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SPECIAL ISSUE

Crazy about COLOR!

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Warm & glowing

Kitchen, dining room radiates with tones of cream, yellow and gold

By Maggie Peterson • Photography by G. Randall Goss

Yellow.

It's subtle enough that on first glance, there's only a sense that this kitchen and dining area are light and airy.

But with a closer look, hues of gold, lemon and cream appear.

When the homeowners purchased this home on The Peninsula at Bay Harbor, they sought to make the residence reflect their inclinations. While the kitchen has stayed much the same, the adjoining dining area and much of the rest of the home was redesigned by Carrie Blanck, owner and designer with Tres Belle Interior Design in Harbor Springs, starting in September 2008.

The kitchen cabinetry and backsplash tile falls more in the range of creamy white, but the truer yellow shades of the adjoining dining space reflects some of its hue into the room. Adding shine are the room's surfaces — polished brown marble on counter surfaces, stainless appliances and polished chrome fixtures.

Blanck said the homeowner is partial to early American style. Elements reminiscent of that time, combined with a fresh cottage look, abound in the dining area.

The color inspiration came from the gas fireplace in the dining area, which is bordered in matte finish tile. Peppering the flat squares are ones with a floral and dot pattern, adding depth of texture. The hearth is flanked by wooden pillars and topped with a mantel whose edges mimic the crown molding and beams of the ceiling. Above the fireplace hangs a giclée by Harbor Springs artist Mary Hramiec-Hoffman.

For enjoying the glow of the fire are two high-backed chairs from Hickory Chair Company, based in North Carolina. In order to pick up on the theme of the room, Blanck chose matelassé fabric with a white and yellow checked pattern and embroidered twisting vines, flowers and other foliage. Exposed nailheads show off the shape of the chair. The wallpaper adds dimension with its tonal diamond pattern.

Blanck said she prefers to pair painted chairs with wooden tables, as seen in the dining area. When the breadboard ends of the trestle table are lifted, there's seating for eight. Five chairs — painted with a yellow tinge — are snugged in around three of the sides, while a bench provides seating for three more.

"The trestle style is really nice because you can fit lots of chairs around it and you don't have legs in the way," Blanck noted.

The chandelier, by Texas-based Lamplight Designs, is done in the 18th century tole style of painted, lacquered or enamelled metalware; this chandelier was custom-painted white with gold trim.

Blanck noted she enjoys that both these rooms are open to the other, which allows for relaxation and interaction while meals are being prepared.

"I like the cozy hearth room where you can sit and enjoy a cup of coffee while someone's in the kitchen," she said. HL