

New England HOME



Good as Gold

ROOMS THAT GLOW



TRADITION REIMAGINED

In Greenwich, interior designer Kathleen Walsh dreams up an energetic mix of color and pattern fit for a young family.

Text by ALYSSA BIRD | *Photography by* JOHN BESSLER



Throughout the residence, architect Judy Larson employed traditional details such as dentil moldings and transom windows. At the request of the clients, who have young children, designer Kathleen Walsh added warmth to the architecture through her bold use of color. A striking chandelier from McLain Wiesand illuminates the living room, which is painted Benjamin Moore Caldwell Green.



THIS PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: Walsh updated the library by painting the existing cherry cabinetry a custom high-gloss blue: "The cherry cabinetry made it feel much too masculine," she explains. Walsh relaxes in living room chairs by latesta Studio. **FACING PAGE:** A series of enfilades provides sight lines throughout the main floor.



It's not often that a client with an insatiable appetite for color comes around, so when one did, Manhattan-based interior designer Kathleen Walsh didn't hold back. The client, a couple with three children, had recently purchased a 10,000-square-foot, five-bedroom residence





In the dining room, which is painted Benjamin Moore Ultra Violet, touches of green—in the form of patterned curtains and artwork by Cape Town-based Kurt Pio—tie into the adjacent green living room.



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: The walls in the casual and comfortable family room are painted in a more subdued shade, Farrow & Ball Cat's Paw; because the client has young children, Walsh used durable, family-friendly fabrics throughout. A hallway features a Phillip Jeffries wallcovering, light fixtures from Porta Romana, a rug from Stark, and a console from Rose Tarlow Melrose House. A Harlequin wallpaper envelops the powder room, which contains a mirror from J. Pocker, a sconce from Objet Insolite, and Waterworks floor tile.



in Greenwich that was calling out for an infusion of spirit to match that of the young family.

Conceived nearly twenty years ago by New Canaan architect Judy Larson, the house recalls an early 1800s New England Greek Revival. "I drew inspiration from historic homes in Litchfield County, Nantucket, and Vermont," says Larson. "It looks modest from the front, but it's quite deep. It almost looks as though it's an old property that has been added

onto over the years."

The structure itself was still in pristine condition and only required a few cosmetic updates, including a kitchen refresh (painting the cherry cabinets and replacing countertops, hardware, sink fittings, and lighting), and a new main bath. "The clients loved the traditional paneling and moldings that were already in place," says Walsh, who has decorated a handful of properties designed by Larson. "They also appreciated that it's not an open floor plan.

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—INTERIOR DESIGNER KATHLEEN WALSH



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Larson designed the residence nearly two decades ago in the style of an early 1800s New England Greek Revival. A dark and dated cherry kitchen with green marble countertops was refreshed with quartzite surfaces and pendants from The Urban Electric Co. The cheery breakfast room is painted Benjamin Moore Bainbridge Blue, and the Drucker bistro chairs can be easily wiped down after meals.



There's an intimacy that four walls can provide, especially with a house of this scale."

And the meandering floor plan is perfectly suited to the couple, who, pre-pandemic, regularly hosted charity events and large family gatherings. "They would entertain sixty people without thinking twice," explains Walsh. "This is where Judy's design works wonderfully for them. The archways signal where the more formal entertaining areas are, and the rooms open up to one another beautifully. So often you

walk into a traditional home and the proportions just don't feel right, but that's never the case with Judy's houses."

As with all of Walsh's projects, it kicked off with what she calls a "discovery day," which entails "observing what styles the clients are naturally attracted to, and then pushing their boundaries," she says. "This couple gravitated toward transitional with a touch of traditional. They wanted a formal house, but without the trappings of their parents' generation, such as rooms that are

INTERIOR DESIGN: Kathleen Walsh, Kathleen Walsh Interiors

ARCHITECTURE: Judy Larson, Judith Larson Associates

BUILDER: Bill Gardiner, Gardiner & Larson Homes



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—ARCHITECT JUDY LARSON



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: In the main bedroom, artwork by Rebecca Stern hangs above a chair and vanity from Hickory Chair. A neutral Ferrell Mittman bed rounds out the serene room. Walsh reconfigured and updated the existing main bath—which had formal, dated wallpaper and a black-and-white checkered floor—with a tub from MTI Baths and floor tile from Waterworks. **FACING PAGE:** In the bedroom’s sitting area, a wallcovering from Fabricut plays off the Schumacher curtain fabric. “The drapery drives the color and pattern in each room,” says Walsh.

off limits and never used.”

With that in mind, Walsh gave the family some “young moments” through color and pattern. “It was really fun working with them because I couldn’t seem to give them enough color,” says the designer. “People might walk in and think it’s bold, but your eye adjusts to it very quickly.”

Tempered jewel tones are used strategically on the main floor, with each room sporting a splash of color from the adjacent room. “It’s a way to prepare people’s eyes for what’s to come without them even realizing it,” says Walsh. Perhaps the most dramatic spin of the color wheel took place in the library, where Walsh painted the existing cherry paneling a vibrant high-gloss blue.

Upstairs, the shades become much more soothing. “It’s a softer version of the downstairs palette,” explains the designer. All new lighting throughout and elegant furnishings upholstered in durable, family-friendly fabrics complete the look. “Kathleen’s warm and welcoming style always brings our architecture to life,” says Larson. “It makes me so happy that this house has stood the test of time.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

