



SEGRETOSAULO

Leslie Sinclair





Historically French

Designer I Kara Childress
Original Architect I John F. Staub
Architect I Newberry Campa Architects, Ken Newberry
Builder I Tynes Sparks Building Company

Photographer I Terry Vine

After uprooting their lives from New Orleans in the wake of Katrina, these homeowners lovingly restored and brought life to this French Chateau designed in the 1930s by the prestigious architect, John F. Staub. Appreciating period architecture, design and art, this couple values not only true craftsmanship but the time and thought necessary to authentically return this Houston gem back to its original splendor. A dream team was assembled to renovate and modernize the estate, creating a comfortable family home for this family of five while staying true to Staub's original intent. While the renovation began in 2007, the project is still ongoing.



Spectacular purchases were found for this home from shopping the world over. With original French oak paneling, custom Fortuny draperies and a chandelier that once belonged to Napoleon III, this area leading to the living room is both warm and elegant. Painted on canvas, the restored sixteenth-century ceiling panels originally hung in a villa near Parma, Italy.





The ballroom, with its original chandeliers and boiserie panels, was transformed through furnishings and fabrics into a beautiful, elegant and comfortable living room.

All the windows are floor-to-ceiling doors which slide into the walls, revealing the terraces and beautifully landscaped gardens. Since there was no air conditioning when the residence was built, Staub situated the house in such a way as to receive the best of the Gulf breeze during the hot, humid months of summer.

Restoring the plastered ceiling in this space was a challenge. A cloth backing had been applied to the original plaster and then painted over repeatedly, causing the backing to pull away and surfaces to crack. The backing had to be skillfully removed without damaging the delicate plastered molding pieces around the chandeliers. Carefully cutting around the medallions, a fresh coat of tinted plaster was applied to complement the walls' existing finish.

Plaster by Segreto.

220





Mulberry Home fabric on sofa from Lee Jofa. Table from Nancy Corzine. Rubelli Venezia



far east side of the home. The inspiration for the room's colorations came from the two tones in the silk draperies. The plastered ceiling shares the neutral palette of the trim, which was glazed to bring out the detail in original hand-carved moldings, while the walls were plastered in the

222 223



The sunken dining room at the west side of the house boasts marble wainscoting, columns and elaborate ceiling details. Setting this room apart from the rest of the home, a Venetian plaster with its inherent marbling effect graces the walls. The molding was also glazed to bring out its detail and softly marry multiple surfaces in this well-dressed room.

Plaster and glazing on moldings by Segreto.

224



"It was a dream for my team to design and detail a stone and glass conservatory inspired by the winter garden room in the Biltmore Estate." Ken Newberry

Plaster by Segreto.



A new wing to the home, the den and conservatory are ideal for casual entertaining and everyday living. To stay true to the intended architecture, architect Ken Newberry extensively researched Staub and the period in which the home was built. Stone flooring and railings were hand-selected in France and brought over for the original construction. During renovation, the source of this stone was found, its quarry reopened and stone excavated to ensure that the addition of a conservatory and family room were seamless. These spaces were furnished with less formal French décor and comfortable seating. The reclaimed flooring, beams, mantel and plastered walls instill the same sense of age found in the rest of the house.