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# NEW TRADITIONALIST

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY **CHRIS DAVIS**

WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES LED A NEWLYWED COUPLE LIVING IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TO RELOCATE TO THE MIDWEST, THEY ASKED FAMILY FRIEND AND INTERIOR DESIGNER CINDY GALVIN, OF BARDES INTERIORS IN WINNETKA, TO HELP EASE THEIR TRANSITION FROM SAND AND SURF TO SLEET AND SNOW. “They wanted to find a home that had a connection to the outdoors,” says Galvin.

The young house-hunters focused their search in Evanston, and Galvin advised her clients to seriously consider a boxy, one-story home that—though it hadn’t been updated since its construction in the late 1970s—had lots of potential. The bonus: its modest exterior also concealed a lovely Zen-style courtyard with an enormous birch tree surrounded by a leafy-green pachysandra groundcovering and an ebony-stained wood deck.

<b>INTERIOR DESIGN</b> Cindy Galvin, Allied Member, ASID, Bardes Interiors		
<b>HOME BUILDER</b> Rutledge Smith, Franklin & Wells, LLC		
<b>ARCHITECTURE</b> Michael Hershenson, AIA, Michael Hershenson Architects		
<b>BEDROOMS</b> 4	<b>BATHROOMS</b> 4	<b>SQUARE FEET</b> 3,983











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"This was as California a house as they were ever going to find here," explains Galvin. "It's more vacation-style than it is a traditional North Shore home." To help with the renovation, Galvin engaged her frequent collaborator, building contractor Rutledge Smith, owner of Franklin & Wells in Chicago. "It may be unassuming from the street, but the house is spectacular," says Smith, who eagerly anticipated the freedom the structure would lend to the project. "No interior wall was bearing, so we could do whatever we wanted."

Smith quickly brought on board architect Michael Hershenson, of Michael Hershenson Architects in Evanston, to help bring the project to fruition. "Cindy had a vision to transform a very contemporary house into a traditional home," Hershenson explains. "By cutting the ceiling rafters and restructuring above, we were able to create volume ceilings, beamed ceilings, tray ceilings and coffered ceilings."

#### **FRENCH COUNTRY**

In the newly enlarged kitchen, interior designer Cindy Galvin created distinct spaces for food preparation, dining and storage. A red chandelier from Visual Comfort adds a splash of color to the traditional white cabinetry—found at Dynamic Built in Barrington—and illuminates an antique farm table that has been in the husband's family since he was a child. The ladderback French Provincial chairs, discovered at the Paris Flea Market, are cozied up with skirted, tieback-style seat cushions in a Jane Shelton fabric.





#### PAST AND PRESENT

Traditional charm meets modern-day function in the kitchen's work area, where stainless steel Miele, Sub-Zero and Viking appliances and a farmhouse sink from Kohler share space with Shaker-style cabinets and stained white oak-plank floors. The pot rack is from the Europa Collection by Howard Kaplan Designs in New York; the chrome-wrapped pendant lights are by Visual Comfort.



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Matching boxed-beam ceilings strengthen the connection between the adjacent living and dining areas, as do identical, neutral area rugs from Stark Carpet and a grass-cloth wallcovering from Schumacher, which also clads the walls in the front hallway and in both home offices. “Layering, texture, color, form and pattern,” Galvin says. “These are my tools.”

To expand the space visually, the home’s existing quarry-tile flooring was replaced with white oak stained a dark Jacobean similar to the wood decking visible just outside. A cherry herringbone inlay adds interest; the pattern repeats itself on the Calcutta Gold marble backsplash in the kitchen, which was enlarged by borrowing space from the original dining room. With the extra inches, Galvin was able to incorporate a custom-built, walnut kitchen island that she topped with the same Calcutta Gold.







#### **TFAMILY GATHERING**

A pair of antique, oak Windsor chairs offers additional seating for guests in the family room, where the homeowners can often be found relaxing on the comfortable sectional. Galvin punched it up with accent pillows in colorful Ikat fabric by David Easton for Lee Jofa, also used for the drapes, and diamond-quilted, cashmere lumbar pillows from Williams-Sonoma. Grass-cloth shades by Hunter Douglas are layered behind the goblet-pleat curtains.





#### **HOLD EVERYTHING**

To store her client's collection of Rothschild china from Scully & Scully in New York, Galvin designed a dining room hutch with American Shaker and French Provincial influences. In place of glass, she lined the cabinet doors with bronze mesh and shirred, blue-striped Belgian linen curtains. The dining room table, available at Maze Home in Winnetka, is surrounded by six antique, Louis Philippe fruitwood chairs with original leather seats, while two armchairs upholstered in a Fortuny fabric embrace the hutch.





#### STYLE SELECTION

Available as a set of two, this handcrafted dining chair from Horchow features an open-medallion back and linen-upholstered seat that add interest to the structured frame.

*Loma Side Chair, price available upon request; [horchow.com](http://horchow.com)*



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Galvin used the marble a third time in the master bath, which was also enlarged significantly by combining two smaller baths and part of a closet. Radiant floor heating, a steam shower and a large soaker tub give the homeowners a guaranteed retreat when the mercury drops too low. “Sometimes he comes home to find her curled up on the bathroom floor,” laughs Galvin. “Creating a warm, cozy, inviting home for them was what really drove me on this job.”

In the family room, the designer hung a wrought iron chandelier from Visual Comfort and designed a new wood-burning fireplace with a stone veneer resembling river rock. A colorful Turkestanian rug picks up the red, green, brown and gold tones seen in the courtyard. “That was the one room where I could pop the color, and the palette is my ode to the California desert,” Galvin explains. “To achieve harmony, I always try to incorporate the outdoors into my interiors.”





#### LOVE ACTUALLY

A grass-cloth wallcovering from Schumacher wraps the walls of the front hallway. Galvin designed the *LOVE* canvas using an oak-leaf-and-acorn alphabet she created in honor of the owner's grandparents' farm—the central gathering place for the couple's extended family. The home's courtyard is dominated by a large white birch tree.

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One of Galvin's favorite pieces in the home is a sunburst mirror inlaid with Indian bone, which hangs above an antique, English bow-front dresser in the living room. Its wiggly rays reflect the sun-loving couple's transitional style, and the convex mirror reflects, literally, the home's ever-changing natural daylight. "They enjoy watching how the light changes throughout the day," says Galvin. "It's the light that makes this house shine." **L**







#### MIRROR IMAGE

At her clients' request, Galvin simply duplicated the master suite they left behind in California, which she had designed as well. Louvered doors with barn door hardware from Ashland Millwork in Wheeling allow the couple to close off the spa-like bathroom from the bedroom. Crown and base moldings add the finishing detail and look crisp against the pale walls, painted Catalina Blue by Benjamin Moore. At the foot of the bed is a rattan-and-linen bench from McGuire's Laura Kirar collection; at its side is an octagonal, Moorish inlaid-teak table, found at The Elephant's Foot Antiques in West Palm Beach, Florida.



# Bardes Interiors

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Cindy Bardes Galvin, Owner & Interior Designer  
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