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# THE NEXT STEP

*For a pair of empty-nesters looking to update their '80s abode, interior designer Barbara Westbrook employs a near-minimalist approach—without sacrificing comfort*

Written by Elizabeth R. Ralls  
Photographed by Erica George Dines

Interior designer Barbara Westbrook and design associate Kim Winkler worked in tandem with architect Kenneth Lynch, project architect Bryan Busch and builder A.J. Thomas to completely overhaul the main floor of this 1980s home. In the two-story living room, a blocky, custom coffee table (a nod to legendary French designer Jean-Michel Frank, whose work inspired this home) anchors a comfortable but clean-lined arrangement that includes Quintus leather arm chairs, swivel chairs from Bungalow Classic and a Tuxedo-style sofa of Westbrook's design. A photographic painting by John Folsom, represented by Pryor Fine Art, holds pride of place above the mantel.



Westbrook's propensity for employing exquisite finishes is evident in the dining room, where a custom parchment-front rosewood buffet brightens the dramatic space, as do pieces like the gold leaf-trimmed chandelier, cream-colored columned draperies and upholstered arm chairs from Bungalow Classic. Chandelier by Bourgeois Bohème. Art by Susie Pryor through Pryor Fine Art. Rug by Designer Carpets.



**L**EAVE IT TO BARBARA WESTBROOK TO make even the most clean-lined interior appear not only approachable, but also incredibly sumptuous. Tasked with bringing a 1980s Buckhead home fully into the 21st century—in conjunction with Kenneth Lynch & Associates—Westbrook, taking cue from the tailored and stylish homeowner, looked to legendary French designer Jean-Michel Frank for inspiration.

The result is a carefully curated combination of eye-popping color, texture and pattern that's as comfortable as it is contemporary. "I hate it when everything's one material," says Westbrook. "A little wood, a little stone, a little lacquer, a little [gold] leaf—I love the mix."

And this home's dining room offers a glimpse into the understated luxury she's so carefully cultivated. There's the tactile: a parchment-front rosewood buffet accented with exquisite butterfly cabinet pulls; the visual: a gold leaf-dipped white iron twiggy chandelier; and the dramatic: cream-colored, floor-to-ceiling draperies against dark walls.



The homeowners wanted an all-white kitchen, and Westbrook delivered a space that's as light and bright as it is visually interesting. Because the room opens up to the main floor's most public spaces, she created a focal point in the form of a long slab of bookmatched Calacatta Conti marble, topped by a stainless steel hood. A kitchen table and island, both topped with 2 1/2-inch countertops and identical in size, break up the visual plane. The barstools and pendant lights are from Switch Modern. The custom cabinetry is by Kingdom Woodworks. *Below* in the angular powder room, Westbrook punctuated an overscale Manuel Canovas wallcovering with a marble-topped red-lacquer vanity. The mirror is custom and the sink, faucet and sconces are by Waterworks.



But beyond her abilities to embellish even the simplest forms with luxurious finishes, it's Westbrook's knack for infusing a neutral palette with show-stopping color and artful pattern that's proven her success. Take the angular formal powder room, for instance, in which she punctuated a large-scale black-and-white wallcovering with a shiny, marble-topped red-lacquer vanity. "It's fun to walk into someone's powder room and want to come out and talk about it, just like in a great restaurant," the designer explains.

Another conversation-worthy space is the light-and-bright kitchen, where in lieu of overhead cabinets, the designer specified a long, bookmatched slab of Calacatta Conti marble—topped by an equally large stainless steel hood—to create a striking focal point. Just as unexpected are the island and kitchen table, both identical in size, breaking up that visual plane. Dripping glass pendant lights



Marble floors set the tone for a sumptuous master bath that includes a stand-alone Waterworks tub with a Kallista tub filler, Holly Hunt side table, custom dressing stool with Samuel & Sons trim and an area rug from Designer Carpets. The cabinetry is by Kingdom Woodworks. The photograph is by Ron van Dongen, represented by Jackson Fine Art. **opposite** Westbrook amped up the glam quotient in the master bedroom by juxtaposing a gray color palette with bursts of intense citron in the form of a patterned headboard in Nobilis fabric and an upholstered iron bed from R Hughes. Masculine pieces like the iron four-poster bed and *l'été à l'été* are complemented by more feminine touches like the artfully patterned throw pillows in Zimmer + Rohde fabric, leggy drinks tables and upholstered iron bench, Convex mirror and *l'été à l'été* by Coupe d'Etat, available through R Hughes. Drinks tables from Bungalow Classic. Fabrics available through Ainsworth-Noah & Associates.



above "add a little sparkle to the space. And every woman likes a sparkle," Westbrook smiles.

And although the home's more public spaces, such as the living and sitting rooms, include rich chocolate browns, Westbrook says she's always mindful of making the master bedroom more feminine in feel. Here, the designer amped up the room's glam quotient by juxtaposing the gray color palette with an intense citron-colored headboard, while the sinuous curves of the room's leggy cocktail tables and an upholstered bench "keep the room feeling lighter," she says.

It's yet another example of the designer's propensity for softening clean-lined spaces with character and curves. "It's modern, clean and simple, but it doesn't ever feel hard-edged," she says. **SEE RESOURCES, BACK OF BOOK.**