

The bottom line was, "We love living in Kirkland, we love our neighborhood, the location and our involvement in the community," says Jessica.

So they talked seriously about the things they would do if they remodeled the house. What finally sent them over the edge was finding an intact Arts and Crafts-period fireplace in a Los Angeles antique shop in 1999. They hadn't even asked the price, but couldn't get it out of their minds. They realized they both liked it. And Jessica says, "We have a policy that if we both like something-if we both agree-then we always buy it.

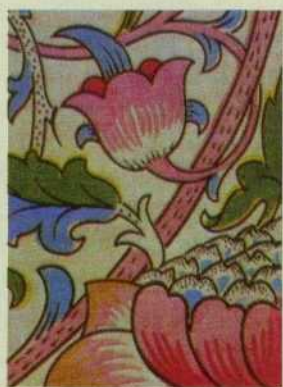
"This is how naive we were," she continues. "We assumed that as long as its opening measured smaller than our fireplace opening, we could use it. We would simply take the old tiles off our hearth and it would be attached on the front." In fact, they had to have their chimney and firebox completely rebuilt to accommodate it.

Adopting the Style

While they were at it, they made a wish list of other improvements and did them all. They had hardwood installed in previously carpeted spaces, including the stair hall. They replaced Colonial-style stair railings with simpler Mission-style balusters, and swapped picture windows for French doors. They incorporated wood columns they had been storing for 10 years into a wood



Arts and Crafts in a Non-Period Home



If you love the Arts and Crafts style, but live in a decidedly 21st-century condo or unabashedly post-war rambler, can the bungalow style still work in your home?

Yes, says designer Karen Hovde, who consulted on this interior. "The trick is to not try and make your home be something it's not," she says. "For instance, a ranch-style house could be decorated with Frank Lloyd

Wright overtones that would emphasize its horizontal lines, or in late-Mission style with Native American art and textiles." She usually recommends paint colors and floor coverings—like tile or rugs—to set the mood, as opposed to trying to install bungalow architectural elements in a more modern house.

"Don't try to stretch too far with interior design," she cautions. "You can't make a ranch house look Victorian, for instance." Even modest improvements—replacing wall-to-wall carpeting with hardwood, or applying a dark patina to metal-frame windows—can make Arts and Crafts furnishings look at home.

Sensitivity to stylistic nuances is important. If you have a 19th-century East Coast house but like the bungalow style, using William Morris fabrics and English Arts and Crafts furnishings would work better than trying to decorate in a Southern California bungalow theme. And to preserve the integrity of your home's roots—or in case the next owners don't share your fondness for Arts and Crafts—install decorative elements in such a way that they can accompany you to your next home. Jessica and Ken used this approach with their period fireplace; it can be dismantled should they ever move on.

— The editor