

Heritage Restored

Antiquity meets practicality in a timeless British revival.

Architecture & Interior Design SV Design | Builder Payne Bouchier
Photography Casey Photography | Writer Callie Vuona



In a quaint Charlestown neighborhood well-known for its historic significance and colonial roots, a single-family townhouse was restored with timeless British charm. “We’ve had the pleasure of working with this family on several projects over the years, so when these homeowners needed support with both architecture and interior design, we were thrilled to step in,” says Katy Finkenzeller, Associate Architect at SV Design. Both Finkenzeller and Kristin Landreth, Senior Project Manager & Interior Designer at SV Design, expressed their deep admiration for homes with historic bones and distinctive character, noting that there is something truly invigorating about bringing new life into an older space.

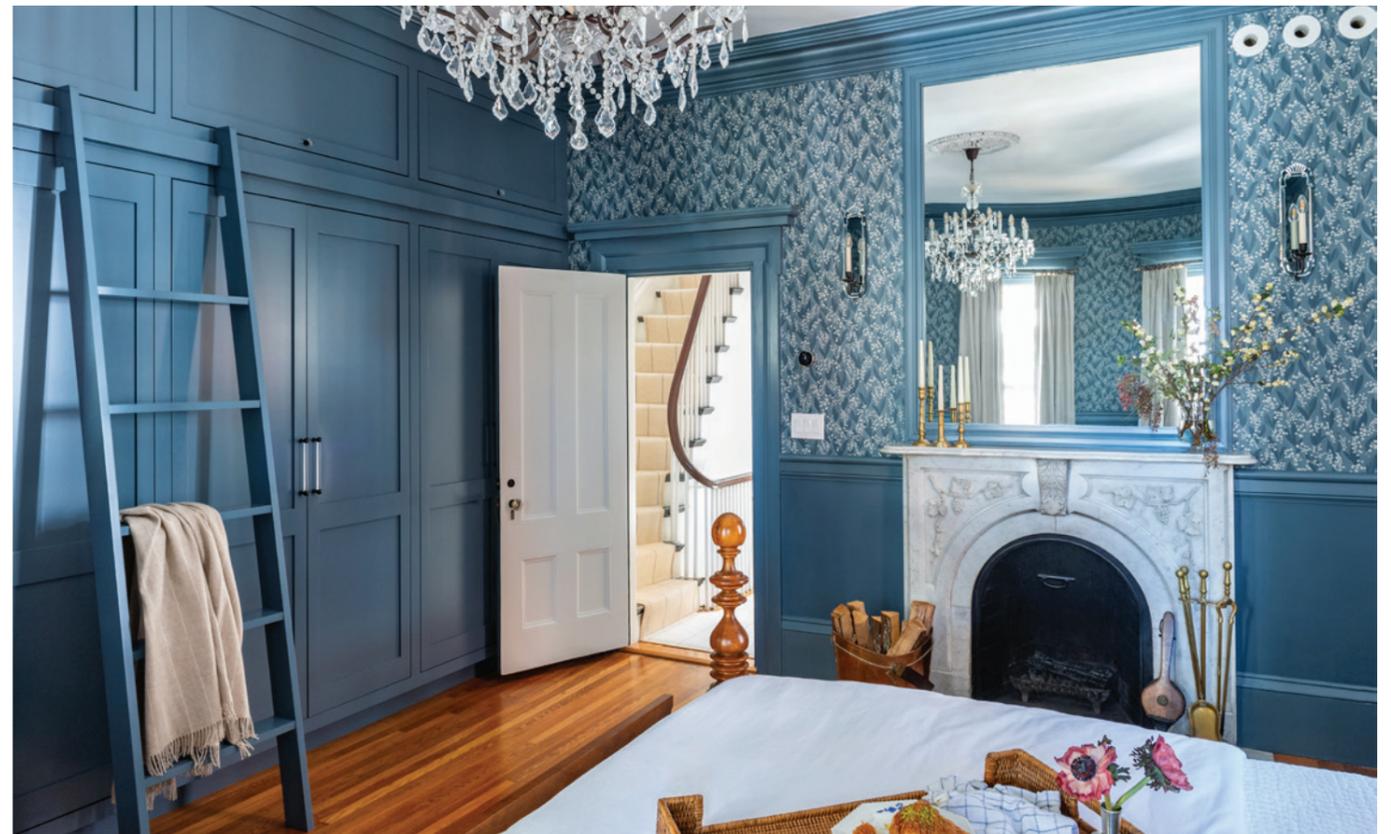
“Preserving the original charm of the home was a top priority for both the client and our team,” Landreth explained—pointing out pre-existing millwork and interior doors as some of the most telling signs of the home’s rich character.

The bow front property was formerly renovated using a monochromatic palette, but when the current owners purchased the home, they envisioned a space that spoke to the historic soul of Charlestown, while also incorporating a lively touch of Cotswold England. “The clients’ young and creative energy brought a sense of openness and playfulness to the project that was truly refreshing,” says Landreth. “They weren’t afraid to take risks, whether it was with bold wallpaper or unexpected color choices.”

Elements such as the herringbone brick flooring in the downstairs mudroom and unlacquered brass handles on kitchen cabinetry aid in preserving the antiquity of the home. The mudroom is also adorned with Alken Wildfowlers wallpaper by Lewis & Wood—a complement to the playful persimmon wallpaper in the upstairs rear entry. In the master bedroom, an existing chandelier dangles over the heart of the bed, while plaster crown-molding lines the trim with a decorative elegance. “Striking the balance between antique character and modern livability was central to our approach,” Landreth shared. “The result is a home that nods to the past but feels completely relevant for how the client lives today—warm, collected, and quietly sophisticated.”

Arguably, one of the most interesting architectural elements within the home is the Witches’ Stair—a unique alternating tread mechanism that replaces the former, narrow third-floor staircase. “The challenge was to find a comfortable and safe way to travel from the third floor to the roof without moving the roof access hatch or any of the existing walls,” Finkenzeller says. Prior to installation, contractor Payne Bouchier assisted with building a physical prototype of the system. The final product is a safe and sturdy passageway to a private world above Charlestown’s bustling epicenter.

“It is joked that designers often step in as ‘therapists’ during a project—while this is not really the case, we do observe our clients’ behaviors and emotions in a psychological way in an





A Witches' Stair offers a safe and sturdy passageway to a private rooftop escape.



effort to design for them specifically," Finkenzeller notes. In the kitchen, the client's background as a chef and food stylist are thoughtfully infused into all aspects of the layout and design. An original Viking Stove, along with the client's own vintage table were incorporated. A former banquette was also removed to allow for additional cabinet space, ultimately maximizing storage and adding to the overall functionality of the area. The space now overflows with culinary influence, yet retains its modernity with updated lighting and a subtle color palette.

In the clients' current phase of life as new parents, the design team also ensured that ample planning occurred in order to prepare the home for its newest addition. Concerns such as

where the baby would be bathed and whether or not the tub reached a comfortable depth were raised. "The architect digs this deep on all design elements to create a thoughtful and client driven design that serves them now and for years to come," Finkenzeller reveals. A process this intricate seeks to identify and meet client needs on a far more intimate level.

While SV Design as a whole boasts a rather diverse portfolio, Landreth and Finkenzeller are part of the single-family residential team—working solely on private homes. "Residential design allows us to craft spaces that reflect the unique rhythms, values, and stories of the people who live there," says Landreth. "That's what makes this work so meaningful to us." 🏠