



# Stylish Transition

A unique, open floor plan suited for entertaining.

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“When empty-nesters decide to downsize from the family home, they don’t want to scale back on luxury,” says designer Martha O’Hara. The couple moving into the Cottages of White Oaks in historic Edina knew it fit their new lifestyle perfectly. The location is near a high-end commercial district with boutique shopping, cinemas, and fine restaurants within walking distance, as well as a country club to satisfy the avid golfers. “For those with disposable income and grown-up children,” says O’Hara, “it’s all

about location, layout and amenities.”

Built by Scott and Margaret Busyn’s Great Neighborhood Homes, with architect Mike Sharratt, this elegant, 4,300-square-foot house is surrounded by pines and hardwoods, yet the verdant landscaping is low-maintenance. Based in Minneapolis, Martha O’Hara Interiors’ team, Mary Adams and Laura Peck, had worked previously on Busyn projects, so they understood the concept.

“With an emphasis on an open floor plan

conducive to entertaining family and friends, the design focuses on the way the home is used,” Adams explains. The view, spanning the first floor, flows from the glass-enclosed study to the sunroom, without walls separating the airy spaces.

On entering the living area, overlooking the inviting kitchen, guests are beckoned to the island counter for hors d’oeuvres and drinks by slatted stools tucked under the bowed granite lip. It’s an easy move to the adjacent dining

**Opposite Page:** Enamel painted cabinetry conveys the feeling of a warm, furnished room in the kitchen with a rich cherry wood island/bar.

**Above:** In this open floor plan, the space expands to seat more guests and is defined by a bayed ceiling with refined molding and a handsome column.



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**Above:** With a cozy touch, the Baker bed and simple nightstands frame the niche, well-proportioned to the scale of the master bedroom. The transitional blend of classic and contemporary is ideal for the empty-nesters' shifting lifestyles.

area. The sunroom leads to the patio and also serves as a breakfast room with bright southern exposure at the charming settee.

In the dining room, the oval walnut table extends to seat more under an appealing abstract floral rug. The swooping lines of the upholstered ivory chairs nod to traditional elements with contemporary flair, enhancing the ambiance. "It's not a traditionally formal room. Instead, it's designed for a couple who wants a sleeker transitional feel," says Adams. "It's clean, stylish and upper-end."

The soft, neutral palate keeps the scheme through the open spaces classic and compatible, yet changeable. Buff walls with warm, golden tones present a relaxing look with creamy woodwork. "We punched up the color with reds, running the gamut from spicy to rosy shades," says Adams. Coral patterned draperies flank a free-standing desk and leather channel-back chair in the taupe-tan study, a suitable space for the semi-retired who don't require seclusion from interruptions anymore.



The top floor layout naturally separates the master suite from the guest bedroom wing with a convenient laundry room. An arched alcove in the master bedroom adds character and coziness in an unfussy way. "There's an interest in simplifying life at this stage, with more straight lines," notes Adams. Supplementing recessed lighting, urn lamps hint at the suggested Greek key motif in the premium Wildcat Territory bed linens.

Besides an attached garage, mudroom and storage on the lower level, there's a wine cellar

and exercise room which can convert into a grandchildren's bedroom with an egress window. "The Asian influence of the downstairs media room is well-appointed for more mature homeowners," says O'Hara. "We're working with clients who now enjoy the finer things in life."

**Above:** Hendredon's Chinese cocktail table and credenza establishes an Asian theme in the media room. More of an elegant retreat, than a family-style home theater, the cabinet discretely holds the audio-visual equipment instead of toys and video games.