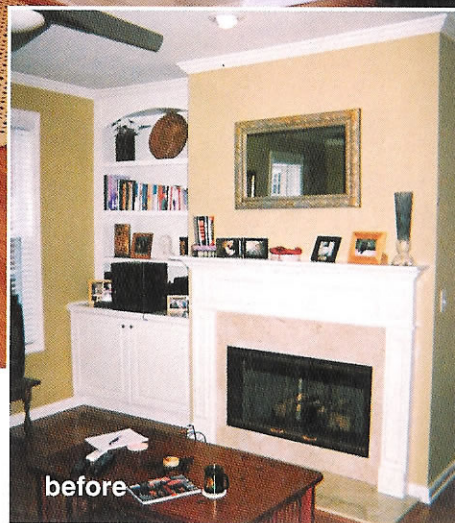
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Y LEE BRYAN, INTERIOR DE



after



before

the living room

Q100 DJ Jeff Miles' digs receive a quick make-over

There comes a time when a choice in personal style needs to be made. In many cases, this time corresponds with the move from an apartment to the purchase of a first home. In the case of much of Atlanta's new construction, residents have limited choices from developers and a short time in which to make design decisions. Moreover, the financial requirements that accompany an initial home purchase often deplete the resources needed for items such as furniture, accessories and artwork.

Q100 DJ Jeff Miles and his wife Shelby recently purchased their first home. Their furnishings were a combination of items each of them had brought to the home, and some pieces were simply picked up along the way. The look of their home was very comfortable, but not quite the style the couple wanted for their young, energetic lifestyle.

After an initial meeting, we decided to give ourselves three days to transform the home from a cozy residence to a dramatic, stylish and comfortable showplace. The first step was the easiest and least expen-

sive step in the process ... a color change! I started with the ceiling—moving away from the safety of a white ceiling—to a very soft blue, which brightened the space in a subtle way. My painters, CPI Services, Inc., prepped all the surfaces to be painted by sanding and filling any holes and dents, leaving a beautiful smooth surface while ensuring the paint adhered to the walls properly. I also opted to lighten and brighten the wall color from a caramel to an off white (Sherwin Williams Panda White). This gave a base to the dramatic graphics I chose to create, which I call "art areas," and break the monotony of long unbroken wall surfaces. I wanted to add drama to the bookcase and fireplace by changing the developer's standard white paint to a rich chocolate brown. I feel that some of the traditional faux finishes are dated, and that a graphic pattern on walls is a simple way to add drama to a room for a bold, fresh look.

Cara Stoney, my preferred finisher, was next in line to create

domicile deluxe

some dramatic, graphic overlapping lines of accent colors and panels of Venetian plaster to serve as art panels. Although this process involved a lot of tedious measuring and taping, it is not impossible for a do-it-yourself project. This use of graphics is also very effective when you want to change from one color to another on a long wall.

During this process of finishing, I scoured the town for the appropriate furniture to complete the look. Atlanta now has several sources for furnishings that offer a variety of styles and looks—not all in the “traditional style” that was so common in Atlanta several years ago. I started at By Design, which has some high-style furniture at very reasonable prices where we found some pieces, such as the dining set and some occasional tables.

The sofa that was in the style and color that the home needed was from a different source. Metropolitan Studio on Piedmont Road had the perfect piece on hand that was also very well-made and comfortable. My next stop was Space on Peachtree Street in Midtown. Space is a beautiful and stylish source for the top-of-the-line furnishings and elegant accessories. I found some beautiful glass vases and accessories to help pull the whole look together. By embracing simple, classic elements for the room, I was able to create a contemporary space with clean lines and less clutter. This plays into a continued movement towards sleeker surroundings and carefully chosen items, rather than knick-knacks and odds and ends of décor.

Midtown's Retromodern.com was my next stop. This is the perfect stop for the more eclectic items. For the Miles' home, I opted for a Kartell desk chair and an Italian doghouse, so their beagle and miniature Dashound would have as stylish a home as their parents! As more and more family pets are treated as real “members” of the household, many families are placing emphasis on animals' surroundings and belongings. Having them blend into a home means they need to be just as fashion-forward as the home's own décor!

There were a couple of pieces that I could not locate “off the shelf,” so I went to a custom cabinet shop and had these items fabricated. Scott with Empire Woodworks was able to create exactly what I had envisioned for the desk, as well as some gravity-defying shelves to complete the new décor—all continuing the contemporary, clean look.

The bare windows were the next step in the process. There are several companies that carry ready-made drapery panels, and these were located in the right color (and in stock) at The Silk Trading Company. The curtains provide an air of elegance to the home and emphasize warmth and comfort, as opposed to harsher blinds. As always, art plays an important part in any home, and I was able to locate a couple of perfect pieces from Bobbi Gillis, Inc. on Maple Drive in Buckhead. This shop



LIVING ROOM (left)

Entertainment center \$899; Area rug \$886; Chairs \$1,198; Sofa \$2,250; Accessories \$1,250; Shelves \$600; Desk \$900; Desk chair \$251; Dog house \$345; Table lamp \$135

DINING ROOM (above)

Armchairs \$596; Chairs \$512; Table \$698; 20" Occasional Table \$288; 17" Occasional Table \$268; Wenge end table \$238; Floor lamp \$558

Miscellaneous items that apply to both rooms

Venetian Plaster \$400; Graphic design \$650; Painting \$2,800; Art work \$430; Draperies \$390; Rods \$100; Electric re-wire \$250

is a great source for original and production art with a wide variety of frame styles.

There are a few other items for which I shopped around trying to locate the right piece at the right price. Shopping local sales is a great way to spend an afternoon and find a great item at a steal. The process of changing your style can be traumatic for some—but it doesn't have to be. Take things one step at a time, try to visualize the final goal and work your way towards that goal. —BY LEE BRYAN, INTERIOR DESIGNER