

The Story of 905 NW 36th Street

From the owner...

905's story began in 1951. When we first met, I realized it just needed a little love to fulfill its potential and be its happiest.

The previous owner indulged in his love of gardening...which is how it became nestled in a cornucopia of fruit & flowers—two (delicious) apple trees, a fig tree, a cherry tree, not to mention a peach tree offering nectar of the gods...so juicy and fragrant. A pergola graced with small bunches of grapes, surrounded by nearby lavender and rosemary bushes.

The house, given its age, paired naturally with mid-century modern design, which in combination with my own lux flourishes, guided the choices made...here are just a few:

Lighting...fixtures in the entryway, living room and office were hand-crafted by an Etsy artisan specializing in vintage & mid-century lighting...replacing rando Home Depot specials.

Other featured lights...the Sputnik chandelier in the formal dining room mirrors the pattern on the living room wallpaper for design continuity and throws a delightful pattern onto the ceiling. The guest bedroom waterfall is an era-specific crystal chandelier refurbished by Three Monkeys in Portland. The theatrical master feather chandelier traveled across the pond from South London.

Wallpaper...the living room paper is an original 1925 pattern imported from France. The entryway is an homage to the lush Corvallis view. The guest bedroom paper is inspired by the Rat Pack era and its favorite Downtown Miami nightclubs; and in the master is a playful Jean Paul Gaultier 18th century toile modernized by a 1950's candy-color palette. Lastly, my favorite, the office wall by Flavor Paper in New York is a Brooklyn toile originally created for Mike Diamond of the Beastie Boys, featuring the Notorious B.I.G. and other iconic landmarks.

Tiling...though 'vintage,' the entryway originally welcomed its visitors with the most unfortunate green pebble linoleum tile, which was quickly replaced by mosaic black & white ceramic tiles, along with the fireplace outer hearth by a cement grey & white 1950's star pattern—both finished with a silver/grey grout.

Painting...With exception of the kitchen, laundry and bathrooms (still in their original colors), all rooms, including most ceilings, have been re-painted with premium, eco-friendly neutrals—other than the guest bedroom, which brings nature indoors with a rich, trend-forward green called Matcha Latte.

Hardware...gone are most of the cheap silver light and outlet plates, replaced by vintage style, oil-rubbed bronze ones that reflect the colors of the gorgeous hardwood floors.

The overall effect is meant to mirror an art gallery, framing nature with its large & lovely windows, as well as the photographs you'll see throughout the home.

Possibly even more important than all the changes listed above, have been my neighbors...who, like in a 1950's T.V. show, came rushing over to greet & welcome me the day I moved in. Lucky you if you get the opportunity to move into this amazing neighborhood.

I hope you love this happy little home as much as I have. - Wen



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