

A CENTURY-OLD PLEASANT RIDGE HOME GETS A 2023 FACELIFT

Oakmoss Property Group's Melissa and Johnny Acklen made this four-bedroom gem a family oasis.

By **Lauren Fisher** - August 8, 2023

6121 Woodmont Ave., Pleasant Ridge



elissa Acklen knows good bones. The real estate investor and her husband, Johnny, have a keen eye for spotting diamond-in-the-rough houses in need of a facelift that their company, Oakmoss Property Group, is happy to provide.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BRENNIA SMITH

When the Acklens first purchased this four-bedroom property in Pleasant Ridge, they were met with a home that had a lot going for it, but also had its fair share of challenges. The first floor, Acklen says, was “maze-like.” The kitchen, practically closed-off from the rest of the living space, was awkwardly shaped and shoved in the back of the home.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BRENNIA SMITH

“We really wanted to open it up to make it conducive for modern-day living,” she says. “Our goal with creating a better flow was to keep the integrity of a 1900s home by defining each room—versus a total open concept—while still making each space more accessible.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BRENNA SMITH

Oakmoss got to work supplying the house with all new *everything*, from plumbing, electric, and windows, down to the hardware on the doors. Some original features, however, were just too good to replace—like the original front door with its charming sidelights. “We knew we were keeping them immediately,” Acklen says. “They have such character with the brass inlay in the glass sidelights and the detailed craftsmanship on the door. You can feel the incredible history of walking into a century-old house by a substantial solid-wood door.”



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BRENN A SMITH

One of Acklen’s favorite rooms to flip was that closed-off kitchen, which now opens up to the formal dining space with an eat-in counter.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BRENNA SMITH

"I wanted the kitchen to feel bright and open by using white upper cabinets and keeping all the windows to let in as much natural light," Acklen says. "To balance the light, we added depth and drama with dark gray lower cabinets. I love the earthy green backsplash tile that adds warmth to the space. Adding a touch of glam with the brass hardware is *a/ways* a good idea."



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BRENNIA SMITH

There's also a touch of glam in the en-suite primary bathroom, where sleek, modern fixtures and cool-toned tile balance out the warmth of the natural wood vanity.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BRENNIA SMITH

"It was really exciting to see this space come to life," Acklen says. "And we envisioned the future buyers enjoying the functionality and luxury of a bathroom en-suite, right off their walk-in closet."