DESIGN +DECOR

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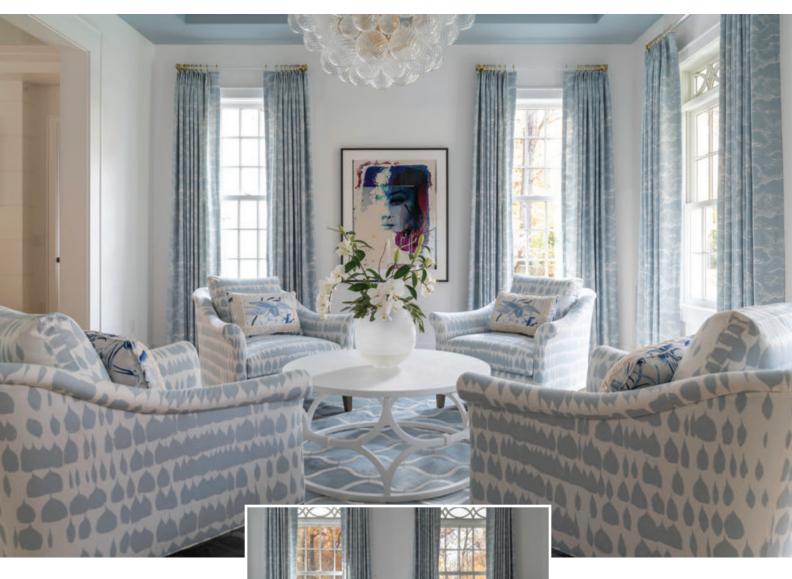


lients seek out Prudence Bailey of Prudence Home and Design LLC for her liberal use of color and pattern that bring homes to life. "Sometimes my rooms can have up to six to eight patterns," says Prudence. "I'm known for having a strong skill in that area, and I think it's really fun. It's like a puzzle. Sometimes it's like finding a needle in a haystack to uncover those patterns that work together, and it's rarely within one family of fabrics."

A couple relocating from California discovered her work on Instagram and contacted her to transform the all-white interior of their new home in Darien, CT. It was only natural that Prudence would ensconce the spaces with floor-to-ceiling soothing colors and intricate patterns.

While this Colonial-style home is ultra-traditional on the outside, the interior featured some modern-leaning elements that didn't suit the new owners, and had to be blended with more traditional elements. When she took on the project, Prudence knew the homeowners were under a time constraint and therefore took a fresh approach to her process. The couple didn't bring many furnishings with them from California, and had three children under the age of six, including a newborn. They needed to





get settled quickly. So instead of going through a whole-home design process with a complete discovery phase, Prudence reviewed images of the family's previous home, inquired about design style and color preferences, and then hit the ground running.

Before diving into color and pattern, Prudence wanted the foyer to be a somewhat neutral space punctuated by a sensational chandelier by Julie Neill Designs. "She has a beautiful point of view on lighting," she says. "I hung her long-tiered Vaccaro light in the entry, which is an absolute showstopper." A cream-colored chest with a traditional silhouette from Century Furniture and a wovencoral-framed mirror create a welcoming vignette. An antelopeprint runner goes all the way to the third floor.

For the family room, Prudence chose performance fabrics that would withstand the children-and their dog-while still looking beautiful and sophisticated in a palette of serene colors. She selected a curved sectional in soft aqua and blue hues. "I thought it would provide them the seating they needed, but in a more elevated style for a family room than a traditional sectional," she says. She

also wanted pattern, so Prudence specified a rug with a monochromatic geometric design and a custom upholstered ottoman with a small-scale print from Highland House Furniture. "The chairs from Century Furniture have a white performance fabric in the front," she says. "And I love that Anna

Spiro fabric on the back, which really speaks to the mood of that room." She repeated both the ottoman and chair printed fabrics on the sofa pillows.

To give the room a final touch of elegance, Prudence specified high-gloss paint in pale green for the ceiling. "I chose pale green because the house is in a very bucolic setting of Darien, and it has beautiful French doors that bring the outside in," she says. "I wanted the feeling of the reflection of the outside plus the color of the sofa coming up to the ceiling."

Prudence loves the subtle sophistication that the high gloss brings, so she carried it into the adjacent sitting room on the twostep molding in a tranquil sky blue, which is repeated throughout the room. The ceiling is covered in a striking Lotus Garden by





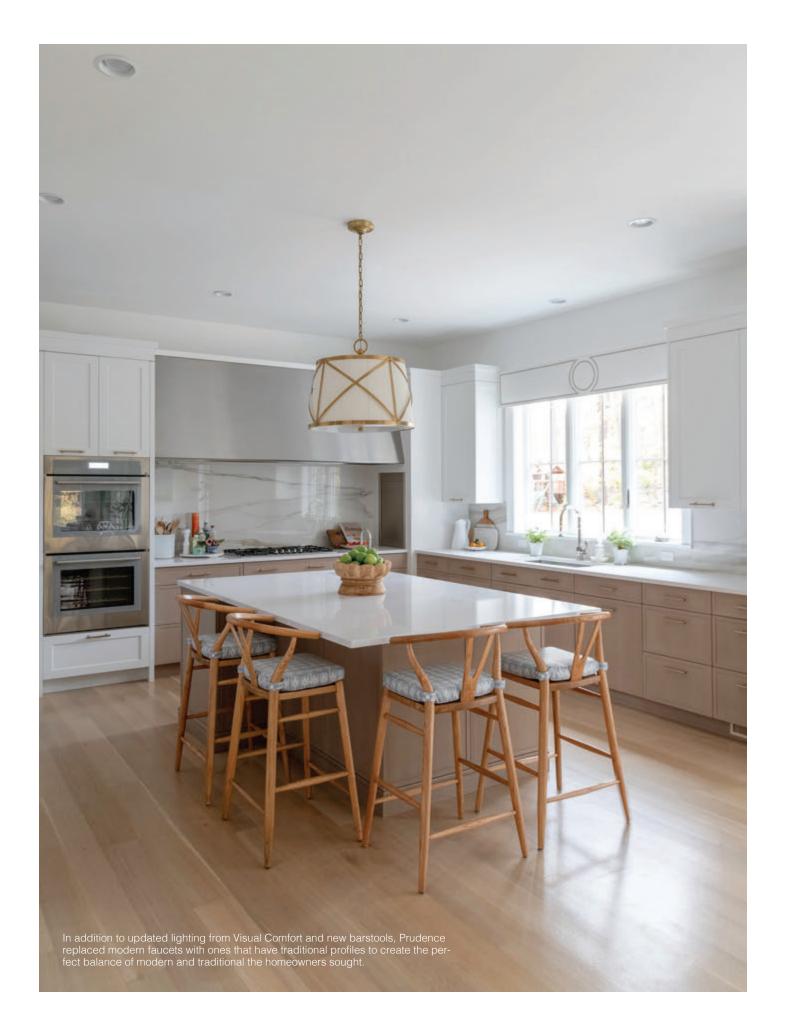


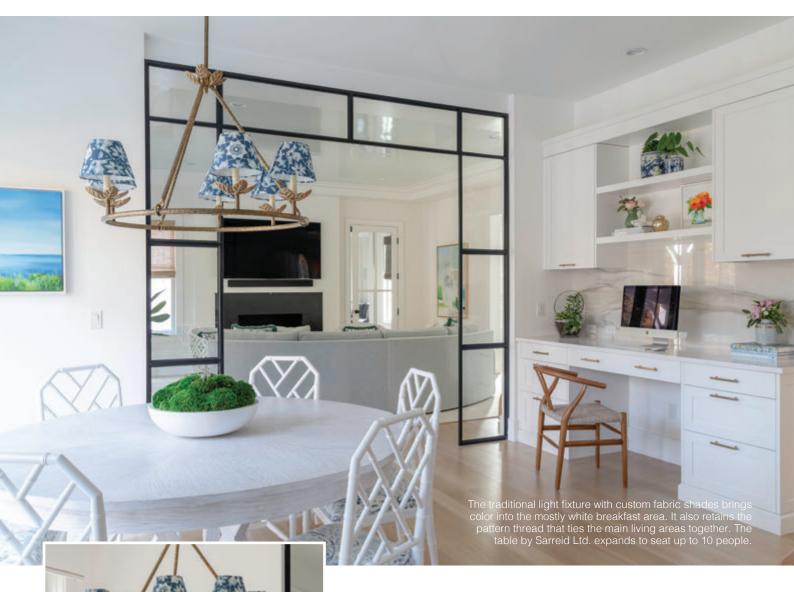


Schumacher floral print wallpaper, with birds in a blue colorway on white. The draperies are blue with a white chinoiserie print, while the chairs and rug have slightly modern geometric patterns. "There's such a nice balance," says Prudence. "I did that by using the draperies with a blue background and then the opposite in the chairs, where white is the background. The rug—even though it's got the white weaving through it—still has that strong grounding blue, playing with light and dark."

One modern touch the wife did not love about the home was the light fixtures. This room didn't have a chandelier initially, but Prudence added one from Julie Neill Designs for its dramatic effect. "I love the bubbles, the lightness and the swirled glass," she says. "I thought it was fun and different—not too serious. I wanted this room to have a formality because you can see it when you come in the front door, and also make you want to go in and look at these interesting and fun things."

Across the hall, the dining room follows the same dark and light balance, but reversed. In this room, the walls are covered in print wallpaper, while the window coverings are solid sheers. The ceiling features the same two-step molding, this time in a coffered pattern, and the insets are covered in a blue-gray metallic wallpaper color, derived from the print wallpaper. Here again, Prudence pulls the outdoors in. "You want to go in there and stare at the wallpaper itself because up close, it has so many unexpected little





things—like a dark gray bird sitting on a branch—that you can't see when you're looking at it in totality," she says. "There are little hidden things in it, and it's just so special."

The table and antique sideboard are the featured elements in the room. To ensure they held the most attention, Prudence selected clear Lucite chairs from Worlds Away, and a light-colored custom hide rug with metallic silver woven through it. A bronze and crystal vintage-style chandelier from Visual Comfort completes the room.

Prudence knew the breakfast area would be the family's everyday dining space, so she chose a small round table that expands like a flower to seat up to 10 people. Cane-look chairs in a herringbone pattern keep the area light and airy. A bronze chandelier from Vaughan Designs with custom Martin Lawrence fabric shades is a perfect delicate touch. In the kitchen, Prudence added Wegner-style barstools and replaced a modern chandelier with a style that better aligned with the wife's wish for a more traditional feel. She designed custom cornices with nail-head detailing for the kitchen and breakfast area windows. "It's traditional with the modern—an unexpected element there to have cornices, but it really changed the room," she says. "It softened it and made it feel cozier and homier because it's quite a big space. It speaks to the wife's overall aesthetic."







The husband's office is a slight departure from the nature-inspired, soft color palette of the rest of the home, but it keeps up the traditional feel with modern touches. Prudence played up the high ceilings by painting them black to create an endless sense. Schumacher's Deconstructed Stripe wallpaper adds a subtle geometric vibe, while patterned and solid leather pillows punctuate the custom navy sectional by Charles Stewart Company. Although the room serves several functions, including a workspace, television room and a place for the husband to have cocktails with friends, Prudence kept the furniture to a minimum because he likes to pace while talking on the phone. She did add a small bar cart and builtin bookshelves for storage. The desk by Arteriors is a sleek profile with rich brown wood and a black lacquered top.

The wife disliked everything about the powder room and wanted to tear it all out, but the husband suggested they keep the concrete sink since it was brand new. So Prudence launched her design from the sink, selecting a gray and white Hydrangea Drape wallpaper by Schumacher, and swapping a flat mirror for a white framed mirror with cane styling. She replaced a sleek, modern faucet with a traditional style, aligning the space with







the rest of the home's aesthetic.

Wallpaper played an essential role in taking this once-white, blank canvas and turning it into a fresh yet serene family home. But paint played a significant role as well. "It can be hard for people to visualize how painting it correctly can make such an impact on a space. It can take on a totally different light," Prudence says. "It's amazing what paint can do—it has a real power to it, and it can be life-changing."

Resources:

Interior Design Prudence Bailey Prudence Home and Design LLC 76 Elm Street, Suite 204 New Canaan, CT 06840 203.859.9499 prudencehomes.com

Builder/Contractor PW Painting and Carpentry 493 Berkshire Road Southbury, CT 06488 203.550.2544