

COME IN FROM THE COLD

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Summary: A made-over Laurelhurst dining room warms a house for the holidays

Even before the relatives arrive and the feast is spread on the walnut dining table, Bob and Jean Stantons dining room embodies the spirit of a traditional Thanksgiving.

Gumwood crown molding and wainscoting warm the walls of the English Tudor-style home. The wallpaper -- persimmon leaves atop a gold background -- enhances the rich, traditional feel of the 20s-era Laurelhurst home. An antique sideboard and a 100-year-old Persian carpet complete the cozy ambience.

While the feeling is almost too warm for summer, Bob says, the space beckons as temperatures drop. As far as Im concerned, these rooms are made for the holidays, says Bob, a Portland pediatrician. Adds Jean: Its the perfect holiday house because of the colors. Everything glows. It really isnt bad in summer, but its definitely a fall room.

Working with designer Shirley Roggen, the couple turned up the heat in their downstairs decor when they made over the dining room, living room and entry two years ago. The walls, previously painted what Bob describes as blah, dont-take-a-chance white, didnt bring out the best in the traditional hardwood detailing. Using fabrics, window treatments and wallcoverings, Roggen also pulled together Bobs collection of Asian art and Persian rugs plus two leather sofas and a giant concrete fireplace.

I heard them saying they wanted a rich mix of fabrics and colors, Roggen says. It was definitely cold before. When the designer suggested the gold-and-persimmon wallpaper, however, Bob balked. I said, Jean, thats beautiful Christmas wrapping, but Im not sure I can take it, Bob recalls. But it really warmed up the room.

CAPTION MATERIAL: The dining room of Bob and Jean Statons English-Tudor style home in Laurelhurst is blessed with gumwood crown molding and other wood details. Designer Shirley Roggen showcased the hardwood with a rich persimmon-leaf-on-gold background wallpaper from Designers Guild. On the dining chairs, a colorful moire fabric by Marvic replaced plain muted fabric that had been on the chairs for decades. Raw silk curtains and hand woven grass shades by Conrad cast a lovely golden hue on the room in the afternoon and provide privacy. Earlier, the couple had transformed picture windows in the dining room into more traditional three-paneled windows.

Placesettings: The table is set with: place mats and napkins by Ann Gish; blue-band dinner plates and bread and butter plates from Tiffany; gold chargers from Nancy Calhoun; square dessert plates from Anne Glass. All available at Carl Greve.

Caption: 3 Color Photos by SERGE McCABE - of The Oregonian staff

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