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A CALL TO ARMORIES

Washington's century-old fortresses
now battle age and public opinion
as they face a future of civic use,
private renovation
... or even all-out
abandonment

This 1920s Broadmoor home defied definition for a while there — until a major remodel ushered in a whole new era of unmistakable ‘casual elegance’



Architect Tyler Engle worked with contractor Schultz Miller to extensively remodel interior designer Clifford Bunch and David Pritchard’s 1920s Broadmoor home, now with a “Shaker-like minimalism ... evident in the five-gable roof form, the repetition of the double-hung window module and the weathered cedar shingle exterior,” Engle says. “Cliff and David aren’t pretentious. They wanted an elegant but casual look.” With a purple front door, against an inset of black painted vertical paneling; black windows; and a curving brick pathway, he says, “It’s a little bit of a nod to the Northwest: The entry is all about being subdued. There’s space. It’s a gracious entry.”

Consistency Clarified

“**I**NCONGRUOUS” CAN FEEL SO CONFUSING. “Confusing” can feel so unpleasant.

Lots of other ill-at-ease adjectives arose — gamely, but futilely — in trying to define this 1920s Broadmoor home (previously a sad casualty of failed stucco, random additions and mushroom-overrun windowsills) before Clifford Bunch and his hus-

band, David Pritchard, remodeled it with architect Tyler Engle.

“Nobody could really identify what it was,” says Bunch.

“It was loosely termed ‘Mediterranean,’” says Engle. “The house was extremely eclectic.” (“I would use ‘funky,’” adds Bunch.)

“It wasn’t ugly, just inconsistent. There had been some interesting interior remodels; one toilet was at

45 degrees,” Engle says. “I love eclecticism, but we talked about giving it some order.”

This was a major overhaul. All-new, all-happy adjectives are now in order — starting with “orderly.” And “lovely.” Really lovely.

“Reconfigured circulation, enhanced functionality and a wholly new interior were the result of a substantial remodel where most of

In the living room, says Engle, “The fireplace’s brick surround takes it down a notch instead of marble. It’s elegant but casual, like bluejeans with a blazer — it’s not trying too hard.”

the upper floor and roof were strategically removed,” Engle says. “We got into it and knew we’d substantially change the roof. After studying the rooflines, we were able to modify the volume of the house and simplify it. The house has five gables and one major ridgeline; it’s very clean and simplified. The intent was to make it simple. Cliff calls it ‘casually elegant.’”

Bunch is an interior designer. Trust him. He and David — who adore Cape Cod/

Shingle Style so much more than “funky whatever” — moved to this gracious, storied community from Washington Park. They strolled into this backyard — along two rolling golf-course fairways, abutting the abundant greens and trees of Washington Park Arboretum — and knew. “It was afternoon, and there was light, open air and sky. This was the spot,” Bunch says.

Like the highly in-the-know clients they were, they had clipped and collected “hun-

dreds of images” of Shingle Style homes to show Engle. “He said, ‘Yep,’” Bunch says.

“It just fit,” Engle says. “We took that and made the elements very similar. It’s like going to a barber and saying, ‘Make me look like Brad Pitt.’ It’s still a process to work on this site in this context. The whole point was to focus on the Shingle Style as classic — especially how it fits in this neighborhood, with scale and proportion. We pushed the Shingle Style into almost ▶



Bunch says, “It was difficult to figure the furniture. We wanted two sitting areas. It’s fun after a party to see where the chairs are, and where people sit. One of the reasons I wanted this furniture arrangement is that I wanted to show the middle of the rug.”



Ned the dog (relaxedly) guards the entry, painted Pompeii Blue, and home to a unique lamp that's "one of my favorite things I own," says Bunch. "It was my aunt's, and every time I go up or down the stairs, it makes me think of her. It's an LED light, and we never turn it off. It's the only thing in the house that's a different metal."



In the kitchen, says Bunch, "I really wanted to create a style that a) worked with the house and b) was going to be timeless." To accomplish that, says Engle, "We worked together on proportions ... We face-framed the cabinets for tradition and added the bead. There are no multiple details; it's still very crisp. For the island, a chamfer softens the leg. It's almost Shaker Style and unique to this house. The lighting was very deliberate. Some ceilings with recessed lights look like someone took a shotgun to them."



Shaker: more regular. The massing and volume are also simple. The form of the home can be pure."

(Ooh. That's an especially apt adjective.) Structural transformations followed suit. The new master bedroom, pushed out under one of those defining gables, replaced a large deck that had been swallowed by shade, and then, "The rest of the house morphed with it," Engle says. A new guest room and powder room were added upstairs ("The formula in this neighborhood is four bedrooms up," Bunch says). The new mudroom "is an important functional piece because of their dog," says Engle (Bunch calls Ned the dog "a big mix" often mistaken for a Doodle). And the often-employed (and -enjoyed) dining room expanded substantially, bumping out to create a roomy office for David above.

"It was almost like corrective surgery. We reconfigured all these rooms for improved circulation for how they entertain," Engle says. "Everything pushed and pulled and fell into place."

This is a consummately corrected place

On the back of the home, says Engle, "Two gables are stepped back for privacy.


... The other volume had been one story with a deck on top." Bunch says the angle of the roof "creates these beautiful lines — they're echoed in the front." Bunch worked with Ecoyards on the landscaping.

TOP LEFT: The master bedroom rests at the end of an upstairs hallway lined with 27 botanical prints hand-painted for a book in 1807, says Bunch. "We're bedroom people," he says. "We tend to work on our laptops or talk or read in our bedroom. I'm sort of a Dumpster-diver when it comes to fabrics. I love Mood — it's Yves Saint Laurent men's suit fabric on the windows."

LEFT: The all-new back deck abuts Broadmoor Golf Club, with the Washington Park Arboretum beyond. "The patio is such a wonderful place to sit with friends and read a book," says Bunch. "At night there's not a single light. We did not know if we wanted to live on a golf course — people are going to look at us! But it's the opposite."

of unexpectedly fresh, bright, brilliant color (eggplant purple in the dining room, with a rich harvest-gold ceiling; Pompeii Blue in the entry; browns in one guest room and pinks in the other, for Bunch's "girlie-girl" niece); carefully curated furniture and vignettes; and an amazing array of meaningful art. "David's father, Llewelyn Pritchard, is huge in the Northwest art scene: past president of Poncho and a huge collector of Northwest art," says Bunch. "Given [his] influence, we have been collecting Northwest art to fill our home."

Once tough to peg, this newly cohesive collaboration of talent and perspective is now distinguished by its timeless, enduring traditional design — and a whole new set of appreciative adjectives. Including: "not quite finished."

"I really enjoy having a project, especially when it's my own," Bunch says. "We're 95% done. It's like reading a good book — you don't want it to end." 

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Bunch says he and Pritchard "are entertaining our friends at least once a week" in the dining room — which is filled with cool conversation pieces. "My aunt always had a mass of candlesticks," he says. "Now when we travel, it's like an outing — I probably have 50. Each one has a story. One is Korean; one is 200 years old. They're all different." As for the rich colors here, says Engle: "Who would think purple in the dining room? What's brilliant is that the dark color makes for a cozy room. It should be candlelit. This trim color with the glossy sheen gives it such an elegance."