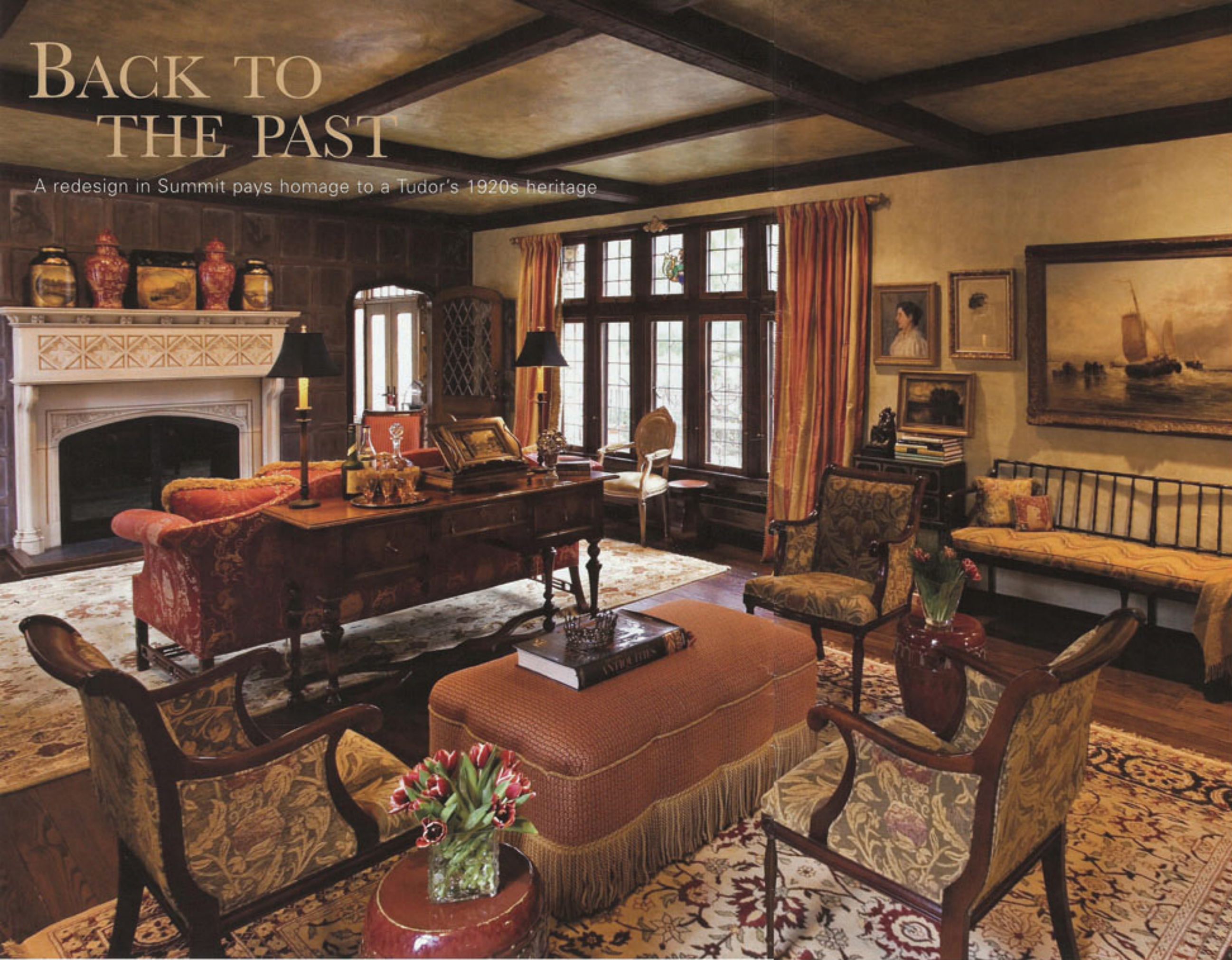


# BACK TO THE PAST

A redesign in Summit pays homage to a Tudor's 1920s heritage



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FROM THE OUTSIDE, THE TUDOR LOOKED untouched by time. Indeed, when Cheryl Barr and husband Thomas O'Flynn purchased the home in Summit, New Jersey, its classic roofline was matched with an equally classic interior full of 1920s charm. Still, the passage of some 80 years had left the house a little out of sync with modern-day living.

"It was in original condition in a beautiful way," says Barr. "We wanted to update it in terms of modern conveniences but not change the character of the house."

Now it has more character than ever, thanks to the creative collaboration between Barr and interior designer Catherine Engelmeyer of Belle Maison in Maplewood. The two have worked together for nearly 15 years, first on the couple's previous home in Maplewood and then on a beach house in Massachusetts.

This 6,500-square-foot Gothic cottage house was built in 1929, and Barr and O'Flynn, with son Jeremy and dog Tucker, are only its second owners. Well maintained and structurally sound, the Tudor did need a rearrangement to open up the compartmentalized rooms and improve the overall flow. And while the six-bedroom, six-bathroom house underwent an extensive renovation to alter the original floor plan, its integrity remains intact.

"We respected the house architecturally," says Engelmeyer. "It's a house that feels up to date but doesn't cry, 'It's new!'"

New plaster walls replaced the old, and delightful details like stained-glass windows were conserved throughout the house—except for a few in the new kitchen. Rooms connect through arched doorways and feature dark wood paneling and moldings in keeping with the Tudor style.

One of the first purchases for the home was a vibrant pomegranate-red and gold sofa for the living room. Its galleon-themed upholstery made it an obvious choice: The home was built with a Spanish galleon emblem impressed in the living

Custom-glazed walls in the living room act as a foil to the wood tones of the original moldings in this 1920s Tudor in Summit. Designer Catherine Engelmeyer paired rich fabrics like silk and chenille in warm jewel tones with antique rugs for a sophisticated feel.



Pattern reigns supreme in the dining room, above. The walls are enveloped in a bold print from Lee Jofa. A Ralph Lauren table is complemented by Southwood chairs that are upholstered in Zoffany and Stroheim & Romann fabrics.

room's paneled wall, and the theme continues in bathroom tiles and over fireplaces. The sofa also sets the tone for the rest of the house—a bold and cheerful color palette relies on warm jewel tones and neutrals punctuated with pattern.

"Using colors like this can be a catastrophe if they're not well balanced," says Engelmeyer. "But I love this combination of color—you get a great sense of warmth going from one space to another."

The family room, which had been used originally as a dining room, is elegant but comfortable, with golden-yellow and saffron toile upholstery and drapes that frame picturesque stained-glass windows. A quaint seating arrangement in front of the windows makes the most of the room's natural light.

The living room provides a more subdued backdrop for the homeowners' collection of paintings and works on paper. Engelmeyer used a pale-green wash for the walls that is reminiscent of Venetian plaster but softer. "When the lights are on it brings everything to life," she says.

And Barr agrees. "Anything looks fantastic on it," she notes. "We have a lot of our collection there."

Upstairs, the home's historical qualities are even more apparent. Only one of the six bathrooms was updated, while the others—including the master—are original. The 1920s tile has that crackled look found in many of today's styles, which ironically makes it look up-to-date.



The kitchen, above, enjoys many modern conveniences, including a Viking cooktop, double ovens and a wine cooler. An antique chandelier provides a touch of grandeur.

This being the third home Engelmeyer designed for the owners, the team fell right into stride and finished the design in about a year.

"The more times you do something, the more refined your taste becomes," says Barr. "So I'm very decisive, and Catherine and I are both quick."

But Barr is also quick to note the renovation is not quite finished. Next up: a wine cellar on the lower level. ☺