

# home

as seen in  
**WESTPORT**  
weston&wilton  
magazine



**before**



## DINING ROOM

The dining room before had light, but the window treatment had to go. Designer Prudence Bailey also ushered in a bright-white palette and fresh lighting above the round table.

## pop to it

THE BEAUTIFUL COLORS OF A **PRUDENCE BAILEY DESIGN**

BY DIANE SEMBROT • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JULIA DAGS

**F**or very good and sound reasons, we've become a nation of homebodies. It's just the way it is for now. That's why it makes sense to create a nurturing environment at home. Look around. Does your space make you feel safe and joyful? Does it work for the many demands to today's living? Is it soothing on your overtaxed nerves?

Westport magazine caught up with Prudence Bailey, founder and principal designer of Prudence Home + Design ([prudencehomeanddesign.com](http://prudencehomeanddesign.com)), a full-service interior design firm based in Darien, though her clients are found throughout New England, and her list includes celebrity actors and bloggers in Fairfield County. She is busy infusing area homes with clean, elegant, livable

style through top-to-bottom home renovations or just focused room makeovers. That means she works with clients, for example, to review architect's plans and create room renderings as well as select a color palette and custom millwork, among plenty of other details that are needed for a beautiful transformation.

Here's what we asked her about a particular area project she completed. The owners's daughter found the design firm. They were ready and prepared to make a change, so the daughter took charge and ran with the idea; she brought in the pros.

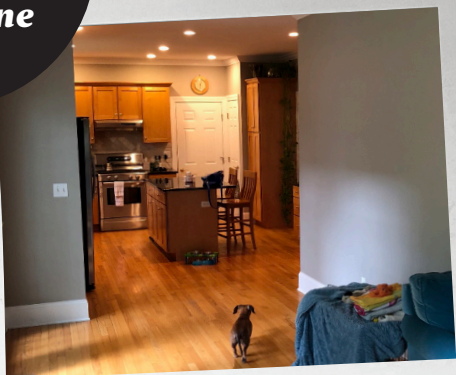
If we missed a question you have, you might check out her "Dear Prudence" series on social media—her design team addresses her followers's specific design dilemmas.

### Was this project a complete renovation?

"For the most part, we completely renovated each space, including a full kitchen and powder room renovation."

### What were some of your initial impressions of the home?

"I wanted to make sure when taking on this project that they were open to making the changes needed to give them the spaces they wanted. Sometimes as designers, we are constrained by furniture the client feels they need to keep, even though they are wrong for the space. It's our job to tell them they will never achieve the rooms they want with their existing furniture. This project was fun



**before**



## KITCHEN

The kitchen called for a big commitment, but the dramatic payoff speaks for itself—fresh and livable.

because they truly understood that, even though it meant spending more money. For instance, they had just purchased a large sectional for the family room that was ill fitting, and we told them it wasn't going to work in the new plan."

### What were some of the other big changes?

"It seems like every room was a major change. The before-and-after images for this project are dramatic. The kitchen is definitely the most dramatic. It's funny because a kitchen renovation was not part of the original scope of

work. They asked my opinion on what to do, as they were thinking of just painting the cabinets white. Sometimes it's hard to have that honest conversation, because it's not like I want to come in and tell them to wipe the slate clean and start over, but many times that's the only way to deliver what they want. The kitchen was one where if they wanted to change it, painting the cabinets was not going to get them their dream kitchen. There is so much trust in the relationship between a designer and their clients and that is never lost on us."

### You're not afraid of bold colors. How do you make it work?

"It's all in how you balance them. We try to not go too far in any one direction. For instance, if we are doing dark sofas, then we will have lighter chairs or patterned ones usually. It's all a balance between light and dark."

### What's the thought process about white walls versus wallpaper in this project?

"The homeowner is an artist and creates the most beautiful silk paintings in the traditional Japanese style. The dragon in the dining

room is her work for which we had a custom Lucite stand off frame created. We knew we wanted to highlight the art in her home so we chose white walls. The only wallpaper in the project is on the dining room ceiling, and it is a gorgeous white with gold threads by Elitis. The elements in this home seem simple, but they can be quite complex up close."

### With this project, what's the magic of layering colors, patterns and textures?

"We love to mix patterns! It takes time to find the right mix since it's





## LIVING ROOM

The living room features not only color but also pattern play that feels cohesive yet always interesting:



before

like a puzzle. Change one piece and it may all have to change. We always consider the tones of color in each fabric as well as the pattern and the scale. For this project, I knew Schumacher's Pyne Hollyhock fabric was one of the players, and we worked the scheme until we landed on the right balance. We think it came out beautifully but, most important, our client loves it!"

### What was custom-made?

"There are a number of custom-made elements in this project. The dining table is custom made by Dunes and Duchess, the breakfast

nook between kitchen and family room, the family room built-ins and all the kitchen cabinetry."

### Do you have a favorite moment?

"I absolutely love the built-in breakfast nook. They needed a dining area near their family room, but the space was not intuitive to give to them. I spent a lot of time in the space and that helped me sort it out. It came out so beautifully!"

### How involved were these clients?

"My clients were involved in the early days of our collaboration in defining the color schemes

they wanted, but very hands off for the most part and really let us run with it. They were very open to our suggestions and loved the problem solving we had for the breakfast nook."

### How does this project reflect your style and mission?

"We are known for fresh and colorful interiors and this project is very fresh! We work hard to pull out our clients' individual design style, in a very curated and elevated way, so their home feels like them. We want them to enjoy their home long after our work together is finished."

## FLASH ROUND

5 questions on interior design

1

**Favorite color now:**  
"Green"



2

**Good design means:**  
"A relaxed mind."

3

**Style icon:**  
"Mary McDonald"



4

**Improve any room in an instant:**  
"Add Mother Nature—flowers and greens, such as branches from your backyard."

5

**Favorite place in Westport:**  
"Terrain"

