

New England HOME

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High Style

FOR THE NEW YEAR



An abstract print by mid-twentieth-century artist Jack Justice brightens the foyer and hints at the splashes of color that designer Jill Litner Kaplan spread throughout the living areas. **FACING PAGE:** The only furnishings the family brought to their new home was this dining set, which was refinished and reupholstered with Romo fabric. It sits on a rug from Stark Carpet with a Lightmaker Studio pendant hanging above.

New Addition

A RENOVATION OPENS UP A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES FOR ONE SUBURBAN FAMILY.

Text by DAVID CORRIVEAU | Photography by MICHAEL J. LEE





Just one look: That's all it took for her to envision her family sharing this three-story, century-old, Georgian-style home on a hill in a suburb near Boston.

"It struck me within fifteen minutes," the wife, mom, and medical doctor recalls of that day in 2017. "I was on the phone with my husband and said, 'You've got to drop everything now and get over here.' We made the decision within a day. You need the bones to be there. We saw the bones of this house."

Upon closer inspection, the couple saw that they needed a bit more time and planning to flesh out the interiors of the haven where they would raise their son and daughter. Time—and the guidance of Newton-based interior designer Jill Litner Kaplan and architect Peter Sachs.

"The ethos," Kaplan says, "was to appreciate the integrity of the original house, but



ABOVE: The kitchen cabinetry, by Heartwood Cabinetmakers, flows all the way to the ten-foot-high ceiling to maximize storage. **LEFT:** The room features two stainless-steel sinks, one in the island and a second in the back corner, where marble mosaic tiles from Ideal Tile of Newton don the wall. **FAR LEFT:** ModShop counter stools covered in Kravet vinyl surround the waterfall-edge island while Happy pendants custom made by Siemon & Salazar twinkle above.



to infuse it with all the amenities: sleek and modern meeting traditional.”

Toward that end, Sachs designed a single-story 848-square-foot addition attached to the side of the original house. To seamlessly integrate the new wing with the brick façade of the original, the trim of the main house was painted the same shade of

white as the siding of the addition, and the doors and windows on both were coated in a high-gloss black. The plan called for ten-foot-high ceilings throughout a spacious family room, front and back mudrooms, a bathroom, and an expanded kitchen, where the husband, also a doctor, could pursue his avocation of baking, and where the family

FACING PAGE: In the study, a quartet of Bernhardt Design swivel chairs circle an ottoman custom designed by Kaplan and upholstered in Pollack fabric; the fireplace surround includes tile from Discover Tile.

ABOVE: Cerused gray oak frames the television in the family room and echoes the nearby kitchen island.

RIGHT: The L-shaped addition starts with a mudroom and wraps around the rear of the house, where the expanded kitchen, a family room, a bathroom, and a second mudroom are located.

INTERIOR DESIGN:
Jill Litner Kaplan, Jill Litner Kaplan Interiors

ARCHITECTURE:
Peter Sachs, Peter Sachs Architect

BUILDER: RJ Gallerani and Son Building and Remodeling



could gather for informal meals.

“It receives heavy use, every single inch of it,” the wife says. “This new space really is phenomenal.”

Armed with the house’s original 1917 blueprints, Sachs and the builders from RJ Gallerani and Son Building and Remodeling remade the existing spaces, making slight changes to the first-floor foyer and dining room. The latter now houses the lone set of

furniture the family brought with them: a 1960s-era Danish-modern dining set.

On the third floor, the wife, who has been working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, converted one of the four bedrooms into office space. The bathroom on that level also received a refresh.

The team reimagined what the wife remembers as a “chopped-up” second floor. They installed en suite bathrooms in each

RIGHT: Renovation of the second floor allowed for the creation of a main suite, which includes a showstopping bed designed by Kaplan and upholstered in Pollack fabric. **BELOW:** In a first-floor sitting room, a Joan Miró lithograph brings cheer to a work area while a cabinet custom designed by Kaplan and crafted by Heartwood Cabinetmakers adds functionality. **FACING PAGE:** A salon-style arrangement of six monotypes by New York artist Gabe Brown brightens a wall in the sitting room, which is illuminated by a Blueprint Lighting chandelier.



of the kids’ bedrooms, and built a main bedroom suite, a laundry room, and a quiet study/sitting room. Quiet in terms of sound and privacy, that is.

While most of the first floor leans toward cool blues and blue-grays, Kaplan cranked up the volume in the study with walls painted Benjamin Moore Blue Suede Shoes. She filled it with a quartet of spinnable plush chairs upholstered in burnt-orange wool, and an extra dose of what Kaplan calls “my crazy, colorful mix of materials and art.”

The end result still makes Kaplan smile. “It’s so exuberant,” the designer concludes. “Everywhere you go, there is something to delight the eye.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

