



home and garden

By Janet Follansbee, Resident Contributor

Hampshire Court Home Gets a Facelift

It is easy to be happy in the familiar comfort of our old digs especially when we consider that a home can become topsy-turvy in the mire of a significant update or remodeling job. When water seeps into a home, it causes consternation, but more than that, the damage that occurs demands immediate attention. Such is the challenge that presented itself to Diane and Phil Crimmins in the spring of this year.

Although their custom home had aged well, it now called for an overhaul. Regrettably, a beleaguered outdoor faucet communicated its demise to the home's occupants with a trail of water that entered the house from beneath a built-in bookcase in the study. The water had languished for a while and then found its way through the drywall and soaked a portion of the hardwood floor. With their former Euro Design decorator and her work crew on hand, the repairs soon began. Diane and Phil decided that they ought to refresh the dated areas of their beloved home and to include some new furnishings in the plan. During their lengthy absence away from the dusty mess, the couple had no concerns about the renovations because they knew that the decorator excelled in any project that she undertook.

After the drywall replacement, the hardwood floors, extending throughout the first floor, took priority. Some of the floorboards had to be replaced. A new stain of a brownish/gray color enhanced the beauty of the wood grain. Everywhere the walls were

painted in a soft grayish/taupe palette enhanced by white trim. Off-white woven wood shades replaced shutters.

Blue is both fashionable and liked by the Crimmins. The study earned a new floor-to-ceiling built-in bookcase. Bearing upper glass side doors and LED lighting, the replacement bookcase boasts a deep blue color. The new easy chair and ottoman add to the blue effect as does the multi-blue patterned rug with a light beige/gray background. Drapery panels in a white and blue floral pattern adorn the large window. Mementos speak to the life of the Crimmins family as does the wall art that is reminiscent of a Florida beach landscape.

The foyer separates the study from the formals. It is a welcoming entrance with large metal doors with glass insets. A rug of rich grays and an expansive stone console with a marble top allows the area to make its own statement. In muted tones, a large framed picture of two serene looking ladies of a former era hangs above the console.

The formal living and dining areas bear new furniture in neutral tones. The sofa and chairs with silver nail-head trim are accented with gorgeous pillows with a black background. The sofa's pillow set is augmented with a stunning bird with long blue feathers and is offset with foliage of complimentary colors. The chair pillows dawn a gardenia so lifelike that one can almost sense its scent. A wood



frame and reupholstered accent chair take on a stylish look with its brown and white bird and floral print. The subtly patterned area rug and a large square leather ottoman anchor the room. The fireplace box surround bears new marble with sparkling fireplace rocks offering another wonderful addition. Matching drapery panels serve both the living and dining room windows.

There is a new pedestal dining table in a medium dark wood. The high-back chairs are upholstered in an oatmeal fabric with backs and sides in a printed fabric. Two new chandeliers in a wood and iron motif sport candle bulbs and hanging wooden baubles. These are the perfect replacements for a former light fixture. With gentle lighting, this room is a wonderful setting for a relaxing dining experience.

The interior awning over the kitchen window alludes to Crimmins Café. Although Diane gives most of the credit to Phil, both excel in the kitchen. The open layout is witness to their abilities. Besides the fresh coat of paint and new accent pieces above the cabinets, all that this room required were new light fixtures over the island. Smaller in size than those in the dining room, the new fixtures harmonize well. The eating area is spacious and accommodating and receives an abundance of natural light from the many tall windows that look out to a pretty side yard.

Updates to the family room began prior to the water damage. The room takes on a more contemporary feel with its white sectional sofa in a flame-stitch pattern. A white leather recliner and bold orange easy chair sit in proximity to the fireplace. Inset to the right of the fireplace is a series of lighted glass shelves that hold Murano glass pieces in attractive shapes and primary colors. A leather ottoman serves as a coffee table while a flat-screen TV hangs on the wall. The area rug of natural fibers has a brown Hellenic design on a white background. Unique to this area is an impressive wine cellar built beneath the stairwell.

The cozy, remodeled home is a tribute to Diane and Phil Crimmins and reflects their warmth and lifestyle accurately. Their pair of Bengal cats is also happy in their updated environment. Without despairing, one might say that the moral to this story is not to trust any source of water. In this case, seeping water brought new life to a well-loved home. A remodel can be an onerous burden, but in the end, optimism, vision, color, and patience blend well together to garner an even better haven.

Thank you to Melinda Dzinic, the Crimmins's interior designer and owner of EURO Design, for the fabulous photos.