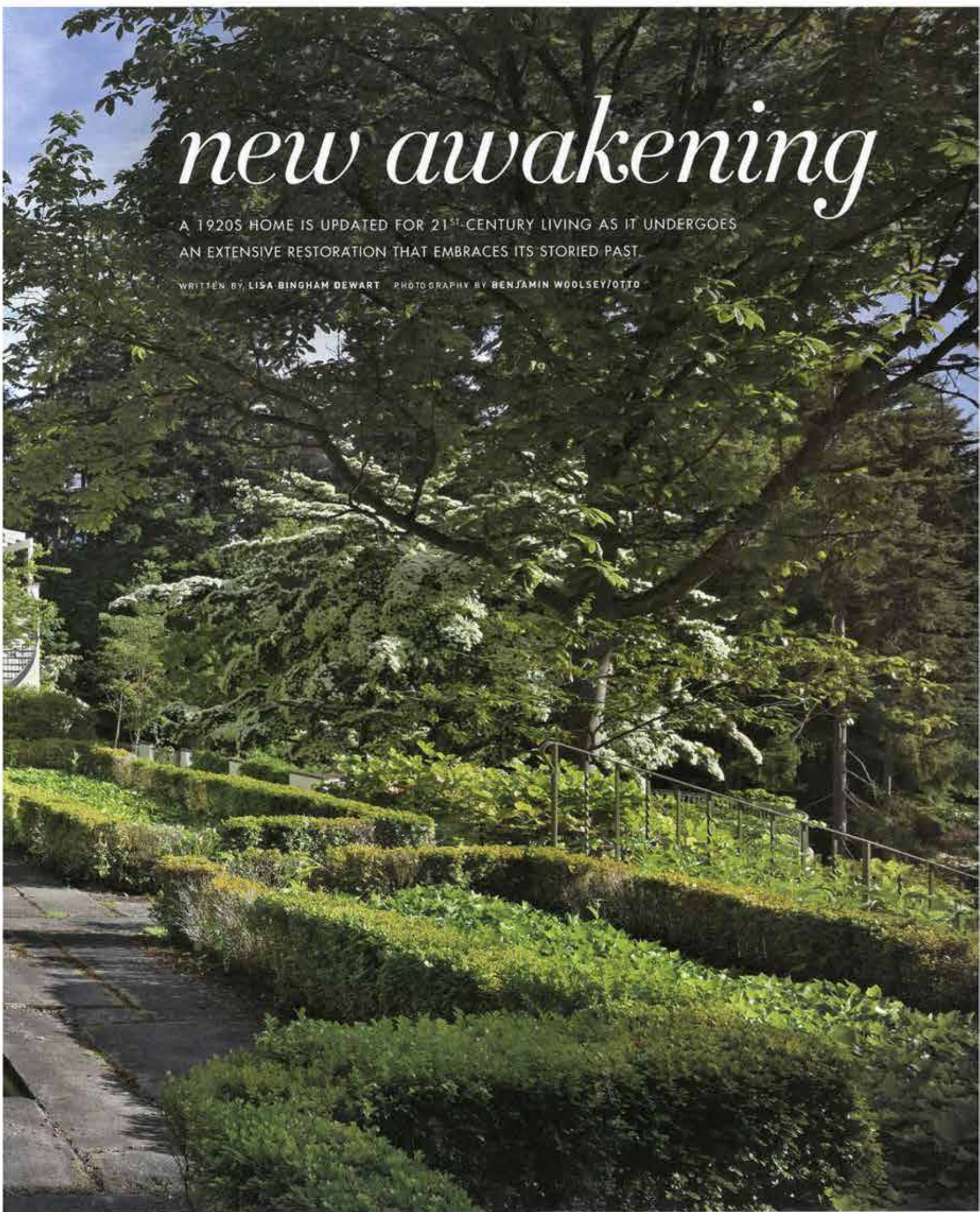




ARCHITECTURE Tyler Engle, Tyler Engle Architects PS
HOME BUILDER Owen Roberts and Bryan Wygal, Roberts Wygal
BEDROOMS 5 | BATHROOMS 8 | SQUARE FEET 14,034



new awakening

A 1920S HOME IS UPDATED FOR 21ST-CENTURY LIVING AS IT UNDERGOES AN EXTENSIVE RESTORATION THAT EMBRACES ITS STORIED PAST.

WRITTEN BY LISA BINGHAM DEWART PHOTOGRAPHY BY BENJAMIN WOOLSEY/OTTO



The old line, "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there," never seems more apt than when discussing domestic architecture. Take a Seattle couple's 1920s house. When it was built, the spaces were planned to accommodate a very different, more formal mode of living, with lots of little rooms deprived of natural light and staff quarters for the gardener and chauffeur. Not now, says architect Tyler Engle, who was tasked with restoring and updating the home. "It's not about sitting in the dining room or being served. Today, it's about comfort and being with your family."

But to make the home comfortable, let alone habitable, would be a Herculean effort. Weathered stucco, gently cracked foundations and sprawling vines could make for a romantic scene from a bygone era, but in reality they left

Architect Tyler Engle custom designed the banquette in a Schumacher floral and a two-sided sofa wearing a Cowtan & Tout solid from The Dixon Group and Lee Jofa base fabric. A custom beige sofa by Couch joins the scene on a Godfrey Hirst rug from Rubenstein's.



A rebuilt skylight allows sunshine into the living room. New archways match original ones and open up once closed-off rooms. A Cortina Leathers textile covers the custom SMJ Studio ottoman, upholstered by JP Custom Upholstery.



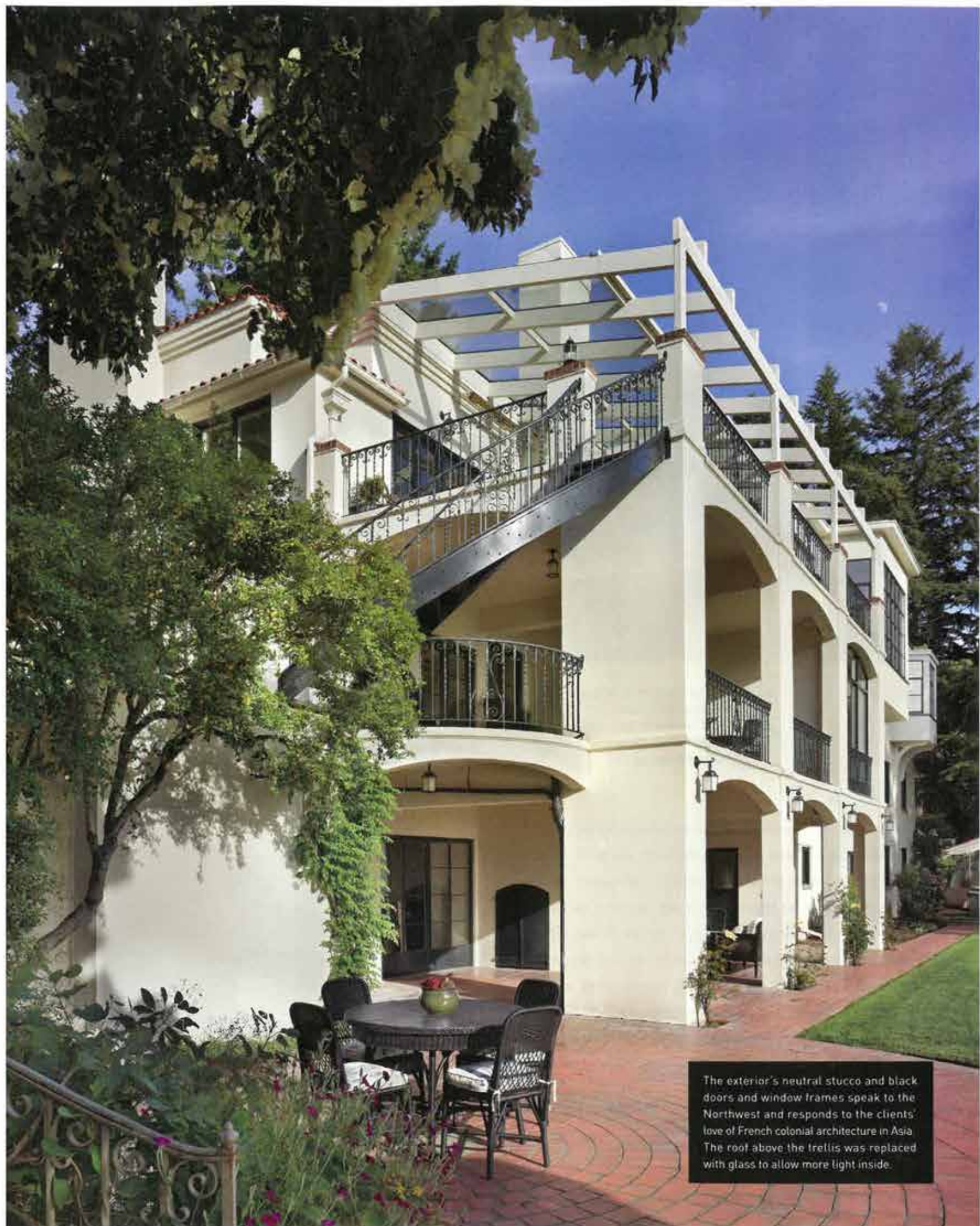
Above: Feiss pendants hang above the double-height library, and French doors by Loewen open onto a courtyard. The balustrade, fabricated by Metal Solutions, matches the existing railings. Left: A McGuire chair offers a cozy spot for reading.

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the home in heartbreaking disrepair. Before the epic undertaking could begin, a feasibility study was done and fortunately deemed the project possible. "The process was extremely dynamic," though, says builder Owen Roberts, who is partners with Bryan Wygal and oversaw the build with superintendent Zach Roberts. "Some of the work was unknown until the house was partially opened up."

Aside from navigating the myriad structural issues present in a building of its age, "the biggest issue," Engle recalls, "was that it was a single-story house with two basements," resulting in limited light pouring into the interiors. Engle's solution to the dilemma involved strategically opening up the floor of the former kitchen to create a double-height library with an ambulatory above and a den below. The roof was reframed, as well, to allow for a generous skylight to flood the two levels with sunshine.

The mud hall leads from the entry to the family room. Curved passageways here were again added to match existing arches and open up the space. Wood flooring throughout is either new or refinished to ground the colorful paint and fabric palette.



Above: The formerly pink and green exterior was re-stuccoed and painted a more neutral color. Right: Architect Tyler Engle and builder Owen Roberts revived many of the exterior details, refinishing the antique Mexican door and the lantern above it.



The exterior's neutral stucco and black doors and window frames speak to the Northwest and responds to the clients' love of French colonial architecture in Asia. The roof above the trellis was replaced with glass to allow more light inside.



An antique chair from Hong Kong, part of the owners' collection, and a Kaldewei tub from Best Plumbing fill the master bathroom. Loewen windows from Windows, Doors & More flood the spa-like room with natural light.

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The main floor plan was essentially flipped, too, with the kitchen, family room and breakfast area now occupying the north side of the house. In contrast to the warren of halls and pantries that marked the old kitchen, the new spaces are bright and airy and open onto each other to foster the sense of togetherness the owners desired for their family. Engle sited them to take advantage of the water and mountain vistas beyond the pool and pond—both of which were mended, as were the grounds. "The views are best from that side, so that's where they wanted to spend most of their time," says Engle, who worked on the design with Carey Dagliano Holmes and Isaac Tanner from his firm.

Engle also took on the interiors, but, in a departure from much of his work, he favored color and pattern in response to the context of the house. Instead of muted, earthy tones and dark woods, the palette runs from yellow in the dining room to terra cotta for the library



Loewen French doors from Windows, Doors & More open to expansive water views in the master bedroom's sitting area. Cheerful chairs from the owners' collection lend a pop of color to the room atop a Turkish rug. The chandelier is an antique.



The master bathroom features a coffered ceiling that gives the space depth and character but also hides the electrical conduit for the Translite Sonoma light fixtures. Inca Basaltina flooring from Pentol Granite & Marble flows underfoot.



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("grayed out," he explains, to match its Pacific Northwest location) along with creams, khakis and lighter woods. Although he had envisioned rooms with a more period look, the vibe changed to something more relaxed, Bohemian and eclectic.

Furnishings run from pieces collected on the clients' travels, including small tables and chairs and rugs, to larger upholstered ones that Engle designed, including the living room's ottoman, sofas and banquette. The last he covered in a bold brocade-influenced pattern "that I thought was unexpected for a Northwest palette when I first saw it," he recalls, "but it ultimately gives lightness and fun to the space and is wonderfully textural." The accent pillows that dot the soft surfaces bring in another layer of pattern, which is something the owners love.

In a project of this magnitude, delightful surprises crop up too—items found languishing now enjoy places of honor. In the living room, a trio of rewired antique Lalique lights, formerly hanging from the downstairs bedroom ceilings, not only brighten the room but also serve as an art installation. "Instead of finding a large painting for the wall, we used these as an innovative way of creating wall sculpture. They're elegant and a little wacky—everyone comments on them," says Engle. In the kitchen, too, the antique Spanish chandelier now there was once relegated to a back hallway, while lanterns on the rear exterior include some discovered in the basement. Even existing moldings were copied and matched throughout the rooms.

Despite the intense intervention required to transform the house, Engle is quick to point out that "light authorship is what it's all about." Virtually every surface was touched on the upper floors, but it remains true to its roots, even as it welcomes a new generation. **L**