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HOUSE[®]

DESIGN • ARCHITECTURE • LIFESTYLE

**The 2008 Designer
Show House**

*Protection in
the art world*

Greg Norman's Doonbeg



Heather Dunn

Looking more like an afterthought than an original design feature this cramped, crammed-in service area—which also provides access to the third floor—was reconstituted and reborn as a whimsical fantasy space. Due to technological changes in laundry equipment style and size, these essential items were able to fit into such a small area.

Challenges like exposed plumbing pipes and appliances too large for their existing configuration created circumstances ripe for creative solutions. A picket fence with working gate corrals the appliances, and creates a “cottage-y” feel. Vistas of a distant horizon, and the openness of a azure sky above create a feeling of outdoors. The formality of the floor, painted in black and white diagonal squares creates an almost “Alice-in Wonderland” kind of juxtaposition of inside and out. A pre-existing door in the ceiling offered an opportunity for Doorknob philosophy, and a utility pipe at the end of the room becomes a magic beanstalk with potential perhaps for a run in with the magical goose that lays golden eggs.

Ladybug window treatments by Margaret Brown Creations add to the fun. Mural and hand painting by artist Thom Kostura.

The counter-clockwise operation and attractive design of The Real Time Earth Clock™ by artist Michael Galileo, underscores the challenge to conventional expectations that this showcase solution presents to the viewer.



PHOTOS BY LISA KNOPP

Century old cabinetry in dilapidated condition and trim and wall surfaces in need of serious repair were the main obstacles to overcome in this room redo. Extensive repairs to the cracked plaster walls and ceiling were required to make them paintable. Missing woodwork pieces and damaged moldings all required attention to bring them back from years of neglect. Benjamin Moore Aura paint, color Dinner Party, was used on the walls to create a feeling of warm formality. A proprietary wood-finishing product that was then hand waxed was used on the antique wood cabinetry to give it a rich, new color and luster. Painted floor on reversed linoleum provides continuum from the adjoining laundry areas, and its formality provides a final juxtaposition to this service area suite of spaces. Plaid window treatments by Margaret Brown Creations. ■