

before

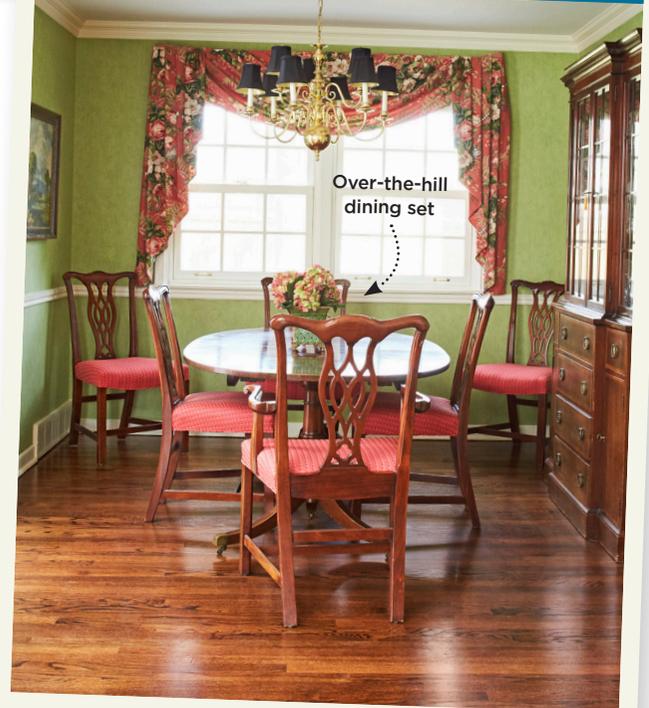


“
 make our living
 room look 10 years
 younger
 ”

and our
 dining room,
 too!

Clunky furniture, fussy florals, and oh, those curtains. Refresh needed, stat!

before



Inheriting decor from a

previous homeowner can be a drag. But Julie Reilly felt like she'd won the lottery back in 2001 when she moved into a 1961 Colonial in Glenview, IL, with her 3-year-old daughter, Nora. The house, in pretty good shape, had newly renovated dining and living rooms done in a pink and green color scheme, plus flowery curtains. The look didn't fit her casual style, but Julie was thrilled not to have to deal with anything run-down or falling apart. So she went with it, putting in dark wood pieces given to her by family and re-covering her sofa and chairs to blend in better. The perfectly kept rooms, not very cozy or inviting, went largely unused other than at Christmastime. Sixteen years later, with Nora away at college, Julie had time on her hands, and it dawned on her that what should be prime gathering spots for friends and family were only gathering dust. Time for an *HGTV Magazine* transformation! To make the two adjacent spaces feel cohesive, we painted both the same soft gray. Then we swapped out the stodgy furniture for sleek pieces and replaced the flowery prints with mod stripes, dots, and zigzags. "It feels like these rooms have gotten used more the past six months than they have in 16 years!" says Julie. "I even like just sitting here on the sofa and talking to Nora on the phone."

Julie with Nora, 19, and their dog, Marley



after



sofa and curtains

The Crate & Barrel sofa is covered in a modern white poly-blend fabric. It's a sizable 90 inches wide and feels even roomier thanks to the narrow squared-off arms. The window treatments from The Shade Store (sans swag valance!) are snowy white on top and deep plum on the bottom.

wall color
Argos by
Sherwin-Williams

chairs

Turn back a page. See that Louis-style chair in the "before" living room? It's here, too! With the frame painted crisp white (White Diamond by Benjamin Moore) and the seat, back, and arms re-covered in blue-on-blue spotted fabric from Hable Construction, it looks completely new. A tailored armchair in saddle-brown leather from West Elm complements the other seat's curvy frame.

ottoman and rug

A giant (41-inch-by-41-inch) CR Laine square ottoman covered in stripy fabric from St. Frank serves as the room's coffee table and its color inspiration. The jute rug from Dash & Albert features just enough pattern—and in a much bigger scale—not to compete with the ottoman. "At first I didn't know if I was brave enough for both," Julie says. "Now I love how fun the two make the whole room feel."

art

Mishmash, be gone: A gallery wall of the same abstract prints in a rainbow of shades is simple and striking. These, by Ashlee Rae Designs, were custom-made to match the colors in the ottoman.



sideboard and lamps

There was no sacrificing storage (or style) when the old dark-wood console got switched out for this oak sideboard from article.com. Julie keeps her fancy china inside. A pair of lime green glass lamps from Ballard Designs sits on top, and patterned hexagonal poufs from Skyline Furniture bookend it.

after

shop these rooms

ARMCHAIR Axel chair, \$1,299, westelm.com **ART** (above sideboard) *Ombre* by Ashlee Rae unframed prints, \$16.50 each, ashleerae.com; (dining room) *Botanical Collage* by Alicia Galer unframed print, \$129, urbanoutfitters.com **DINING CHAIRS** NyeKoncept Eiffel chairs, \$175 each, themine.com **DINING TABLE** Sanara dining table, \$849, highfashionhome.com **DRAPES** Inverted Pleat drapes in Sunbrella Ventana fabric with bottom border, \$2,138, theshadestore.com **DRAPE HARDWARE** Steel Collection hardware, \$900, theshadestore.com **FABRIC** (chair and Roman shade) Big Beads Lapis fabric, \$78 per yard, habloconstruction.com; (ottoman) Pangden fabric, \$150 per yard, stfrank.com **FRAMES** (above sideboard) Snap frames, \$6 each, amazon.com; (dining room) Irvine frame, from \$39, framebridge.com **LAMPS** (on sideboard) Estrella lamps, \$139 each, and (on side table)

Suzanne Kasler Gourd lamp, \$199, both ballarddesigns.com; (on floor) Kuta lamp, \$379, boconcept.com **MIRROR** Wood Octagon mirror, \$130, worldmarket.com **OTTOMAN** #14 Gretchen ottoman, \$1,105, crlaine.com **PENDANT** LZL Link Suspension pendant, \$1,500, lumens.com **PILLOWS** (from left) Cotton Velvet pillow covers, \$48 each, willaskyehome.com; Flock pillow, \$105, blockshoptextiles.com; Rizzy Home Self Flange pillow, \$28, hayneedle.com; Panta ATA-002 pillow, \$27, surya.com **POUFS** Skyline Furniture ottomans, \$177 each, overstock.com **ROMAN SHADE** Flat Roman shade, \$975, theshadestore.com **RUG** Dash & Albert Marco Soumak 10' x 14' rug, \$3,112, annieselke.com **SIDEBOARD** Seno sideboard, \$1,099, article.com **SIDE TABLES** (blue) Amagansett Zig table, \$240, and (wood) Hunter table, \$498, both serenaandlily.com **SOFA** Genesis sofa, \$3,499, crateandbarrel.com

fun decorating

after

pendant and window shade

This swirly light by LZL Lighting, crafted from beechwood veneer, made the room's dated brass chandelier slink away in shame. "It feels like a cloud floating over the table," says Julie. The Roman shade is made with the same blue-on-blue dotted fabric as the Louis-style chair in the living room—a cool way to tie the two spaces together.



table and chairs

Julie's old matching dining set didn't exactly scream "Let's throw a dinner party!" This round lacquered table from High Fashion Home easily handles six modern multihued chairs from themine.com.

art

After the old-school wallpaper and chair rail came down and the bulky china cabinet went away, this wall begged for impact. A botanical print in a dramatic 30-inch-by-40-inch size from Urban Outfitters plays off the chairs' colors.

