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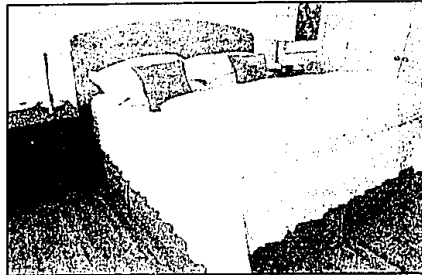
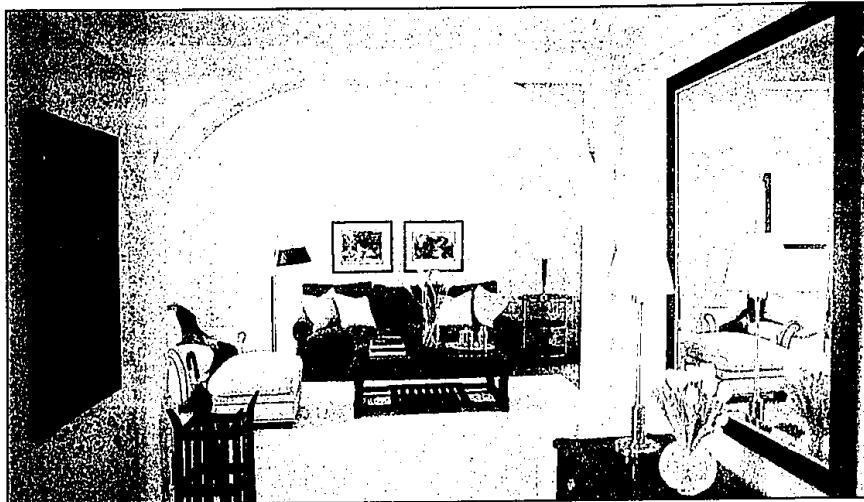
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After: Top, The living room was changed dramatically with simple modern furniture, a new arch at the entrance way, and hardwood floors. Today it's more suited for entertaining. Above Left, opening a wall from the living room to the dining room gives the area an intentionally breezy, airy feeling. The sage color on the walls flows from room to room. Above Right, Shirley Maddalena also brought in the bed in the master bedroom. The covered headboard is attached to the wall - a smart idea to keep the bed lightweight enough for cleaning underneath and behind it. The duvet is folded at the end of the bed European style and the pillows are neatly stacked.

Empty Nest from page C1

family treasure's most, like ones still adorn the house too of course, in more simple frames. Hollow doors were replaced with substantial ones. Carpenter stock brass hardware was replaced with brushed steel. Every corner, every room was changed.

For the living room, Maddalena chose Cranbrook paintings by Michigan artist Nancy Dendle and photographs also of Cranbrook by Troy artist Balthazar Corb - the art found at Birmingham's ArtSpace.

In the bathroom subtle shadow boxes that give depth to the room replace medicine cabinets. In the bedrooms Maddalena transformed basic closets into mezzas of storage space with rows of shelves stretching to the ceiling.

The house is a work in progress. The next step is the transformation of the backyard that's currently a spanning field of manicured grass without privacy. Maddalena plans to create an herb garden and wild vegetation area to create natural seclusion around the house. The yard will be a sanctuary for the family during summer months where the grandkids can play on swings, the adults can relax with a cool glass of ice tea and the pretty family dog can frolic affectionately - all without outside world interruption.

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