

Robert Reeder Interiors

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Photography by Acorn Studios



“Creative interiors take time, vision and expertise. As in good design, it is like building a good foundation. Once all the elements are in the proper order, then the canvas can be completed and thoroughly planned, never rushed.”
—Robert Reeder

When wonderful interiors are your passion, time is of no consequence.

Countless hours are spent ... many miles are traveled ... things are changed and then changed again – all in the creative pursuit of excellence.

That's the concept at Robert Reeder Interiors, where every client is treated to a design process so unique, so welcoming, they feel as if owner Robert Reeder was waiting just for them.

“There is such an investment of time between the client and the designer,” he says. “You become like family and get to know each other so well. You really cannot be this strict businessperson with no personality. Just be the person you are and allow them to do the same with you.”

Indeed, relationship-building has been a key to his enduring success as an interior designer for more than 30 years. And he wouldn't have it any other way.

“I love all of my clients,” Robert says. “I always say

that the best things happen when the designer and the client become one.”

That's precisely what happened when a local couple came to him with high hopes for a major renovation project. The brick home they purchased in an exclusive neighborhood in Amherst had been built in 1990 and lacked certain elements they desired, but they had a clear vision of what it could become. Now, almost two years later, their collaboration with Robert Reeder Interiors has produced some stunning results.

“It was very plain and we wanted to turn it into something that looked as if we had built it from scratch in 2007 or 2008,” the homeowners said. “We had the vision collectively, and Robert built on that vision.”

The project commenced in June of 2006. The goal? A sleek yet comfortable look you might find in a Manhattan townhouse, with clean lines and rich architectural details in an eclectic mix of traditional and contemporary.

“This interior reads so differently from the exterior,”

Robert says. “When you view it from outside, you have absolutely no idea what you're going to experience when you enter inside.”

The couple's love of fine artwork was a major consideration in the design plan, a multi-phase process that saw walls knocked down, room openings expanded and decorative trims and unique finishes added throughout the entire home. To showcase their impressive art collection, Robert incorporated original oil paintings, watercolors, drawings and other pieces into nearly every room, from the living room to the master bath.

“With their collection of sensational art, we wanted their home to reflect their style,” he says. “This was a decid-



ing factor, so we worked backward from there. We wanted the rooms to have a clean background and let the artwork speak for itself.”

The Living Room is a perfect example. On two walls is a true favorite: a series of five original sketches. They are the focal point in the room that Robert decorated with a tone-on-tone horizontal stripe, with the

use of mother-of-pearl inlay at the ceiling crown.

“The art is what you see when you come into the room,” he says.

The Dining Room, meanwhile, is perfect for entertaining. In fact, the homeowners happily hosted their first family dinner there this past Christmas, shortly after moving into the home.



It features a large, art-deco table and server; custom-finished dining chairs with flocked moiré upholstery to coordinate with the moiré harlequin draperies; the use of imported Venetian glass mirror above the server to coordinate with mirrored French doors accented with Swarovski crystal doorknobs; a ceiling cove with the same mother-of-pearl inlay and backlighting to



add ambiance in the evening; and a custom-designed area rug laid over wood flooring.

On the walls is a graphite-colored, flocked black-patterned wallcovering, being that black is becoming the neutral in the room. A magnificent pair of sconces were selected to creatively “marry” with the chandelier lighting. Silver vases by Oscar de la Renta adorn the server.

“We have created a wonderful renovation, added decorative trims and mouldings and changed the entire look,” Robert says. “We took the existing home and truly created something custom. We shopped in New York, Cleveland, Florida – literally everywhere – to furnish this house.”



Along the way, his clients relied on the vast knowledge and professionalism he has perfected in an enviable career that started decades ago after graduating from the New York School of Design. He went on to work with such industry icons as Florence Cooper in Buffalo and Sister Parrish of New York City before starting his own firm.

These days, he serves a mix of residential and commercial clients on projects that represent a broad range of interests and budgets.

Says Robert: “On this and every project, the key was to take

our time. It’s a long process, and patience is everything. My clients understand that good design takes time. Then the details you envisioned finally manifest themselves in the hardscape of your home and soft goods.”

He says these particular clients favor a living environment that boasts “gracious simplicity.” Highlights include:

*A wall-sized cabinet in the Great Room that was custom-ordered from Kittinger Furniture Co. The room is done in “colors of the ocean” with contrasts such as chocolate brown silk throw pillows on the sofa and loveseat, along with elegant and luxurious long-flowing draperies. Walls have a Venetian plaster wall treatment.

*A black-lacquered Louis the XVI writing table desk in the Library that features a tooled leather top and brass cuffs and collars at the feet. The mantel is adorned with



marble and bronze ormolu vases and the use of bronze sculptures, Italian faceplate and mercury accents. The room features a pagoda valance with simple draperies, silver grasscloth and Chinese paper applied on the ceiling.

*Granite countertops and backsplash in the neutral-colored Gourmet Kitchen.

*The client’s own unique design in transom glass-work leading to the Master Suite. The Master Bath (not



shown) features sapele mahogany with Ann Sacks tile in the shower.

“There are so many things about this home that you are just not going to find anywhere else. The attention to detail is overwhelming, and that atten-



tion to detail is what makes this home so spectacular,” Robert says.

The homeowner adds: “I love everything about it. We are ordinary people living in an extraordinary home.”

Robert Reeder Interiors
For appointments, call
716-634-9134.