

# Eternal Spring

*Using her favorite colors, Amanda worked with great contractors to create a light, airy home for her family. More specific, the beautiful toile pattern in the curtains is carried up into the bedrooms on the second floor. The gold stripe on the ceiling was hand-painted by Kerry Saucky, while the fireplace features hearth tiles in custom colors. Each was individually glazed with aged crackle.*



A young family creates a happy, light-filled, pastel-colored home out of an overlooked Brookside gem.

STORY BY ELIZABETH MURRAY | PHOTOS BY MATT KOCOUREK



What

started out as a dark, dated house blossomed into an airy, elegant cottage-style home situated in the heart of Brookside. But this diamond in the rough only happened because of the visionary eyes of homeowners Amanda and Chris Chaney.

“We bought a dowdy fixer-upper nine years ago even after multiple realtors, the home inspector and some family members said it was not a good idea,” Amanda says. “But, what we wanted most from the purchase was the historic Brookside neighborhood. We saw something that others apparently had missed: the house had amazing potential.”

The Chaney's were looking for a place to put down roots when they bought their three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home in August 2004 — they were getting married in November.

Amanda, who is originally from Cincinnati but was living in northern Michigan, says that after redoing the roof, the next project they tackled was the side porch, with French doors that didn't even lock properly. This room transformed into a nautical-inspired office with hints of navy to offset the home's main palette of green, pink and cream. Inspired by her childhood home as well as the Michigan lake lifestyle, she replaced the original dark wall colors with the lighter palette, knowing it would make the rooms feel larger.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE

*Above... The kitchen bar stools are from *Fadore in Brookside*, Amanda's favorite shop.*

*Right... The kitchen serves as the home base for the Chaney's. Amanda can often be found working at the kitchen counter.*





The Chaney  
Est. 2004

Chaney  
Est. 2004



*Left... The boat oar hanging on the wall is a 90-year-old family heirloom from Amanda's grandfather and symbolizes the Chaney's love of water.*

*Above... Even with all the pastels and light-colored rugs and fabrics in the house, Amanda doesn't worry about her three young girls making a mess. She says they "trained their kids to take off their shoes."*

"We used her favorite colors and tried to tie them all together so the flow of the house would work well," says A.J. Miller, owner of Ready, Set, Gorgeous, who has worked with Amanda for more than three years. "We started with some things she already had and then added layers and layers of fabrics and trims for a custom, one-of-a-kind look."

"Chris refers to it as 'light red,'" Amanda says in reference to the amount of pink used in the house. But considering the Chaney's now have three daughters, it seems fitting.

The heart of the house — a beautiful, open kitchen and sitting area that Amanda refers to as her headquarters — is the result of knocking down a wall and converting a room that had a half-tile, half-hardwood floor.

"There were no granite countertops, spa bath or stylish cabinets (when we bought the house)," Amanda says. "But there was something better: the potential for an attached two-car garage, something that is hard to come by in Brookside."

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE



Off the kitchen originally was a door to a concrete slab that connected the house to a studio and garage. The Chaney's opened up the side of the house, turning the slab into a hallway that now leads to a cozy den, full bath and the garage. One element from the former owner's artist studio did stay in the renovation: the bowling-alley floor in the den.

The Chaney's have partnered with some great collaborators along the way, such as local artist Kerry Stucky. She faux painted paneling on the dining room walls and painted the top of the dining room table. In the living room, she painted gold stripes on the ceiling to make it look taller; the shades, base and scrolls of the sconces flanking the fireplace; and a gold faux frame around original artwork on the mantel. "And the list goes on and on," Amanda says.

A favorite project for Chris was the outdoor conversion of the narrow backyard into a driving range and putting green. He even installed lights on the back of the house so he can literally spend hours out back.

The Chaney's recently began yet another renovation project: converting the third floor into livable space. This latest renovation will add a family room, another bedroom and plumbing in case they want an additional bathroom. Because, as Amanda adds, they do have three girls. ●

*Above... The table, bench and hutch belonged to Amanda's grandparents. She updated the bench with a slipcover and painted the table to match the rest of the decor.*

*Right... In every room of this home, you will find Amanda's *J'adore* finds that she's collected throughout the last 10 years. In this room, that includes tables, a rug, boxwood wreath, owls and more.*

