



Old World Charm Meets Modern Luxury

KITCHEN

This summer, the Evansville Association for the Blind opened a 15,000-square-foot furniture showroom. Employees with disabilities help run the store, and revenue allows the organization to continue its 91-year tradition of serving blind and visually impaired clients. The Downtown Idea Home “is kind of our coming-out party,” says Pat Coslett of EAB. With a sleek dinette set, colorful bench, and patterned chair (opposite, top right), Coslett knows the room will draw plenty of attention: “You can have a 10,000-square-foot house,” he says, “but people still gravitate toward the kitchen.”

EXTERIOR LANDSCAPING

In the heart of a city, “it is not too often that you find a nice-sized yard,” says Brian Wildeman, a landscape designer with Landscapes by Dallas Foster, Inc. “It feels as if you were in a park.” Wildeman’s company capitalized on the Downtown Idea Home’s roomy side yard (opposite, bottom), creating a quiet area that’s a retreat for children and adults. On the covered flagstone patio sits a limestone table and reclaimed barn beam benches. An antique candle chandelier hangs from a mature tree, which also provides support for a rope swing. “We looked to create a private oasis within the urban setting,” says Wildeman.

The area is ideal for social gatherings, and music makes for a festive setting. Ryan Cain, president of Paragon Sight, Sound, and Security, hid speakers in the landscaping, and a networked digital music player lets homeowners stream Internet radio, Sirius/XM, local radio stations, and more — plus their own music library.

GARAGE

Behind the home is a rotating series of cars from Romain Cross Pointe Auto Plaza. This is the season when new cars arrive in the showroom, and two vehicles Bob Cunningham, a representative for Romain, hopes to display are the 2011 Buick

DINING ROOM

When Barb Woodruff saw this walnut, hand-carved table, the owner of Just Consign It! and Just Faux It! ditched her shabby-chic vision of the dining room to create a traditional, formal space. At Just Consign It!, Woodruff gives old, neglected items facelifts. For example, Woodruff repainted the large mirror that used to sport a cheap, gold plastic frame. “It was the ugliest mirror you’ve ever seen,” she says. The refurbished mirror is a reflection of the home: “That’s what is so cool about the project,” Woodruff says. “Old and new mix together.”



Regal and 2011 Cadillac CTS Coupe. “We know people are there to see the house,” Cunningham says, “but if (the cars) can add to the experience, that’s great.”

The space — and the rest of the home — is protected by a security system installed by Paragon Sight, Sound and Security. “Security is very important in this area — along with any area, in my opinion,” says Ryan Cain, Paragon’s president. In case of a burglary or fire, the system will sound a siren and alert a monitoring company, which can dispatch authorities to the home. Through their smartphones and computers, homeowners can remotely arm or disarm the system, check on alarm status, and more.