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Summer Edition 2024

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That '70s Show

Preserving the architectural detail of a largely unrenovated 1970s home, a Dallas architect and interior designer pays homage to the vintage era by pairing luxe gloss surfaces with mirror, wallpaper and retro pieces

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Drawing inspiration from Palm Springs, Eddie Maestri chose Farrow & Ball's Blue Ground paint for the front doors. Like those throughout the house, these are patterned to bring additional texture to the home. Black and white tiles and a canopy add to the resort-style entrance.

Opposite page: The decision was taken by Eddie, not just architect and interior designer on the project but homeowner too, to preserve the building's original design intent. That said, windows and doors were replaced with floor-to-ceiling equivalents to suit the family's contemporary lifestyle.



If doorbells could speak, rather than ring, one might expect they'd have something revealing to disclose to arriving guests about their hosts. From a telling quip – “Be there in a sec, I’m quickly tidying up” – to a gentle nudge to compliment the homeowners on yet another new painting in their collection. The old-fashioned doorbell at the entrance to architect and interior designer Eddie Maestri’s Dallas home meets guests halfway. It simply says, “Press for Champagne”, three words that reveal far more about what lies beyond the threshold of Eddie’s front door than their brevity suggests. To be welcomed inside is to pass through a Slim Aarons-like entrance (complete with a Palm Springs-inspired striped awning, patterned floors, and robin’s-egg blue doors) into a home that feels as glamorous and sophisticated as a Champagne cocktail.

Indeed, there are nods to glamour throughout the home, from a wall of antique mirror and a burlwood table in the dining room to a vintage Murano glass chandelier in the breakfast nook. The house itself, renovated by Eddie to suit his and his husband Adam’s modern lifestyle, as well as that of their twin sons, is a nod to both the architecture and style of the 1970s. Situated on a lake in Dallas’s Preston Hollow, the New Formalist home was completed in 1971 by architect Raymond Lambert, a contemporary of Philip Johnson and Frank L. Meier, both of whom designed lauded residences nearby. Looking to move homes, Eddie discovered the house online and, upon viewing it in person, was swept into a love affair that pays tribute to the past. “What I loved most about it was that, apart from a small remodel in the 1990s, it was untouched since it was built,” he recalls. “I immediately knew that I wanted to respect the home’s original vision.”

Above left: An original railing separating two levels in the living room was retained and restored.

Above right: The cabana room leads off the master suite. It was conceived as an indoor retreat that offers respite from summer’s heat while remaining connected to the outdoors.

Opposite page: Eddie’s solution for lightening what he felt was a dark dining room was to apply an antiqued mirror across its largest wall.



To this end, Eddie managed to source the building's earliest architectural blueprints and kept these top of mind when reconceptualising and renovating his home. Original design elements and finishes were preserved, including a china closet off the dining room (now cheekily wallpapered in Pierre Frey's Boheme, with its shelves of ancient glassware), the stone wall and terrazzo floors in the living room, and the walnut panelling that separates it from the kitchen. Walnut remains a feature in the kitchen too, but in Eddie's iteration now pairs with white brick-shaped tiles, glossy patterned floors that extend into the breakfast room, and Fornasetti's Arance wallpaper, selected as a tribute to the kitchen's prior wallcovering.

In fact, the concept of wallpaper as a homage to the home's original decor repeats throughout

the house, often influencing the decorating palette for a room, or uniting disparate elements. In the breakfast nook, used regularly by the family for casual meals, it's a faux grass cloth, chosen for ease of cleaning. In the low-ceilinged room, where both floor and ceiling are high gloss to reflect light around the space, the wall treatment harmonises with a 1950s Heywood-Wakefield dining table, once a wedding gift to Eddie's parents. A vintage fern-patterned wallpaper in green and white was uncovered in the master bathroom, prompting Eddie to opt for Cole & Son's Royal Fernery as a replacement. Off the master suite, in the cabana room, a leisure space with drapery-covered ceilings and a mood that's distinctly Hollywood glamour, palm-tree murals link the space to the lakeside garden beyond.

Above: A high-gloss ceiling and similarly shiny floor bounce light around the intimate breakfast nook. The chandelier is vintage Tronchi Murano glass; equally authentic is the Heywood-Wakefield dining table, once a wedding gift to Eddie's parents.

Opposite page: When renovating his kitchen, Eddie chose to pay homage to the past by retaining much of the walnut panelling and introducing Fornasetti's Arance wallpaper to the ceiling cove.



From furniture to fittings, architecture to lifestyle, the results, in pop culture terms, are very *Mad Men*.



Clockwise from top left: Furniture throughout the home is a combination of vintage pieces and homeware from established American brands; an Eames Lounge Chair has pride of place in Eddie's home office; chairs designed by Maestri Studio sit adjacent to a retro-inspired bar from Global Views in the cabana room.

Opposite page: Wanting to preserve the home's original aesthetic, Eddie retained the stone wall, walnut panelling and terrazzo floors in the formal living room, all of which were authentic 1970s finishes.



In a home that so proudly pays homage not just to the past but to its own heritage, one might imagine that introducing contemporary furniture could prove challenging. On the contrary, says Eddie. He explains how so much of the family's existing furniture fitted like it was a foregone conclusion. Nightstands, occasional chairs, coffee- and side-tables from well-known brands including Anthropologie, Design Within Reach, Jonathan Adler and West Elm share floor space with heirloom pieces and, dotted about the home, custom-designed furniture from Eddie's own studio, like the sofa in the living room or two cabana room armchairs. From furniture to fittings, architecture to lifestyle, the results, in pop culture terms, are very *Mad Men*. It's an easy ask to imagine Don and Betty Draper, or Roger Sterling, kicking back with a Champagne cocktail in hand.