

By
NANCY
STEVENS

CONSUMERNOTEBOOK

COLLEEN URSCHELL KNEW IT WAS TIME. HER SUBURBAN HOME, WHICH THE FAMILY HAD LIVED IN SINCE NEW, WAS IN DESPERATE NEEDED OF NEW FLOORS.



For this semi custom-built split, it had been 18 years with the same mauve wall-to-wall carpet covering the floors in the living and dining rooms and staircase. A generation of wear and three children, now 16, 17 and 20, had taken their toll.

“I knew I wanted hardwood, partly because it’s so easy to keep clean, but I didn’t know what kind. I asked myself, what’s out there and will wood hold up with three kids and two dogs? I figured hardwood would last as long as the house, and people say it’s a good selling point if I ever want to sell,” she said.

But what about color? “Color is important in my house,” Colleen said, explaining that she knew she wanted a floor to complement a new flowered couch. “My house has been mauves, different shades of emeralds and meadow greens. I like to blend my colors. For the floor, I didn’t want too dark or too light. I like honey; it is warm to go with my new couch.”

Where did she start? Like the rest of us, she started with photos in magazines like FABULOUS FLOORS and looks she liked. Again, like the rest of us, Colleen asked as many people as she could. “I was open to anything new. Once I got started, though, I’d also get to painting,” she added.

As a hair stylist, Colleen was in a unique position to interview hundreds of her clients. “I asked everyone if they liked hardwood, and almost everyone who had hardwood loved it,” Colleen says.

The search process began nearly two years ago and installation of the Columbia oak flooring began mid-Spring ‘05, as her boyfriend (a builder who installed the floor with a crew of family members over one weekend) finished staining the trim and stair railing to match the new honey oak floor just before Father’s Day.

Now, as you enter this split-level home, you take three oak stairs to the new living and dining rooms. From the entry, it’s evident the stair carpeting complements the dark green of the first floor family room.

Leading to the sleeping area is a full set of stairs fully carpeted in a light green carpet purchased as a remnant at a local retailer. Even though the kids are just about grown up, Colleen didn’t want them to slip and fall on wood stairs — another reason for her to go with carpet.

Inspired by the colors in a new couch, Colleen took a cushion with her and selected a color for the walls, opting for a peachy-pink paint for both the living room and dining room. The wall leading up the stairs was an off-white color, and Colleen began experimenting with texture via a sponge effect using the peach-pink. She liked it so well, she kept going, and finished the effect with a bit of glaze to give the wall some shine and the ability to fend off fingerprints.

From start to finish (once all the research was completed) the new look took six weeks to complete in everyone’s spare time.

Next on the list is a tile for the kitchen floor to replace a vinyl wood pattern. “I’ll probably do the same thing,” she says, “ask every one of my clients what they think and what they like.” 🍷



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