

Celebrity's home given glamour treatment

IT TOOK a little courage to give the informal suburban home of TV personality, psychologist and writer, Sonya Friedman, a fresh sophisticated look.

Interior designer Barbara Koptiz of Gorman's Southfield said she debated whether to paint the natural wood ceiling beams in the living room and dining room. Quickly she knew it had to be done to achieve the look she and her famous client wanted.

It took even less time to decide to redo the fireplace area in the living room. The wood paneling on the angled wall, the natural red brick and the fieldstone hearth have all disappeared.

In their place is a mirrored wall and mantie, designed and executed by Tim Gillingham of Farmington Hills and a black marble hearth.

The rough beams needed some serious filling and finishing before they could be painted white along with the ceiling. The walls and carpeting are a rich gray.

Because, as Koptiz said of her client, "She likes soft colors," the two rooms are done in pastels.

The large, curved sectional in a mauve, textured fabric establishes the importance of that grayish-pink shade.

The seats of the black lacquer dining room chairs are almost the same shade, but in a different fabric as are the two chairs by the fireplace which, surprisingly, are rockers.

The hand-painted print, a soft blue and mauve abstract on white silk, on the pull-up chair in the living room and the toss pillows on the sectional were done by Myhra Inc. of Troy.

In contrast to the glass and porcelain family heirlooms displayed on the mantie and in a glass case, the custom, sleek sculptural coffee table is a mauve lacquer with brass trim. The neo-classic column by the fireplace which holds a porcelain bust, is the same color.

Because the dimensions of these two rooms are modest, Koptiz made a concerted effort to achieve a light, airy look. The glass-top dining table is one example of that and the suspended, black, glass buffet is another.

The brass Mylar verticals and the generous number of brass accessories, including the brass torchiers with the quartz halogen light, add a dash of glitter and glamor that contrasts pleasantly with the subtle color scheme.

"It's definitely Art Deco," said Koptiz. It's eclectic — hopefully, it's a pleasant blend. The rooms are meant to be comfortable and inviting — it's a very family-oriented home.

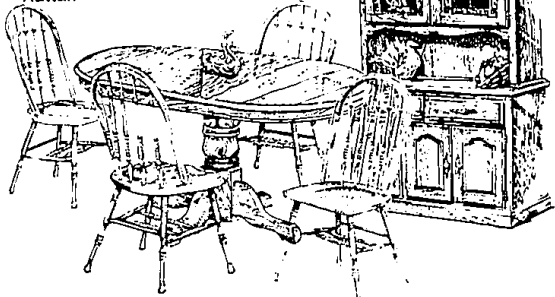
And like the title of Friedman's latest book, "Smart Cookies Don't Crumble," neither she nor her decorator faded even the slightest as they replaced the old look with a bright, sharp new one.

The mirrored fireplace wall in the living room acts as a glamorous backdrop for the muted blue and pink environment, home to psychologist, author and TV personality Sonya Friedman.

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Staff photos by Jerry Zolynsky



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