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ESTATE OF ELEGANCE: A foyer (right) with upscale appointments sets the tone for Frank and Patty Cotroneo's new home in Bernardsville, designer Mary O'Brien Cabaron says. "The look we were going for was grand," she says, referring to the marble floor and medallion inlay, crystal chandelier, and custom wrought iron staircase with mahogany balusters that extend around the balcony. Rich wood accents enhance the look, and a chenille-upholstered settee assures a comfortable and inviting place for guests to relax. O'Brien Cabaron, an Interior Design Society member, wanted the entryway to be "somewhat neutral" to blend with adjacent rooms. The wallpaper was selected for its soft color yet strong design. **Sources:** design, Mary O'Brien Cabaron Interior Design in Beach Haven Terrace; console, Hickory White in Hickory, North Carolina; chandelier, Decorative Crafts in Greenwich, Connecticut; balusters, Architectural Products by Outwater LLC in Bogota; urns, La Barge in High Point, North Carolina; wallpaper, F. Schumacher.



Photo by John Martinelli

Photo by Bradley Olman



MAKING AN ENTRANCE

Designer **Tere Bresin** of **Beret Design Group** in Upper Montclair shares her thoughts on the power of a well-designed entry.

When you walk into a home, you want your eye to stop in the foyer and notice how special it is. Give attention to light sources: sconces, chandeliers, and accent lighting. Color is also tied into great lighting that can stop the eye —



Before



Photo by the homeowner

PLAIN-TO-PRETTY: Tom and Carrie Rooney of Oradell chose Tere Bresin to redesign their dining room on HGTV's "Designer's Challenge" and were so pleased with her skills they asked her to work on their foyer also. Bresin, whose firm is Beret Design Group and who is a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers, transformed the humdrum foyer into a cozy entry. To lighten the space, she replaced a dark, mixed-color slate floor with Claire limestone. She also added red glaze to the walls to create a sense of warmth. New low-voltage down lights coupled with an existing chandelier lighten the space and accent the new gold-tone Oriental rug. A comfy upholstered chair and three-tiered accent table replaced a lone narrow bench. (The dining room makeover will appear in the December 2006/January 2007 issue of *Design NJ*.) **Sources:** design, Beret Design Group Inc. in Upper Montclair; table, Habersham in Toccoa, Georgia; chair, Schwartz Designer Showroom in Metuchen with fabric by Stroheim & Romann.