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A *fresh* START

Cara and Tom Fox remodel a Holladay home, where charming details and bright ideas transform a drab dining room into a delightful, freshly styled space.

BY BRAD MEE
PHOTOS BY LINDSAY SALAZAR

The foyer's black-and-white marble floor inspired the classic palette of the adjoining dining room, where white chairs surround a high-gloss black table and contrasting striped fabrics abound.



Designer Cara Fox framed the room's new window with draperies tailored from the Citrus Garden wallpaper's coordinate fabric. The matched look is very custom and is enjoying a huge comeback, she says.

Oh, that wallpaper! We understand if it leaves you momentarily spellbound. The same goes for the oversized beaded chandelier, the boldly striped chairs and the gleaming brass fixtures. Mesmerizing details flourish throughout the dining room of this Holladay home recently remodeled by Cara and Tom Fox, principals of The Fox Group.

Faced with the room's original 8-foot ceilings, red oak floors and stuffy '80s décor, the homeowners gave Cara and Tom free reign to reimagine the outdated space, requesting something classic yet fresh, timeless but not overly traditional. "No problem," said Cara, who opened her bag of design tricks and infused the dining room with *joie de vivre*, one element at a time.

The dining room sits off the large entry and leads to the kitchen, where the Foxes broke through the home's second level to give the kitchen a soaring, two-story ceiling. Unfortunately, that wasn't an option for the dining

room, so they used the room's elements and décor to visually raise the low overhead surface. They began with the walls.

"We added a chair rail midway up the wall and placed Schumacher's "Citrus Garden" wallpaper above it," Cara says. "The paper lifts the eye and visually heightens the wall." It also fosters the room's spirited style, as does a surprisingly heroic chandelier. "I love it," the designer says. "Many people would be afraid of putting a massive, eye-catching chandelier in a room this size, but it actually draws your attention away from the low ceilings."

For paint, Cara chose a tone of white—Benjamin Moore's Swiss Coffee—to help make the ceiling appear higher and to dress the walls and trim in a classic hue. "It's a warm white that complements the wallpaper's yellows and oranges," she says. Brass does the same, adding élan to gleaming sconces and a thick drapery rod that accents the window wall. There, French-pleated draperies frame the window in a print identi-



Cara Fox, teamed with husband Tom to remodel and redesign this Holladay home.

DECORATING



cal to the wallpaper's. "Matched fabric and wallpaper is a very custom look that is making a massive comeback," the designer explains.

The entry's marble floor inspired a classic black-and-white color pairing that plays throughout the strikingly cheerful dining room. Chair cushions bring to mind wide-striped, black-and-white awnings that shade the windows of sun-drenched Mediterranean villas. Greek key carvings detail white, lattice-back dining chairs surrounding a glossy black table. At each end, single black stripes dramatically embellish winged host

chairs. "Choosing host chairs that don't match the side chairs makes the room feel less formal and predictable," Cara explains.

New white oak flooring, with planks measuring ten inches wide, reinforces the room's fresh, casual style. "They modernize the room," Cara says. The floors team with the room's other carefully considered elements to fill it with fresh, classic style and ambitious shots of charm and whimsy. "This room just makes you smile," she adds. And for her clients, that was what they had hoped for—and more. ■

ABOVE LEFT: To prevent the 8-foot-high ceiling from appearing low, Cara eliminated recessed can lights and painted the surface white. A surprisingly large and showy chandelier also draws attention away from the low ceiling, she says.

ABOVE RIGHT: The table seats twelve. To promote a bright, airy feel in the room, Cara chose lattice-back side chairs that allow light and views to flow through them. A pair of lemon topiary arrangements add immeasurable panache to the tabletop.

WHY IT WORKS

This room serves spirited, fresh-picked style—courtesy of Cara Fox.

An Aerin Jacqueline chandelier adds huge scale and surprising style.



A bold stripe lends a fresh twist to traditional wingback chairs from One Kings Lane.

The drapery rod and Savannah sconces deliver the warmth and sheen of timeless brass.



PRINTS CHARMING

From windows to walls, the tale of Josef Frank's "Citrus Garden."

Among the fanciful prints that Schumacher commissioned Swedish designer Josef Frank to create in 1947, "Citrus Garden" became a decorator's darling, so much so that interior designers began backing the fabric so they could cover walls with it. In 2017, Schumacher responded with wall-ready papers that coordinate with select Frank prints, taking them far beyond window dressing.



Lemon topiaries from The Enchanted Home play off the wallpaper's whimsical garden theme.