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THE *Makeover* ISSUE

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Bonnie Parent wanted her Poway home to feel like a vacation retreat but wished to use materials that would wear well since her five grandchildren visit often. Here, she colors on the marble island with granddaughters Avery and Harper.

Facing page: Bonnie hosts her whole crew—from left to right: Jennifer Coleman (who designed the home), Harper, 4, Tanner, 22 months, Julie Embrey, Bonnie (sitting), Avery, 3, Alex, 7, and Jackson, 6.





MY MOTHER'S House

After inheriting the family residence, a longtime decorator hires her daughter to create the home of her dreams

BY WENDY MANWARREN GENERES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT BENSON

Bonnie Parent did all the legwork when it came to relocating her mom, Bobbette, from her home in Rancho Santa Fe to the Poway area. She scouted houses on the market, narrowed the choices, then viewed them with her mom who, after the passing of her husband Joe in 1998, wanted to move closer to Bonnie and Bonnie's two daughters.

Finally, Bonnie found the perfect home—a 4,300-square-foot house, located at the end of the street, with a pool and lots of space to entertain. After all, Grandma Bobbette's house was, and would always be, the gathering spot for family celebrations—graduations, holidays, reunions, pool parties.

"As Mom and I pulled into the long driveway," Bonnie says, "she saw a bird, and she turned to me and said, 'Joe wants me to have this house.'"

The bird was a sign.

"My grandfather always said he wanted to come back as a bird," explains Jennifer Coleman, Bonnie's oldest daughter. After he passed, a bird coincidentally started popping up at important family functions. And it wasn't just any bird. It was the same bird every time.

For nearly 15 years, Bobbette lived in that Poway home that Bonnie found for her, but she didn't ever really nest. She moved her furnishings in and made it inviting but, as Bonnie discovered when she cleaned everything out after her mom passed away six years ago, Bobbette didn't make many changes to the house itself.

Clockwise from top: The divider in the foreground visually separates the living and dining rooms and mimics the motif on a buffet that belonged to Grandma Bobbette. • Jennifer sets the kitchen table beneath a chandelier Bonnie wouldn't have picked but loves. • Jennifer widened the passageway between the family room and sitting room off the kitchen.





Is Virtual for You?

When planning a home makeover with a designer, some people want a face-to-face interaction, but as designer Jennifer Coleman, who is based in Connecticut explains, the virtual face-to-face is almost as good. She gets lots of clients who don't live anywhere near her. She recently completed a job for a couple in Los Angeles (here's the powder room she did), having never stepped foot in their house. So how does she design from afar?

FACE TIME is my best friend! I can virtually attend meetings with contractors and clients, do walk throughs, place furniture and even hang pictures.

COLLABORATION via email and digital presentations and regularly scheduled phone calls keep the project on track.

DIGITAL INSPIRATION boards that my clients create can be shared through the application where they compile them such as Pinterest or Houzz. We can have virtual conversations back and forth in the comments section. It's a nice feature when we are working in different time zones. I can comment early in the morning and not worry about waking my client in the Pacific time zone.

I PUT TOGETHER packages with paint and fabric samples to send clients. Everything is clearly labeled so we're on the same page and completely understand where all the items are to go in each space.

"After decluttering and seeing the home with bare walls, it didn't feel like my mom's house anymore," Bonnie says. "It felt like the home the previous owners built." And, in viewing the place as a blank slate, Bonnie came to a realization: The residence could be made over as the perfect home for her while at the same time she could carry the torch and keep Grandma Bobbette's house synonymous with family gatherings.

However, making it her own meant a thorough interior remodel. And though Bonnie had worked for many years as a decorator, she opted to hire her daughter, Jennifer, an interior designer working and living in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Jennifer had done projects remotely before. "I knew we could make this work," she says. With architectural floorplans, a little extra time and labor, and virtual decision making, a room can be space planned from just about anywhere, Jennifer explains.

Bonnie wanted to transform the mostly white house that had hints of sponge-painted peach and mint and Southwestern design details into a home that felt like a vacation retreat. "I wanted casual elegance," Bonnie says. "I wanted it to feel like the L'Auberge in Del Mar but done in shades of blue, my favorite color." She also wanted to incorporate meaningful furnishings and artwork she'd inherited from her grandmother and her mother as well as pieces her girls grew up with. And everything had to be kid-friendly so the five grandchildren could play, touch and lounge without worry about damage.

Jennifer devised a plan for the five-bedroom, five-bathroom home that updated the design and improved materials and furnishings without changing the original footprint. She modernized a passageway between the family room and sitting room off the kitchen by widening the doorway and extending it up to the ceiling. And she gave it a less Tetris-like look by dumping it symmetrically stacked glass blocks.

In fact, she removed most of the glass-cube architectural details that were so popular in the late '80s when this home was built. "There was so much of it," she laments. And although she may have



wanted to get rid of it all, there were areas where it didn't make financial sense to remove it—in the master bathroom, kids' playroom and family room. Another decades-old element she eliminated was a large white column between the living and dining rooms.

To further update her mom's new residence, Jennifer laid hardwood floors throughout the single-story home—except in the newly carpeted bedrooms and in the bathrooms and kitchen, where she kept the travertine-lookalike porcelain tile that she had recently helped her grandmother choose. Also in the kitchen, she replaced a serpentine-style island with a bigger rectangular one made of white marble, bought all new appliances, installed a herringbone-pattern backsplash and floated shelves on either side of the window above the sink.



Clockwise from top left: Harper and Avery bounce on the sofa beneath the beaded artwork that inspired this room. • Harper and Avery color with Bonnie at one end of the now-larger island. • The passageway before its makeover. • Avery, Alex and Jackson frolic in the playroom.

All fireplaces received a facelift, bathrooms were gutted (aside from the plumbing) and all rooms received new coats of paint—from neutrals to turquoise (in a guest bedroom), pink (in the playroom) and navy (in the office).

Orchestrating the project from 3,000 miles away meant decisions had to be made efficiently and in larger chunks. Extra days were tacked onto family vacations and separate trips were made to get work done. Bonnie flew to New York to walk the Decoration & Design Building (D&D Building) on Third Avenue with Jennifer and pick out artwork, custom pieces and large-scale furnishings. A few months later, Jennifer flew to San Diego and spent four days canvassing stone yards, fabricators and other vendors to make the sink, faucet, cabinet, hardware, flooring and countertop selections. "Nothing ever felt rushed, because we already knew what we wanted."



Above and left: Bonnie kept the original shuffleboard court for the grandkids. Top: She hired a landscape architect to redo the rest of the backyard, including the removal of a Grecian-like arch at the pool's entry and the addition of a fountain.



Clockwise from top: Jennifer kept the glass blocks in the master bath but updated everything else. • This little chair, used to pose each of the grandchildren for photographs, was in Bobbette's home (seen on the facing page), but Jennifer reupholstered it to suit Bonnie's taste. • Bonnie maintains her mom's custom of collecting birds and displays her modern Jonathan Adler aviary pieces on the living room mantel.





Right: Bonnie's new dining room (her mother's is seen below) with the same table, wood chairs, chandelier and vase.

Jennifer explains. "We just were looking for the company to provide it."

Then the mother-daughter team edited existing furnishings, deciding what would stay—like the dining table and the coffee table in the living room—and which needed to be freshened up with a coat of paint or new upholstery. The blue chairs and bench in the living room and all the dining chairs now wear new fabrics. Jennifer had the blue-and-white dining chairs custom made; the wood legs were stained to match the table that was in the dining room of the New York house where Bonnie spent her childhood.

Bonnie and Jennifer then used weekly calls to make other decisions. "Pick the sconces you like from these three choices and things like that," Jennifer says. "We'd plan additional calls so I could be there virtually for specific details like the tile inlay in the wood floor in the foyer."

But sometimes it was difficult to turn off the shop talk. "We'd be on the phone talking about the kids or something, and my mom would tell me she saw something she liked for the hallway," Jennifer says. "We had to remind each other to add things that weren't urgent to our running lists and discuss them at our next scheduled time as client and designer."



Jennifer also admits that she's had to put a stop to her mom's urge to buy items with a shell motif. But she hasn't barred her mom from adding bird figurines to her new nest. In fact, Jennifer encourages it, having purchased Jonathan Adler bird ornaments for her mom, which now sit on the living-room mantel.

The ornaments serve as a reminder of the real bird that inspired Bobbette to buy this home years ago—the same bird that now also comes to visit Bonnie from time to time. ♦



BUYER'S GUIDE

PEOPLE, PRODUCTS & SERVICES



GLAMPING GIVEAWAY INSTRUCTIONS:

For Page 114 Please email us at roth@sdhg.net by August 30th, with the subject line: WIN IT August.

The email should include your name, contact information, address and the product that you are interested in winning. You will be notified on August 31st if you have won. Good luck!

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

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Designer: Ashley Goldman, The Gold Hive, thegoldhive.com

Candle holder, pots, pouf and rug: Surya, Bellacor, 877-723-5522, bellacor.com (*Odette* camel-and-white holder, *Piccoli* khaki bowl and *Rome* taupe-and-ivory pot, *Crissy* black-and-white pouf and check 5x8 indoor/outdoor rug in *Pretty Please Pewter*)

Coffee and side tables and loveseat: Stori Modern, 844-557-8674, storimodern.com (graphic outdoor coffee and side tables and *Sailcloth* outdoor loveseat in black with *Sailcloth* cushions)

Door: Pella, 619-275-0200, pella.com (*Architect* Series)

Hardware: Emtek, 800-356-2741, emtek.com (*Mormont Mortise*)

Lighting: Kichler, kichler.com (variable lumen small accent 60-degree wide flood light in black, *Fundamentals* 2700K LED path lights in *Textured Architectural Bronze* and *Lyndon* collection portable *Bluetooth* LED lantern in black) and Lamps Plus, 800-782-1967, lampsplus.com (*Urban Barn* collection 13-inch high black outdoor wall light)

Pillows: Rejuvenation, 800-526-7329, rejuvenation.com (woven outdoor pillow); Target, target.com (Project 62 black and woven narrow stripe outdoor throw pillows)

Raised bed: Gronomics, Amazon, amazon.com (eco modular rustic garden wedge 30x48x32)

TRENDS TO TRY

PAGE 24

Designers: Corine Maggio, CM Natural Designs, 415-968-3029, cmnaturaldesigns.com; Kelly Hinchman, Studio H Design Group, 619-230-5343, studioh-int.com

BETTER BY DESIGN

PAGE 28

Design: Danielle Perkins, Danielle Interior Design & Decor, 619-502-1309, danielleid.com

Source: Lamps Plus, lampsplus.com

Table: Consignment Classics, consignmentclassics.net

Wallpaper: Etsy, SweetPeaWallDesign, etsy.com

SPACES WE LOVE

PAGE 30

Contractor: Bauer Pacific Construction Inc., 858-523-9900, bauerpacificconstructioninc.com

Garage door: Access Custom Door and Gate, 800-994-3643, accessgaragedoor.com

Stained glass: Designs by Bobbi, 858-756-3337, bobbihirschhoff.com

Tile: Bedrosians Tile and Stone, 760-724-6400, bedrosians.com

OLD MEETS NEW

PAGE 32

Design/build: Steve Hoiles, Surfside Projects, 760-840-7090, surfprojects.com

Landscape architect: Bret Belyea, Grain Landscape Architect, 858-504-2738, grainlandarch.com

Flooring: Metropolitan Floors, metrofloors.com (engineered brushed natural oak)

Dining room

Dining room table and chairs: Homeowner's collection (Rosewood, Denmark 1960s)

Dining room ceiling light: Swenyo Living, 844-479-3696, swenyo.com

Outdoor

Cushions for built-in outdoor sofa: Custom by homeowners with Sunbrella fabric

Nurseries: Briggs Trees, 760-727-2727, briggstree.com; Green Meadow Growers, 760-751-0793, greenmeadowgrowers.com; Village Nurseries, 858-552-0592, villagenurseries.com

Outdoor dining furniture: IKEA, 888-888-4532, ikea.com

Outdoor sofa (front yard): Homeowner's collection

Kitchen

Appliances: Fisher & Paykel, 888-936-7872, fisherpaykel.com

Backsplash: Stone Source, stonesource.com (*Mutina* Tex ceramic tile)

Countertops: Tutto Marmo, 858-689-9604, tuttomarmoinc.com (Pental engineered quartz)

Faucets: Pirsch, 858-966-3600, pirsch.com (*Grohe Montana*)

Lighting: Pipeline CM2, andlight.ca

Stools: Sauder Boutique, sauderboutique.com (Dixon)

Living room

Area rug: Flor, 866-952-4093, flor.com

Coffee table: Homeowner's collection (Sweden, 1960s)

Console: Homeowner's collection (teak, Denmark, 1960s)

Sofa: Joybird, 888-282-0842, joybird.com

Table lamp: Mid Century Store, midcentury.com.ar (1970s ceramic lamp)

MY MOTHER'S HOUSE

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Interior design: Jennifer Coleman, JKC Designs, 917-921-4045, jkcinteriordesigns.com

Contractor: Marlon McLendon, BoMar Home Remodeling, 858-945-3434, bomarhomere modeling.com

Landscape architect/hardscape: Nick Martin, 760-533-1717, nickslandscape.com

Flooring: ProSource of San Diego, 858-935-8985, prosourcewholesale.com/showrooms/ca-prosource-of-san-diego

Dining room

Artwork: Longstreet Collection, 314-961-3382, longstreetcollection.com

Buffet: Homeowner's collection

Lighting: Homeowner's collection

Table and chairs: Homeowner's collection with new upholstered chairs from Kravet, 800-648-5728, kravet.com

Wallpaper: Innovations, 212-807-6300, innovationsusa.com

Rug: Safavieh, safavieh.com