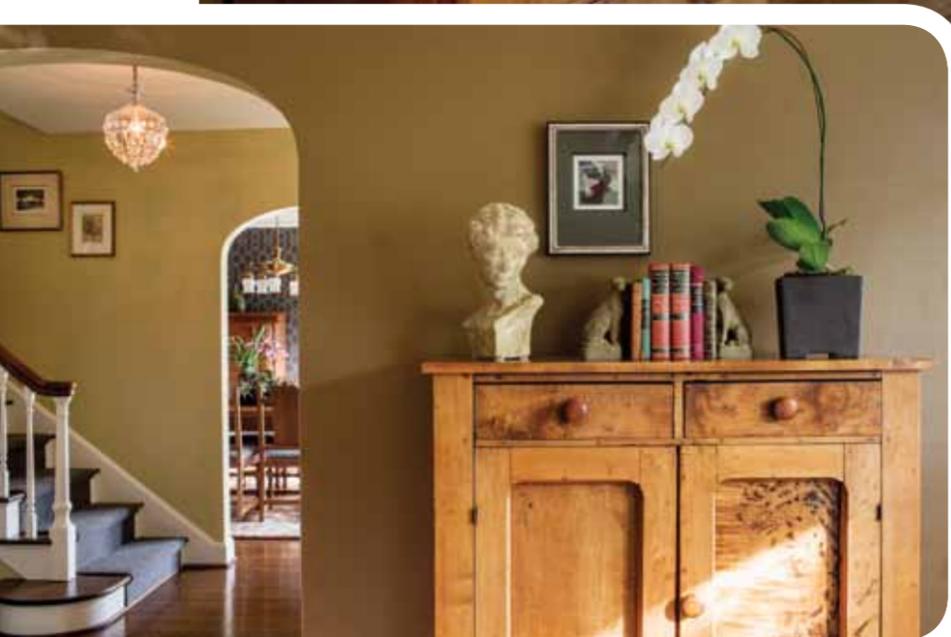


BEGIN again

RIGHT: A refreshed living room features a soft palette of earth tones and mixed patterns, with plenty of surfaces and wall space for George and Marcia Beard's collection of art and artifacts.

BELOW: The remodel retained most of the home's traditional layout, including the center stairs in the entryway, which is flanked by the living and dining rooms.



Empty nesters revive a 1930s Eastmoreland classic with daring wallpaper and heirloom furniture

By *Lucy Burningham* ■ Photography *John Valls*



When the Beards' children left, the couple decided to update without sacrificing the elegance or character of the house.

When George and Marcia Beard's two children grew up and left the nest, the couple couldn't help but look at their 1937 Eastmoreland Cape Cod in Portland with a dreamy "what if" filter. What if they could expand the floor plan of the master bedroom to include a sitting area? What if they could gently refresh every single room without buying new furniture?

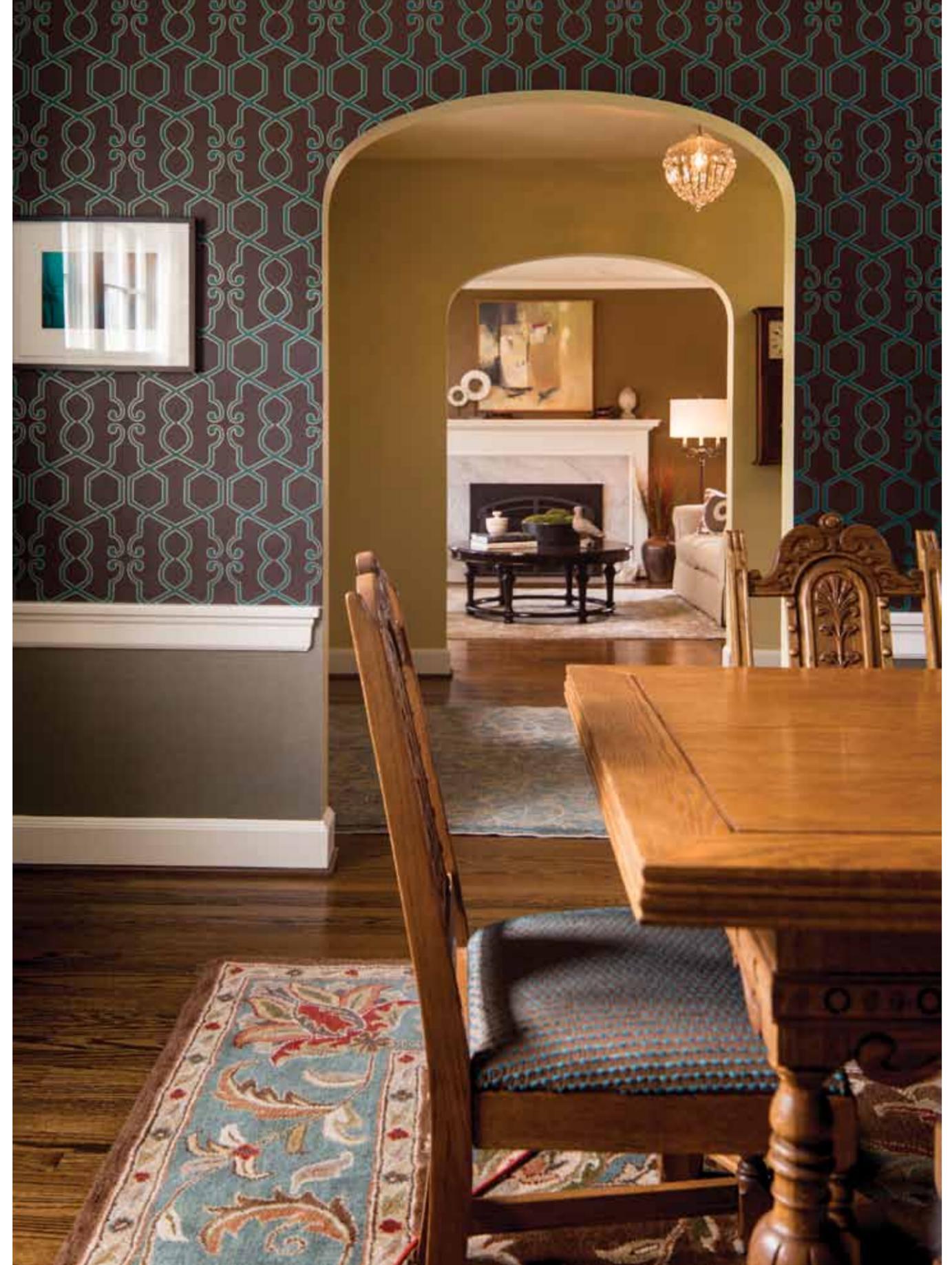
All those "what ifs" added up to a "let's stay." Instead of moving to a compact condo downtown, the couple chose to refresh almost every room in the 2,850-square-foot house. Portland interior designer Jason Ball headed the project from the start.

"It wasn't that the Beards disliked the house," he says, "they just wanted to update it and make it their own in order to set themselves up for the next 20 to 30 years."

That meant preserving the home's roofline and basic layout while keeping as much of the existing furniture as possible, including a bevy of heirloom pieces. "We wanted to honor the legacy of the house, but be comfortable and have a mix of artifacts and artwork," remembers George, who works on special projects for Portland State University's Office of Research and Strategic Partnerships.



Turquoise and chocolate gate-work wallpaper enhance the painting, *Should I Stay or Should I Go*, by Polish artist Joanna Zjawinska, but the room is anchored by the 1930s dining set, which was passed down from Marcia's great aunt and uncle.



A series of three arched doorways (two are pictured) creates an aesthetic connection between the kitchen and the living room.



LEFT: The success of the main-level master bedroom remodel, which expanded the room to include the seating area that looks out into the backyard, launched the rest of the home's remodel.

BELOW: The shower tiles continue the arabesque theme in the master bathroom.



"We're pretty adventuresome," says Marcia, an investment consultant. "Jason got to know that about us starting with the master bedroom." By knocking out a hallway, they were able to expand the bedroom to include a seating area Marcia had dreamed about for years.

In a few cases, Ball gently nudged the couple outside their comfort zones with colors, textures and artwork groupings they'd never have considered on their own. For example, the tiny powder room on the main floor sports a bold black chevron polyester wallpaper, while the soft and feminine upstairs bedroom blushes with an off-white gate-work wallpaper that magically assumes different hues depending on the shadows.

In the dining room, turquoise and chocolate gate-work wallpa-

per enhances the arresting painting titled *Should I Stay or Should I Go* by Polish artist Joanna Zjawinska. "It's the first piece Marcia and I bought together," George says. "It's emblematic of this room now, which is about odd combinations that work." The shapes and colors on the walls frame an Elizabethan-inspired 1930s dining set, a wedding present given to Marcia's great aunt and uncle.

The dining room set represents just a fraction of the heirloom items throughout the home. "It's rare that a designer gets to work with so many family pieces," Ball says. "Most people don't have a whole house full of beautiful heirlooms."

Much of the couple's modern furniture was reupholstered, including the living room sofa and chairs, as well as the reading chair in the white-wallpapered bedroom. "We were able to

RIGHT: Upstairs, one of two guest rooms features a stunning white palette and a 19th-century bed the couple purchased in Aurora.

BELOW: The patterned wall covering by Thibaut magically assumes different hues depending on the shadows.



OLD & NEW Antiques with modern details

Interior designer Jason Ball offers these tips:

- When bringing antiques into a contemporary space, choose only one or two statement pieces so they look special and eye catching.
- Bring in contemporary pieces that have a modern shape but use traditional materials, or vice versa. For example, the contemporary table lamp in the guest room (page 28, bottom) has a traditional shape in a modern color and material.



- Aim for a balance between the two distinct design styles by not having too much or too little of one of the styles. In a traditional space, for instance, bring in at least a few modern pieces so they feel intentional.



A bold black chevron wallcovering by Wolf Gordon adds elegance to the compact powder room on the main floor.

change the way a piece looks while knowing how comfortable these pieces were for the Beards," explains Ball. "I already knew how they were going to use each one: She's going to curl her feet up under her in that chair."

The second level, which holds two bedrooms and a connecting bathroom, was revamped with guests in mind. Since the Beards live so close to Reed College, they envision a day when they'll run a bed and breakfast for visiting professors or anyone wanting to unpack their bags in the leafy, close-in Eastmoreland neighborhood.

For now, the home is all theirs for the first time. "We can come home and truly relax," says Marcia, who travels extensively for her job. "Every room in the house is pleasant now," George says. "It's a luxury I've never experienced before." 

THE DESIGN/BUILD TEAM

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- **KEYSER CONSTRUCTION**
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