

SHOWCASE FOR TALENT

BY KATHRYN MARTIN LANG
PHOTOGRAPHS BY HICKEY-ROBERTSON

Serenely perched atop a bluff in southwest Fort Worth, the English Tudor residence of the George Pepper family has a spectacular view of the city's skyline. Built by oilman George Hill for his family in 1938 and designed by Joseph Pelich, the stately home was recently chosen as the annual Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County Designer Showhouse.



The sumptuous formal drawing/living room, created by Joseph Minton, ASID, of Minton-Corley, assisted by Marcene Bauer, was intended to look "as if it had been there for a hundred years." The design scheme, planned around the existing antique Italian marble mantelpiece with its ornate over-mirror and the owners' Oriental rug, exudes a comfortable Old World ambiance. The elaborate woodwork, walls, four sets of French doors and ceiling were white, a "wonderful blank canvas" for the sponge painting, faux marbling and "signature" blue ceiling decreed by Minton and executed by Fort Worth's Ackermann Studio. The glazing and stippling of the walls makes a subtle, mottled backdrop of rosy terra cotta for the five coordinated floral prints used throughout the room. Minton calls this mellow French linen, dyed and hand-blocked in England, "the most beautiful fabric I've ever seen" because of the way it works with a variety of styles.

The angular Italian hammered-iron and glass cocktail table from the Minton-Corley Collection is the perfect counterpoint to the plump, custom-designed camel-back sofas adorned by custom cording, braids and fringes. Antique accessories and art add warmth and graciousness to this room, which has the timeless theme of a drawing room in an English country estate.

MINTON-CORLEY DRAWING/LIVING ROOM

Draperies, sofas, chairs, pillows in hand-blocked English florals on French linen: Minton-Corley, Fort Worth
Twenty-light bronzed tole chandelier: Gerald Hargett, Dallas, Houston
Cocktail table of hammered-iron and glass: Minton-Corley Collection, Fort Worth
Antique accessories: Minton-Corley Antiques, Dallas
Cut flowers: Bernice Wallace, Fort Worth
Gas logs: The Fireplace Place, Fort Worth
Braids, cordings and fringes: Clarence House through Walter Lee Culp, Dallas, Houston
Plants: Alan Richardson of Richardson-Whitney Plants, Fort Worth



ENVIRONS THAT WORK

THREE DESIGN FIRMS PERSONALIZE
THE CORPORATE WORK SPACE.

BY BARBARA FLORIA ORCUTT

It's no news to anyone that it's a jungle out there—cutthroat competition, long hours and high stakes constitute the laws of survival for anyone in business these days, but especially for those entrenched in corporate maelstroms. The business of business goes on, of course, but with many executives heeding the call for comfort and personal style in what literally become their homes away from home. Three Texas design firms, fluent in the needs and wants of corporate clients, nonetheless interpret these desires quite differently.

Joseph Minton of Minton-Corley in Fort Worth brought almost all the comforts of home into a high-rise office building in West Texas. "The corporate CEO wanted warmth and comfort," Minton says, "and I happened to be in England shortly before the project began and found a roomful of antique paneling. I had it brought back and used it to set the tone and period of the whole project." Except for a French Empire desk from Loyd-Paxton in Dallas, almost all of the furniture and accessories, including a green leather sofa, are English antiques. The L-shaped room gives the executive three work areas—the large desk with additional seating, a sitting room arrangement set before a working fireplace and an adjacent small conference table. Filing cabinets and storage are discreetly ensconced behind pine doors set with mirrored glass.

BELOW: Antique furnishings and paneling from England combine with complementary fabrics for a CEO's home away from home. The custom-colored carpet is "Les Dames" by Stark Carpet, and verdant tapestry from Old World Weavers covers a pair of wing chairs set before a fireplace.



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