



BRYAN J. PULTE

A Fresh Face for an Aging Floorplan

by Dana W. Todd

From the mid-1940s to the mid-1970s, many U.S. consumers built and purchased homes with the standard American foursquare configuration of rooms – a “box on a box” style.

Homeowner Carole Jacobs and her family own one of these early 1970s houses in Colorado. Its traditional footprint is a good foundation for mixing in modern elements to create a personalized, eclectic style that lives well for a family.

“Carole’s house is a standard American floor plan, with a central foyer and staircase, living room to the right of the entrance door, a study to the left, kitchen in the rear of the house, and dining room connecting the kitchen and living room,” says interior designer Bryan Pulte, who has worked with the Jacobs family for almost 30 years. “What the family needed was to create uniqueness to divert the eye from the house’s predictable floor plan.”

“I wanted to be able to entertain my large family and display my treasured art and accessories,” adds Carole Jacobs.

To achieve her goals, Pulte began by removing the standard cased opening between the living and dining rooms, enlarging the opening and adding Georgian columns and molding in keeping with the home’s existing traditional elements. The result is an open space and a more modernized look. Since the room is larger than many dining rooms and is almost square, Pulte chose a custom etched-edge, round glass table resting on a cone-shaped walnut pedestal base with brushed brass accents. Now Jacobs can seat eight guests comfortably, expanding the table to hold 12 with the addition of a larger wooden top.

To continue opening up the space, Pulte removed carpeting and installed light-colored wood plank floors in the living and dining rooms with a border of inlaid rosewood and black ebony laid in a geometric pattern. He bal-



anced the practicality, grace, and formality of the room with simply upholstered chairs and quiet drapery.

There are a couple of show-stoppers in the dining room. A unique, elegant chandelier constructed of simple electrical parts decorates the space above the dining table. A custom convex stainless

steel buffet, built along an entire wall with a pleated metal front to mimic draping, provides a convenient serving spot for buffet-style dinners. The buffet also provides a focal point for a pair of original Berenice Abbott photographs of 1930s New York City.

Overall, Pulte took a predictable floor plan and transformed it into a special, tranquil, and serene dining environment.

“We made the space more exciting than a traditional ‘70s home by including old and new,” Pulte says.

“I’m surrounded by the things I love,” Jacobs says. “Bryan is very good at incorporating what I like, and he always designs with the family’s input. The space doesn’t feel ‘designed.’ It feels like ours.”



Ready for a new twist of your own? Reach Bryan Pulte Interiors at 303-399-8866.