

Summer 2020

TRADITIONAL HOME

LOVE YOUR KITCHEN:
TIPS + TRICKS
+ MUST-HAVE
FEATURES

get set for
Summer

**PRETTY ROOMS
WITH FRESH
STYLE AND
COLOR**



SHEER BEAUTY
WINDOW FABRICS WITH
AIRY ATTITUDE

SAVOR THE SEASON
A LIGHT MENU
FILLED WITH
SUMMER SALADS



The Kids
are ALL
RIGHT

A YOUNG COUPLE GOES
FULL-ON TRADITIONAL IN
A CONNECTICUT HOME

WRITTEN BY SALLY FINDER WEEPIE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAX KIM-BEE
PRODUCED BY CAROLYN ENGLEFIELD



As it turns out, millennials *aren't* ruining everything. In fact, rather than blowing their retirement savings on avocado toast, one particular young couple embraced a personal mission to preserve something unequivocally old school: traditional design.

As they prepared to move from a New York City apartment to a 1930s Georgian home in Greenwich, Connecticut, the duo—parents to three young kids—came to designers Bill Brockschmidt and Courtney Coleman with a bulging folder of magazine clippings in hand and one thought in mind. “They told me, ‘We just want a beautiful home,’” Coleman says, “very traditional with no modern edge.”

Some of the impetus came from the house itself, located on a street that includes beautifully maintained homes from the same period as this Georgian—and some teardowns. “This couple value the history of the house and consider themselves stewards,” Coleman says. “So we brought a sense of history to the remodeling that was done and to the interior design.”

Living room Design team Bill Brockschmidt and Courtney Coleman brought together an enviable array of antiques, emphasizing George III pieces—the chandelier, giltwood mirror, and oval-back armchairs—but also including the rich tones of a 19th-century japanned chair. **Entry** The dark, lustrous finish of English Regency pieces contrasts the light tones that dominate the staircase while mimicking its gorgeous curves. **Preceding pages** Custom-colored paper from Adelphi Paper Hangings wraps the walls of the reception hall.





HUMBLE MATERIALS DIAL DOWN THE FORMALITY FOR A PRETTY COUNTRY HOUSE LOOK.” —designer Courtney Coleman

The home’s classic grace is evident from the entry, where an existing curved staircase sets a sculptural backdrop for the pairing of a mahogany table and leather Regency chair. “Because of the architecture, the room didn’t need anything else other than a pretty carpet,” Coleman says. It introduces just a hint of the color scheme to come.

“They love faded turquoise,” the designer says. “That’s where we started in creating a soft palette.”

From the entry, shades of blue blossom in the reception hall, an arresting octagon that opens to the home’s other public rooms. “It’s a rather large space, so we brought it in a bit visually by covering all the walls in a pretty neoclassical urn-motif wallpaper that we recolored in soft blue,” Coleman says.

Blue reappears on sofa and chair upholstery and on lamps in the living room. “We wanted to keep it light and airy and

Dining room Leather-upholstered Empire dining chairs encircle a custom table by Philip Colleck. They’re thoughtfully juxtaposed by a Hollywood Regency chandelier and unpretentious continental china cabinet. **Kitchen** Bursts of pink on upholstery fabric and the antique rug pump unexpected color into the white kitchen. A bird-motif wallcovering layers in even more youthful energy.

make the most of beautiful views to the sunroom and garden terrace,” Coleman says.

A long sofa—great for guests and for napping, Brockschmidt says—moors a gracious grouping of furniture, including armchairs and ottomans that easily can be moved around as guests and conversation fill the room.

“I love high-style furniture like the George III painted armchairs and the lacquered table contrasting with the straw rug and cotton curtains,” Coleman says. “Humble materials in a traditional setting dial down the formality for a pretty country house look.”

Spilling from the living room into the sunroom, the palette continues its thread of blue as it welcomes green hues that echo lush foliage outside. Bricks painted a dark sea-glass green replaced a carpeted floor. “I thought the room would be more interesting if it looked like a porch that had been enclosed,” Coleman says. Furniture, including rattan pieces, and plants were chosen to accentuate the “porchy” vibe.

Generous spans of windows and glass doors presented another challenge. “The windows are so wide—I wanted an



Sunroom A Rose Tarlow drapery fabric welcomes garden blooms into the sunroom, where a wicker coffee table and plenty of green plants reinforce the outdoor vibe. **Library** A velvet sofa and caned chair offer prime spots to relax with a good book and pretty views. **Designers** Courtney Coleman and Bill Brockschmidt.





Garden terrace Lounge chairs from Munder Skiles with cushions in a Perennials fabric are among the seating options that invite family and friends outside for a relaxed afternoon in the dappled sunlight.



TRADITIONAL STYLE IS KIND OF AVANT-GARDE FOR PEOPLE THEIR AGE. —designer Courtney Coleman

old-fashioned fabric like chintz,” Coleman says. Valances cleverly carry the fabric across the room.

In the dining space, cotton moves to the walls, in the form of a glazed chintz stripe. A hand-loomed rug unfurls beneath a Regency-style table, painted chairs, and their counterpoint—a 1950s chandelier. A 1920s-style breakfront cabinet touches again on the relaxed notion of a country house.

Serving the dining room is a kitchen given a new family-friendly layout by architect Keith Kroeger. A prep island invites guests to step up and help the cook, who has everything at hand in a galley-style work zone. Overstuffed armchairs and a hooked rug infuse happy color—and comfy curl-up spots for the kids and the dog—while a Bennison wallpaper brings a smile to mom’s face.

“She loves bird motifs,” Coleman says. “She had paintings with birds, and we used bird accessories and fabrics through-

out the house. She asked, ‘Is this too many birds?’ I laughed and said, ‘You’re asking the wrong person—I’m an addict, too.’”

Like the living room, the master bedroom projects a light and airy feel. A small-scale taupe-on-white wallpaper provides a bit of texture but isn’t overpowering. Bennison fabric on armchairs by the original fireplace adds soft, pretty color.

Next door in the master bath, architect Kroeger simplified what was an ornate space filled with pink marble. “He gave us an art gallerylike background,” Brockschmidt says. “An antique hall chair and carpet made the space come alive.”

“It was fun to work in this very traditional style,” Coleman says. “It’s such a truly American design style—and it makes for a really pretty house.”

It’s a calm haven within the edginess of modern life, a place of respite for an active family. “Traditional style is kind of avant-garde for people their age,” Coleman says. “They’re making a statement by not making a statement.” ■

Master bath A George III mahogany chair and French wicker basket balance the airy white expanse of the master bath. **Master bedroom** French Empire sconces continue the ebullient attitude of the original fireplace. Upholstered pieces supply softness and color.

Interior designers: Bill Brockschmidt and Courtney Coleman

Architect: Keith Kroeger

For more information, see sources on page 91