

INTERIOR DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT:

La Bella Interiors & Lutz Lakefront Estate



A lush country landscape, backyard lake view, and Frank Lloyd Wright-style architecture make Joy Sutton's home an eye-catcher; but what is inside makes it a true work of art. The two-story, 4,700 sq. ft. home located on almost an acre of prime real estate in Lutz was built in 1984 and was in dire need of an interior facelift. Designer and Owner Jay Tenuta and his associate, Kathy Hsu, of La Bella Interiors spent almost seven months working diligently to provide Sutton with a masterpiece to call home.

The interior re-design included the entire first floor except for the kitchen and involved new flooring, crown molding, furniture, accessories, and a great eye for design. Although they made so many changes to the home, the biggest impact came from the re-design of the entrance and foyer. The designers replaced the front double doors with beautiful custom glass doors encased in elegant black framing.

To accompany the new front doors and enhance the waterfront view from the entry of the home, Tenuta and Hsu decided to remove the eight-foot wall that once blocked the magnificent view to open up the space and add fluidity. To enhance the historical charm, large custom crown molding frames the entrance. Bringing a lot of light to the foyer, a large scale Old World chandelier was hung in the 20 ft. tall entry; to accent the style of the chandelier and add a masculine yet classic touch, they chose to replace the 1970s-style wooden banister staircase with a Georgian Black Wrought Iron staircase. Above the stairs hangs an imported renaissance themed tapestry to act as a strong focal point and backdrop. Highlighting the tapestry are four Old World wall sconces and a large scale antique Baroque style carved mirror that adds the grandeur

feel of a castle.

In addition to the magnificent new entry, Tenuta and Hsu added all new travertine and wood flooring throughout the first floor. They also replaced almost all of the downstairs windows with updated, hurricane proof glass. In the dining room, the designers installed window treatments from the ceiling to create long lines and flow. They also assisted Sutton in selecting the perfect dining set, which is an aged black Neo-Classical reproduction. Joy's guest room, which is multi-purpose used for guests, scrap booking, and toy storage for her foster children, has been completely redesigned with a custom built-in wall unit including a Murphy bed to add additional space and mahogany wood shelving. Tenuta and Hsu also commissioned a few companies to assist in this renovation: Pioneer for the flooring, Mastercraft for the cabinetry and woodwork, and KB Builder for the interior renovations and follow-through.

To accommodate Sutton's individual style and desires, Tenuta and Hsu of La Bella Interiors made it a point to re-incorporate Sutton's very important heirloom antiques into their new design; they feel that it is imperative that you work with the client to accomplish her vision as well, which in Sutton's case was a gathering place for her family and friends. Sutton says that after all of their hard work and great talent, she not only would refer La Bella Interiors to others, but most importantly, she now thinks of Tenuta and Hsu as friends.

You can visit La Bella Interiors' showroom for great accessories, signature pieces, custom furniture, and more at 8727 Gunn Highway, Odessa fl 33556 or call them at 813 792 9602.
