

TOO COOL FOR SCHOOL

A Myrtle Hill loft created from the 1920s Washington Park Elementary School gets a playful, relaxed update.

By Kendall Kostelic

Selling bees. Tests. Parent-teacher conferences. A part of the Washington Park Elementary School until roughly a decade ago, this room used to be all about education. But now the reimagined loft entryway in Myrtle Hill is all play—and relaxation. “The homeowners wanted it to feel extremely comfortable and inviting rather than fancy,” says designer

Angela Ireland of Angela Ireland Interiors. “It’s just the two of them now, but they have three kids in college. They wanted it to be a place where everyone could come home and relax.”

After the building was converted from a schoolhouse into lofts and brownstones, the original entryway, with a wall color that mirrored the hue of the brick arches, felt unfin-

ished. The Colorado natives wanted bright, open, and airy. “To the right of the arches is a beautiful patio,” Ireland says. “We wanted to keep things natural and have the patio flow inside.” But they also wanted to highlight elements that point to the building’s history.

Case in point: Ireland left the brick arches *au naturel*, but painted the wall above in Sherwin Williams’

Incredible White to accentuate the curves. To bring balance to the custom mercury-style glass doors on the opposite wall (more on those later), Ireland created a custom chalkboard with Accessory Warehouse, which sits behind a custom glass table atop corbels, where the homeowners can drop essentials at the end of the day. And in the butter churner, you’ll

[continued on page 30]



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Chalk Off

The Accessory Warehouse custom chalkboard is functional, but the homeowners "haven't written on it yet," says Ireland. "They are super happy with how it looks blank."



Join the Club

The Lexington club chairs, complete with a copper color on the fabric's pattern, were the first pieces they found and, Ireland says, inspired the room's design.

find an old ruler.

Then Ireland and the homeowners went to work adding eclectic, colorful, and outdoorsy elements of their own that would take advantage of the loft's urban setting. "I wanted a wow factor, but a subtle wow factor," Ireland says. The piece that makes the biggest statement? Those mercury glass sliding doors, weighing in at a hefty 600 pounds and made by Dick Vetter from Highlander Artistry LLC, the same guy that does the metalwork for DIA. "The doors are raw metal, and the glass is made to look like vintage mercury glass," Ireland says. "The glass, on both sides of the door, reflects light and the outdoors but isn't transparent when the doors are closed." The C.A.I. Designs Varaluz Flow 6 light pendants mimic the room's main décor inspiration: the hammered copper coffee table, a piece the homeowners originally had in the room that stayed for the re-design. Added to it all are the bold pops of green.

Peek through the metal doors and you'll find more of the same ambiance. Ireland has worked with the homeowners to re-design the dining room and living room and now is turning her attention to the second floor. In short, it's all about the vibe in this funky space: "Every time I see the homeowner, she thanks me for the feeling they have in the home. +

Angela Ireland Interiors
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Let There Be (Updated) Light

"The C.A.I. Designs Varaluz Flow pendants, with Edison bulbs, really updated the space," Ireland adds.

