

FAMILY DESIGNS

A Texan designer transformed three rooms in this Dallas home to reflect the changing needs of the family.

Eight-year old Rachel Nguyen didn't know exactly what she wanted her new room to look like, but she did know how she wanted it to feel – grown up yet girly.

The designer for the Nguyen family, Elaine Williamson, set to work creating a room that would exactly match Rachel's personality and vision for the space.

First in line were practical matters. Rachel suffers from severe allergies, so the carpet was removed and replaced with white oak hardwood floors stained a deep espresso colour. To brighten the room, a soft lavender colour was applied to the walls with one accented wall in a deeper lavender damask stencil and a harlequin pattern formed with cream-coloured cording.

Light green paint was chosen for the existing bedside tables that, before, were a light pickled wood finish and a boldly patterned 8x10ft rug adds a 'tweenager' feel to the room.

Rachel did not want to see the room until it was complete, but did have one request...that the design board created to inspire her new room styling was placed somewhere in the room as art.

A FITTING SPACE

During the creation of Rachel's bedroom, the team also worked on a space for her parents – a home gym where they could work out and stay fit. Carpet was replaced with gym-style flooring that would withstand the pounding of each machine, and a built-in desk was removed and replaced with a custom cabinet which now houses a plasma television, built-in iPod, slanted shelves for dumbbell storage, yoga mat storage and under cabinet refrigerator. A vintage green wall colour was chosen accented by a burnt red strip starting at the baseboard and running across the ceiling. This feature adds an instant height to the room and increased the overall gym-like feel.

LAVISH LIVING ROOM

The final room to be tackled was the formal living room. The family wanted a design that would suit the style of the home, which had previously been appointed with luxurious and intricate mouldings. Elaine's inspiration piece for the room was the elegant secretary, purchased especially, which is placed against the main wall. The design flowed from there. A flared arm sofa covered in a golden-neutral textured fabric is dressed with custom vintage red velvet cushions. The coffee table has a leather-stamped top for durability, designed to accommodate the family puzzles, and grand European chairs were reupholstered in vintage red velvet and textured raised silk. The rug, a hand-cut scroll design, adds the finishing touch to the overall design. The Nguyens never thought they could feel at home in such a formal room, but have discovered a new place to read, visit with friends, puzzle and live together as a family.



MEET THE DESIGNER

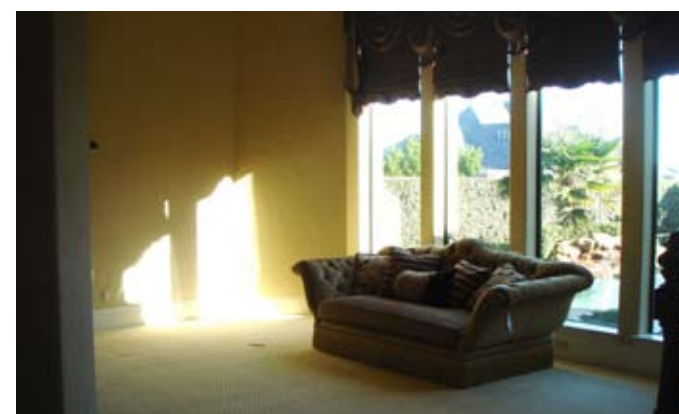
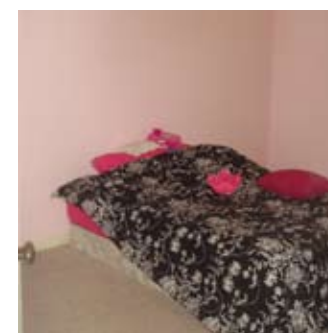
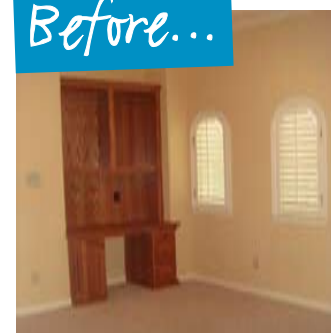
The eponymously named Elaine Williamson Designs specialises in high end custom interior design. Head designer Williamson has worked across the United States creating distinctive, elegant designs which are entirely functional, comfortable and livable.

Among other professional accolades, Elaine has received numerous "Excellence Awards" from the Home Builders Association of Dallas and was also recognised by the Annual Arts Awards, a premier awards programme dedicated to the home accessories industry. Elaine Williamson Designs was also named "Best of Business" by Frisco Style magazine.

Elaine Williamson Designs
www.elainewilliamsondesigns.com



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