

## MANSION

## ANNOTATED ROOM

## A 1920s-Meets-‘Mad Men’ Office

The fading interior of an old, boring room gives way to an inviting, comfortable work space after a gut renovation

By VAISHNAVI TALAWADEKAR

When he bought his Akron, Ohio, lakefront home for \$450,000 in 2006, the homeowner, a real-estate investor now in his early 60s, intended to use it as a weekend get-

away. He put off making any changes until 2019, when the fading interior and a desire for a primary residence prompted him to reconsider a design refresh.

He tapped interior designers Tanner Morgan and Jennifer Laouari of Morgan Madison Design to helm the project. The goal

was to “conjure a 1920s-meets-‘Mad Men’ vibe,” he says.

The library, with dated wall-to-wall carpeting and dingy plaster walls, needed special attention. “It hadn’t been touched in decades and was far from an inspiring place to work,” says Morgan.

Morgan and Laouari gutted the

library and set about developing a jewel-box-like space characterized by natural materials. The designers played with proportions, opting for furniture and accents at various heights to serve as counterpoints to one another.

“While this room houses a lot of important pieces, we were in-

tent on making it feel inviting and comfortable,” says Morgan. The homeowner says the renovation was worth the wait. “So much of the joy I find in this room comes from experiencing the process—the dreaming, the design and then watching it all come together,” he says.



Cost of room redesign:  
\$210,000

Here are some features of this library that make it equally ideal for work and play.

1. A custom Villanova flush mount fixture by Bella Figura adds a touch of old-world glamour to the setting. // **Price:** \$46,900
2. A Lana ottoman by Donghia, upholstered in a Pierre Frey cut-velvet fabric, breathes a whimsical air. Its color holds a mirror to the overarching palette, while its pattern adds unexpected interest to the setting // **Price:** \$5,250
3. Charles Paris’s Pieds Palme writing table, crafted in bronze and glass, cuts an elegant figure. The velvet-lined drawers hold personal and professional keepsakes, visible through the clear glass top. // **Price:** \$68,000
4. A Patterson Flynn jute area rug acts as a soft overlay to the wooden floor, creating a contrast to the antique jewel-toned rug atop it. // **Price:** \$18,000
5. Behind the writing table sits a circa-1960 Wormley for Dunbar ‘In Clover’ 932 Executive chair, underpinned by a solid walnut base. “We needed something tactile to soften the desk vignette. The chair had to have a character of its own to stand up to the visual weight of the writing table,” says Laouari of the choice of chair. // **Price:** \$10,500
6. The custom walnut paneling, though new, was crafted and installed by Hartville Cabinet & Design and seems like it could have been part of the original structure. // **Price:** \$72,000