

Form *and*



Function

WHAT BEGAN AS A PRACTICAL LAYOUT RECONFIGURATION CONCLUDED AS A COMPLETE REIMAGINING OF AN 1880s HOME ON THE NORTH SHORE.

BY MADELINE BILIS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL J. LEE



LEFT
Views of the ocean can be glimpsed from almost every room, but nowhere are they more panoramic than the living room, where new windows frame the glossy blue expanse beyond them.

MUCH LIKE THE TIDES, GOALS CAN CHANGE—SOMETIMES DRASTICALLY. When the owners of this North Shore summer home tapped SV Design to make a few updates, they'd hoped the team could remedy the results of several haphazard additions over the years. The seaside home's existing entryway lacked flow from outdoors to in, and a small walled parking area was causing more headaches than it was worth.

So architect Tobin Shulman developed a plan to alter the footprint of the six-bedroom house. A new entryway and garage added ease of use, while small stylistic updates on the exterior ensured the renovations mirrored the spirit of the original house. "The initial idea was really about making it a little more functional,"

Shulman says. "And then it became, 'Boy, this house is really amazing, and it deserves to be renovated to the level that it ought to be.'" A new objective presented itself: Have the interiors of the home reflect the beauty of its 1881 exterior. Step through the cheery new sage-green door off the front porch, and it's clear that the goal has been realized. There, the entry foyer is clad in 57 different panels of custom wallpaper, all with mosaic-like patterns. "Each of those panels was designed separately and to fit the space exactly proportioned, whether it's directly over the windows or the way the panels flank the doors," explains Kathleen O'Connor, associate principal at SV Design.

RIGHT
With such a bold entryway and dining room, "you need some space that's going to be quieter, but bring everything together," O'Connor says. The family chose softer colors for the kitchen, where they spend a great deal of time.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

This space above the garage is part of the home's new addition. Clad in custom wallpaper, it serves as a hangout for the kids, stocking books, games, and puzzles.

"A red dining room would have been period appropriate to the house," Shulman explains. "Doing the high-gloss lacquer on the trim and using the grasscloth is a little more contemporary."

When choosing custom wallpaper panels for the foyer, the homeowners wanted a "wow factor" upon entering the house.

Every panel incorporates shades of blue, green, red, and white, establishing the color palette experienced in the rest of the house. "There's kind of a continuous story that the color is telling you and taking you through the home," Shulman adds.

Deep reds are introduced in the dining room off the foyer, where a ruby-lacquered trim and coffered ceiling are contrasted with a jute grasscloth wallcovering. More grasscloth continues in the living room, which has even more lacquered trim, this time in Farrow & Ball's "Stiffkey Blue." Shulman and his team installed all-new windows that wrap around a corner, as well as a set of French doors to maximize views of the ocean just beyond them.

The previous windows "felt a little cold and period inappropriate for the home," Shulman says. "So part of it was bringing in

that view, keeping that look, and increasing the amount of glass—while at the same time making it feel more like what would have been there when the house was originally built."

Throughout the home, varying shades of blue echo the hues glimpsed through those windows. In the kitchen, a much softer light blue recalls morning light. This cooler palette extends to every surrounding element, including the tile inset behind the stove, the window treatments, the nearby sitting room, and the wet bar.

Nods to the ocean go beyond blue paint, however. The powder room mimics the feel of a ship's quarters, with warm wood-paneled ceilings and a custom antique-style vanity from Massachusetts Woodworks. Crustaceans and shellfish



wallpaper by Pierre Frey injects playfulness, albeit subtly. “It doesn’t jump out at you as ‘Oh my gosh, there are lobsters on the wall,’” O’Connor says. “Because it really plays into the overall pattern of the wallpaper.”

This understated whimsy is the name of the game here, from the owners’ collected antiques and nautical oil paintings to their propensity for playful light fixtures. In the spacious lounge area and playroom above the new garage, they opted for a custom toile wallcovering. It features scenes and landmarks, all inspired by images on some local T-shirts they loved.

While the more than a century-old house—and the addition—balances a tailored and sophisticated impression, it’s these fanciful touches that preserve the lightness of a summer home. “There are a lot of just fun design elements that keep it less formal and a little bit more playful,” O’Connor says.

ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER SV DESIGN
BUILDER PAYNE BOUCHIER

FROM LEFT

Warm wood wainscoting and a wood-paneled ceiling contribute to the feel of a ship’s quarters in the powder room.

The home office displays a gleaming collection of light fixtures, from the library lights over the bookcase and the sconces in the nook to the main pendant from Urban Electric.

The desk in this pale-pink kid’s room overlooks yet another generous view of the sea.