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The DESIGN MAGAZINE for the Pacific Northwest

LOOK AGAIN: AMAZING DESIGN TRANSFORMATIONS

An aerial sculpture lights up the sky at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation campus

EVERY PERSON BELIEVES THE CHANGE THEY WANT TO SEE

DESIGN TEAM

interiors: Lynne Parker Designs

construction: Hammer & Hand

cabinetry: Big Branch Woodworking

additional design: Alice Design

Design Redux

THANKS TO A STRATEGIC RENOVATION AND EYE-POPPING WALLPAPER PATTERNS, A MIDCENTURY FIXER-UPPER GETS A SECOND, BRILLIANT GO-ROUND.

Written by RACHEL GALLAHER • Photographed by DAVID PAPAIZAN





OPPOSITE: While interior designer Lynne Parker opted to go bold in most of her newly renovated Portland house, she chose a more subdued palette in the living room. The two vintage chairs are covered with Designers Guild silk. A dark charcoal Gus sectional sits opposite, complementing a Skagen coffee table and Bølling tray table, both from Design Within Reach. "You can't help but love the simple, beautiful lines of these pieces," she says. **THIS PAGE:** A side table in the master bedroom displays an intriguing tableau, including an antique Buddha sculpture.

Wide-plank white-oak floors, Carrara marble countertops, and dark wood cabinetry by Big Branch Woodworking bring natural warmth to the kitchen, and handmade brass knobs from Baldwin adorn the cabinets. "I loved the solid chunky feel of these pulls and knobs," says Parker. The table and benches were custom built by Jason David Gillihan of Black Rabbit.





BELOW: “The vision was to create a clean white palette with graphic punctuations and hints of color,” says Parker, explaining how this Schumacher wallpaper inspired the rest of the project. “Black and white were the foundational start.” The floating shelves in Parker’s kitchen hold vintage copper pots, white goblets, and black trays that frame blue-and-white plates.



Last summer, Lynne Parker was on the hunt. She thought she was looking for a house to renovate and flip—but when she toured a 1950s daylight ranch perched on a hill in Portland’s Council Crest Park, she got unexpectedly attached and decided to move in herself. Although the 2,400-square-foot house was architecturally unremarkable, when the interior designer walked in, she immediately saw beyond the low ceilings, dinette kitchen, and small rooms to the potential for bold wallpaper, exuberant décor, and an open floor plan.

“There’s something about transforming the old to new that I just love,” Parker says. “I can always walk in a space and quickly say, ‘OK, that wall goes, and that wall goes,’ and just start envisioning how something will look.”

A renovation by building and remodeling firm Hammer & Hand, using working drawings by Kevin Fischer of Alice Design, included the addition of a master suite and the expansion of the kitchen, both with vaulted ceilings to make the space seem bigger.

Parker often uses brightly colored or daringly patterned wallpaper as a jumping-off point for design concepts, and her own home is no exception. “I use it like art,” she says. “There are such amazing artists out there making really special paper.” Before she even bought the house, she knew she wanted to incorporate the newly released Queen of Spain pattern from Schumacher, a black-and-white motif that resembles rows of smudged black ink, which she spotted in Portland’s Linde showroom. It now lines the staircase connecting the two levels of the house, turning what could have been a banal space into a bold statement. »



In the master bath, a Carrara marble floor is a luxurious foundation for the Victoria + Albert Bath's Napoli tub from Chown Hardware. In the master bedroom, Hygge & West's Petal Pusher wallpaper in gold sets a feminine tone. "Tone-on-tone papers subtly draw you in, yet they're calm and restful enough for a master suite," Parker says.



Other eye-catching wallpapers—an elegant gold-and-white Hygge & West peony pattern called Petal Pusher in the master bedroom, and the painterly, digitally printed Flora Soft Focus from Brooklyn, New York-based Flat Vernacular in one of her 20-year-old twin daughters' rooms—served as additional inspiration for Parker's design. "Wallpaper adds personality, of course, as well as color, dimension, graphic proportions, and in some cases, height or depth," she explains.

On the ground floor, the living room and kitchen balance out the vibrant wall coverings with muted, neutral tones. There is no dining room in the house, so Parker commissioned Jason David Gillihan, designer and founder of Black Rabbit in Portland, to make a reclaimed wood table and matching benches for the kitchen. High-end appliances from Blue Star, Sub-Zero, and Dacor are a must for Parker, who enjoys cooking and entertaining. She powdercoated two saucer lights, salvaged from a dairy farm in southern Oregon, black, with a peek-a-boo gold interior. New oak floors add another layer of warmth. Floating shelves house collected objects—Parker always urges her clients to display their things instead of hiding them away in cupboards—including black trays from West Elm, plates from Anthropologie, and favored finds from local vintage shops.

"I tried to create a special moment within each of the vignettes in the house, but make sure they still feel related to each other," Parker says. "I'm always trying to tell a story. With this house, the story was one of crisp contemporary combinations of black, white, and cobalt. I wanted the space to feel luxurious, with personality and zing." *

"I'm so excited when I discover a new wallpaper or textile. I think that's why I'm a little bit addicted to this process—I just love having a new canvas to work on."

—LYNNE PARKER, RESIDENT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER



SEE BEFORE PHOTOS AND FOLLOW PARKER'S RENOVATION PROCESS AT GRAYMAG.NET/PARKER



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: In one of Parker's daughter's bedrooms, Flora Soft Focus wallpaper from Flat Vernacular sets off the Trina Turk sheets and a patchwork quilt sewn by Parker's maternal grandmother; the bedside lamp is from her paternal grandmother. The other daughter's bedroom features Hygge & West Otomi Red wallpaper, a custom wool-covered headboard, and a Crate and Barrel coverlet. Downstairs, Big Branch Woodworking created a bar area with a Carrera marble top and floating shelves. The faucet is by Hansgrohe.