

Architect John Battle transformed this house from a classic center-entrance colonial into Shingle style, retaining the nicest qualities of the original house while updating it for modern living.



FAMILY PLANNING

The fashion versus function debate takes on a whole new meaning in this Wellesley, Massachusetts, house, where the parents' sense of style coexists with a kid-friendly sensibility. TEXT BY ERIN MARVIN • PHOTOGRAPHY BY SAM GRAY • INTERIOR DESIGN: JENNIFER PALUMBO • ARCHITECTURE: JOHN BATTLE • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: GREGORY LOMBARDI • BUILDER: KISTLER AND KNAPP BUILDERS • PRODUCED BY KYLE HOEPNER



The backyard is family friendly with an outdoor kitchen and fire pit, a pergola with a swing and plenty of room for the kids to run around. Facing page top: A lovely white gate separates the backyard from the front. Facing page bottom: The dining table was one of the few pieces the family brought to the new house.

How do you fit a mom, a dad, four kids, two Warhols and a dog—with plenty of room for relatives, friends and a burgeoning art collection—all under one roof? You plan accordingly.

The family that lives here—four active kids and two parents with an eye for art—were previously living in a too-small house when they decided to find something that offered more elbow room for their growing brood.

A 1950s center-entrance colonial in Wellesley, Massachusetts, had most of what they were looking for... but not everything. For one thing, the kitchen hadn't been updated since the house was built (it was organized as if run by a staff instead of a family), and the two-car garage couldn't actually fit two cars. The homeowners also wanted a new family room and a place to house visiting in-laws. And they wanted it all done with *style*.

After moving in and making do for a few years, the couple called on Boston-based architect John Battle to help them make this not-so-perfect house into the perfect home for their family. Battle had worked with the pair previously and was sensitive to their tastes as well as their needs. As they began discussing changes to the look, feel and flow of the house's interior, a new exterior began to emerge in Battle's sketches. "John said, 'I'm reluctant to show you this, but I can picture something completely different,'" recalls the homeowner. "He pulled out this picture and we said, 'That's it, that's our house!' Everything flowed from there."

The house's colonial facade underwent a Shingle-style facelift. Inside, extensive renovations included a new family room, kitchen, back stair and library. The old garage was replaced with one of modern proportions and a master suite was added upstairs. An in-law apartment on the side of the house now allows for close proximity coupled with a certain level of autonomy for visiting grandparents.

The focus here is on modern, informal living; there are places where adults and kids are comfortable together, and quieter, more formal rooms in the house that are slightly more removed from high-traffic areas. "The homeowner has a strong disposition toward family being the center of gravity for everything, and the architecture followed that," explains Battle.

The yard, woody and pretty but unus-





Earth tones drive the color palette throughout the house except in the living room, which is lighter and airier with sage greens and soft blues. "The house is very large but it doesn't feel too large," says interior designer Jennifer Palumbo. "You walk in and get a sense of warmth and coziness."



Hand-forged iron and leather-stitched lamps, a leather ottoman and tweed sofa fabric bring a modern western look to the family room. Facing page top: In the kitchen, a round dining table designed by Palumbo sits in a nook of floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the backyard. Facing page bottom: A gold-colored matchstick-tile backsplash contrasts nicely with the white cabinetry.



able, was transformed by landscape architect Gregory Lombardi of Cambridge, Massachusetts. The parents wanted a yard they could use as a family, where the kids had room to run around without worry of knocking down formal gardens. They also wanted privacy from

Durability was a driving factor in many of the design decisions, along with comfort, softness and warmth.

their neighbors and a pretty view from inside the house. Lombardi gave the house a public front, a formal entrance with a loop drive and a perennial border that greets guests upon arrival. In the back of the house, lots

of flexible space—with nothing the kids can't run through—includes a large play lawn, an outdoor kitchen with a fire pit and terrace, and a pergola with a swing. Screen plantings of evergreens and deciduous trees around the perimeter offer the family privacy.

Newton, Massachusetts-based interior designer Jennifer Palumbo brought a more transitional aesthetic to the interiors of the architecturally traditional house. Durability was a driving factor in many of the design decisions, along with comfort, softness and warmth.

Design wise, the house is more textural than colorful; fabrics throughout include leather, ultra-suede, woven tweed, silk, cashmere, velvet, cotton knit and fur, which complement the simple, warm palette of earthy tones. The family heads west during summer vacations, and

their love for that area adds a slightly rugged, western influence to their Wellesley house.

In the family room, a full-size, hand-carved saddle that the kids (and adults) have all taken a turn on rests in a corner by the sofa. A small seating area with two comfortable chairs and a leather table topped with a chess set—a favorite game of the boys—sits in front of a fireplace that opens from the family room into the kitchen.

On the kitchen side, a limestone hearth faces a kitchen island bordered by amber leather barstools, where the mom often sits for hours at night helping her kids with their homework. A gold-colored matchstick-tile backsplash and a series of three rust-colored pendant lamps contrast nicely with the white cabinetry. Nestled in a nook of floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook the back-



Battle designed the wooden surround for the master suite's limestone fireplace; French doors lead to a balcony that overlooks the backyard. *Facing page:* Mahogany cabinetry, marble counters and floors and onyx mosaic tile around the tub give the master bath a spa-like feel.

yard sits a small round table where the family shares most of their meals.

When relatives or friends visit, there's plenty of space at the dining room table, which can seat up to sixteen. The

In the master bedroom, barrel chairs play a role in the nighttime ritual of reading a story before bedtime.

table was actually one of the few pieces the homeowners brought from their old house. Window treatments are an espresso silk with Greek key trim along the bottom that mimics the trim on the chairs. A hide runner stitched

with leather and horn candlesticks bedeck the tabletop. The overall warm, inviting effect invites lingering at the table long after dinner.

The biggest departure from the home's earthy decor occurs in the living room, where the ambience is just a bit more formal. "We worked with a sage green and a soft blue and brought in some taupey browns to keep it lighter," explains Palumbo. Window treatments are sheer, backed and cuffed with silk; a hanging capiz shell lighting fixture helps keeps the feel of the room updated and modern. The fireplace is original to the house.

Upstairs, the mood in the master bedroom is calm and relaxing. Across from the sleeping nook, two barrel chairs in front of the fireplace play a critical role in the night-

time ritual of reading a story before bedtime. Little feet sink into the silk shag rug and cashmere and velvet throw pillows invite snuggling.

The homeowners selected the birch painting that hangs above fireplace, part of a growing art collection that includes two Warhol paintings and one by Jim Dine. However, their favorite piece is a contemporary portrait of their kids that hangs at the end of a long gallery hall.

"A lot of our spaces are kid friendly, but in a way that looks good as well," says the wife. "My husband and I would always laugh about 'function over fashion,' but I feel like I got both." •

Resources For more information about this home, see page 194.

Resources

A guide to the products and professionals in this issue's featured homes



FAMILY PLANNING PAGES 94-103

Architect: John Battle, Battle Associates Architects, Boston, (617) 367-5975, www.battlearchitects.com

Interior designer: Jennifer Palumbo, Jennifer Palumbo Interior Design, Newton, Mass., (617) 332-1009, www.jenniferpalumbo.com

Landscape architect: Gregory Lombardi, Gregory Lombardi Design, Cambridge, Mass., (617) 492-2808, www.lombardidesign.com

Builder: Kistler & Knapp Builders, Acton, Mass., (978) 635-9700, www.kistlerandknapp.com

Specialty wallcoverings: Greg Booth, GJB Pro Wallcovering, Arlington, Mass., (617) 473-0204, gjbprowall@msn.com

Plumbing fixtures: Billie Brenner Ltd., Boston Design Center, (617) 348-2858, www.billiebrennerltd.com

Custom millwork: Chilmark Architectural Woodworking, Worcester, Mass., (508) 856-9200, www.chilmarkwoodworking.com

Tile and stone: Tile Showcase, Boston Design Center, (617) 426-6515, www.tileshowcase.com

Page 97: Beacon Hill dining chairs from Robert Allen Beacon Hill, Boston Design Center, (617) 482-6600, www.robertallendesign.com, in fabric from Majilite, (978) 441-6800, www.majilite.com; lighting by Thomas Pheasant for Baker Knapp & Tubbs, Boston Design Center, (617) 439-4876, www.bakerfurniture.com; buffet from Hickory Chair Company, Hickory, N.C., www.hickorychair.com.

Pages 98-99: Coffee table from The M-Geough Company, Boston Design Center, (617) 451-1412, www.m-geough.com; wall sconces from Vaughan Lighting, New York City, (212) 319-7070, www.vaughandesigns.com; X-Bench from Plantation, Los Angeles, Calif., (323) 930-5674, www.plantationdesign.com, in fabric from Lee Jofa, Boston Design Center, (617) 428-0370, www.leejofa.com; chandelier from Oly Studio, New York City, (212) 219-8969, www.olystudio.com; four chairs around coffee table from Montauk Sofa Company, New York City, (212) 274-1552, www.montauksofa.com, in Great Plains fabric from Holly Hunt, New York City, (212) 755-6555, www.hollyhunt.com; pillow fabric from Osborne & Little, Boston Design Center, (617) 737-2927, www.osborneandlittle.com; brown side chair from ICON Group, Boston Design Center, (617) 428-0655, in fabric from Calvin Fabrics, Boston Design Center, (617) 737-0691, www.calvinfabrics.com; side tables from Oly Studio; draperies from Larsen, www.larsenfabrics.com.

Page 100: Bar stools from The Bright Group, Boston Design Center, (617) 345-8017, www.thebrightgroup.com, in fabric from Calvin Fabrics; hanging pendant lamps from Union Street Glass, Richmond, Calif., (888) 451-7752, www.unionstreetglass.com; kitchen table and chairs custom designed by Jennifer Palumbo Interior Design; chandelier from Studio Steel, New Preston,

Conn., (860) 868-7305, www.studiosteel.com.

Page 101: Sectional custom designed by Jennifer Palumbo Interior Design in fabric from Kravet, Boston Design Center, (617) 338-4615, www.kravet.com; ottoman custom designed by Jennifer Palumbo Interior Design in Hunt Leather fabric from Holly Hunt; lamps from Objet Insolite, www.objetinsolite.com; leather-wrapped side table from ICON Group; draperies from Bart Halpern, New York City, (212) 414-2727, www.barthalpern.com.

Page 102: Roman shade fabric from Osborne & Little; faucets from Dornbracht USA, Duluth, Ga., (800) 774-1181, www.dornbracht.com.

Page 103: Chairs custom designed by Jennifer Palumbo Interior Design in fabric from Kravet; art from Jules Place, Boston, (617) 542-0644, www.julesplace.com; chest from Baker Knapp & Tubbs; garden stools from ICON Group; Carini Lang rug from Steven King, Boston Design Center, (617) 426-3302, www.stevenkinginc.com.



MODERN MATCH PAGES 106-115

Architects: Aileen C. Graf and Michael Graf, Graf Architects, Newburyport, Mass., (978) 499-9442, www.grafarch.com

Landscape architect: Terrence Parker, TerraFirma Landscape Architects, Portsmouth, N.H., (603) 430-8388, www.terrafirmalandarch.com

Contractor: Dan Willet, Wood Wrights, Kensington, N.H., (866) 514-0032, www.woodwrightsincorporated.com

Cabinetry: Andrew Colby, South Berwick, Maine, (603) 205-5425

Wall treatments and concrete work: Tom Schulz, Ennis Art, Charlotte, N.C., (617) 359-7158, www.ennisart.net

Stair/railings (interior and exterior): Viking Welding, Kensington, N.H., (603) 394-7887, www.vikingwelding.com

Page 111: Sconces by Arclight, Nashua, N.H., (603) 882-6052, www.arclightdesign.com; Charles Sectional sofa by B&B Italia from Montage, Boston, (617) 451-9400, www.montageweb.com.

Page 122: Plumbing fixtures by Boffi Soho, New York City, (212) 431-8282, www.boffisofo.com; sinks by Agape through Moss, New York City, (212) 204-7100, www.mossonline.com.



MAJOR DETAILS PAGES 118-125

Architectural designer: John Kelsey, Wilson Kelsey Design, Salem, Mass., (978) 741-4234, www.wilsonkelseydesign.com

Interior designer: Sally Wilson, Wilson Kelsey Design

Landscape architect: David Hayes, Beverly, Mass., (978) 921-1232

Builder: S. Magnuson & Associates, Manchester, Mass., (978) 526-4322

Pages 118-119: Rug from Landry & Arcari, Salem, Mass., (800) 649-5909, www.lahdryandarcari.com; chairs at fireplace from Quatrain, Dania Beach, Fla., (954) 929-8880, www.quatrain.net, in fabric from Old World Weavers through Stark, Boston Design Center, (617) 449-5506, www.starkfabric.com; armchair from Lewis Mittman through the Martin Group, Boston Design Center, (617) 951-2526, www.martingroupinc.com, in Kravet Couture fabric, Boston Design Center, (617) 338-4615, www.kravet.com; coffee table by Dennis & Leen through Webster & Co., Boston Design Center, (617) 266-4121, www.webstercompany.com; antique bronze statue from Alexander Westerhoff Antiques, Essex, Mass., (978) 768-3830, www.westerhoffantiques.com; gilt and silver candlestick from G. Evans Ltd., Lambertville, N.J., (609) 397-4411, www.gevanstdantiques.com; wall brackets by Friedman Brothers at The M-Geough Company, Boston Design Center, (617) 451-1412, www.m-geough.com; ceramic birds from Dennis & Leen through Webster & Co.; chandelier from PPM & Associates, Dania Beach, Fla., (954) 342-8004, www.ppmcollections.com; sconces from Christopher Norman, New York City, (212) 644-5301, www.christophornormancollection.com; Vaughan lamp through Webster & Co. with shade from Blanche P. Field, Boston Design Center, (617) 423-0715, www.blanchefield.com; Dapha Rebecca sofa from Baker, Boston Design Center, (617) 439-4876, www.bakerfurniture.com; pillows fabricated by Miles River Sewing, Danvers, Mass., (978) 750-4923, www.milesriversewing.com; slipper chair by Barbara Barry through Baker; fireplace mantel from Tartaruga Design, Ontario, Canada, (416) 762-0418, www.tartarugadesign.com; ceiling and crown moldings from Decorators Supply Corp., Chicago, Ill., (773) 847-6300, www.decoratorsupply.com.

Pages 120-121: China cabinets designed by John Kelsey, fabricated by S. Magnuson and Associates; decorative onlay and shell in china cabinet from Decorators Supply; ceiling and crown moldings from Decorators Supply; rug from Landry & Arcari; dining table from Baker; chandelier from PPM and Associates; dining chairs by Minton Spidell, bought at auction, refinished by Fantastic Finishes, Peabody, Mass., (978) 532-3364; draperies fabricated by Carole Bruce Workroom, Beverly, Mass., (978) 927-2198.

Pages 122-123: Patio furniture by Summer Classics, Montevallo, Ala., (205) 987-3100, www.summerclassics.com; umbrella cover by Carole Bruce Workroom.

Page 124: Cabinets and millwork designed by John Kelsey, fabricated by S. Magnuson & Associates; custom mosaic tile from Tile Showcase, Watertown, Mass., (617) 926-1100, www.tileshowcase.com; marble counter and tub deck from GerrityStone, Woburn, Mass., (781) 938-1820, www.gerritystone.com; lantern by McLean Lighting through The M-Geough Company; Friedman mirror from The M-Geough Company; kitchen nook chandelier from Mirabelle Antiques, Newport, R.I., (401) 841-9669; Sterling Collection table from The M-Geough Company; Minton Spidell chairs