



specializes in clean lines and crisp styles. Carmen Vona of Carmana Designs, Ltd., in Philadelphia was called in to orchestrate the redesign and help create a more streamlined look with minimal details yet broad appeal. Eventually, what started as a piece of work became a work of art. Bit by bit, remnants of old styles were ushered out, and the house was transformed to fit the needs of a busy couple who bustles about the country on professional and personal tours of duty.

The pinnacle of the future-forward redesign is the central gathering area, a space that was reinvented and rebuilt, with nothing remaining but the Mexican tile radiant-heated floor. The focal point, Vona says, is a large swath of space that extended into an area off the patio. It now resembles the type of open "great rooms" that are popping up in new construction all over New Jersey.

To make way for an open gathering space, the nondescript communal area that led to the patio was reprised into an edgy wet bar, and plastic laminate almond cabinets in the television area were replaced with brushed stainless steel cabinetry and customized woodwork. Three sets of double doors were changed to large double windows, and a wall that originally separated the room was replaced with a tower of floating glass shelves for a visual flow between the zones.

"The problem was I had nothing to hold up the pole," says Vona, who designed the glass shelf system. "The poles are in sections. The weight is all to one side, but the top header holds the whole thing in place. It clips on to the ceiling in the opposite direction the weight wants to go."

Now, creamy-colored walls are offset by glimmers of stainless steel and cool blue hues, and icy sea shades are intermittently punctuated by splashes of orange — echoed in an outdoor koi pond. Eye-catching orange pendant lights top the extended entertainment area, and the space has all the accourrements of a great party, including a wine refrigerator and wet bar.

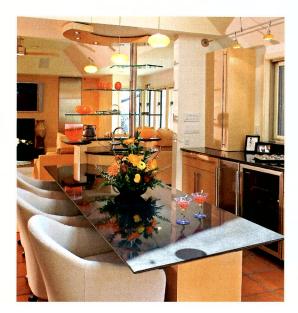
A 50-inch plasma television hangs above a black Absolute granite fireplace, and to keep the room clean and cord-free, all electronics are wired into one access area custom-made by Carmana Designs, Ltd. They work in conjunction with each other in various ways. For example, when you turn on the television, the lights automatically dim.

TOP RIGHT The light maple cabinetry carries over from the bedroom to the kitchen. A customized elongated counter creates buffet-style dining options for family events. The island separates the two preparation areas of the kitchen, one housing appliances and the other providing additional counter space.

**BOTTOM** The dramatic Black Absolute granite of the island is echoed on the fireplace surround of the high-tech family room.

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"The electronics that drive the system in the media room are housed behind the brushed stainless steel cabinet, and they can access the entire system with a Marantz smart remote," says Phil Becker ,who owns Overtures LLC in Ocean View, N.J. "We gave them state-of-the-art equipment that is very simple to use."

These types of electronic enhancements are highlighted in the master bedroom as well, although Vona styled the private quarters with a simplified Asian feel courtesy of an accent wall made of quartered wenge wood. The maple wood furnishings built around the television and next to the bed were designed as doppelgangers to the low, sleek Scandinavian-style of Poliform furniture

The master suite was designed to look like a boutique hotel. It is enhanced by a simple, sturdy teak bench, custom made for the bathroom, that blends well with its ultramodern style. Taupe and gray dapple the floor in mosaic tile, and a polished gray Silestone countertop completes the look. Neff cabinetry gives the dressing area a utilitarian feel, while dual vanities and a bidet add a touch of luxury.



"It's definitely a retreat. There's a spadesigned by Vona. A granite backsplash recreates the look year round. He expects type quality to it," says Mickey Applegate adds visual intrigue behind an elongated to use plenty of bright oranges and reds of Applegate Designs in Egg Harbor island topped with white Corian® that Township.

devices in the gray polished porcelain shower including faucets, a rainhead sprays, and the space can also be used as refrigerator, an ASKO dishwasher and a and grand." a steam shower. Luxury touches found in much-used ice maker. the bathroom mimic indulgences in the rest of the home.

from the bedroom, past the customized

serves as a buffet when relatives gather. lantana popping off the yard's canvas. Applegate installed several Grohe Making the most of the space, a breakfast the functionality of the room is assured

the home's outdoor areas are refreshed flowing floor plan has made it a place for The light look of maple wood carries over seasonally with new flora. During early both serenity — and escape. spring, the landscape is filled with ivy, walk-in closets, down the hallway and into birds of paradise, birch logs and chicks Floral arrangements provided by The Secret a kitchen outfitted with maple cabinetry and hens. James Sarappa of James Andrew Garden of Linwood. and brushed stainless steel drawer pulls Designs LLC in Egg Harbor Township

for the summer with bursts of hibiscus and

"It's minimalista," Sarappa says. "We nook peeks from behind a prep sink, and focus on texture and chunk and the scale of containers. I introduced a more zen showerhead, a slide bar and six body by Dacor cooking appliances, a Sub-Zero look, clean and (with) fine lines. It's all tall

Modern, useful and simplistic at every With a spa feel reverberating throughout, turn, the home's bold, new look and free-

**ABOVE** This simply styled master bedroom minimizes clutter and accentuates space by keeping all accessories and footwear outside of the room in custom-made closets. Neutral pillows from The Finishing Touch in Northfield and cobalt blue pillows from SoHo draw attention to the bed.

**RIGHT** The master bathroom features a bevy of luxuries including a step-in shower with six body sprays, dual vanities and a bidet.

