

# TEAM EFFORT

Interior designer Nancy Burfiend and Stuart Silk Architects plan a fast-track remodel for a growing family

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THE BOLD 3-FOOT-WIDE BRONZE SCULPTURE IN THE BAY WINDOW WAS DESIGNED BY A FAMILY FRIEND AND GRABS GUESTS' ATTENTION AS SOON AS THEY WALK THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR. **opposite:** "THINGS CAN BE DIFFERENT AND STILL LOOK GOOD TOGETHER," THE WIFE SAYS OF HER DESIRE FOR AN ECLECTIC LOOK. TO ACHIEVE THIS, INTERIOR DESIGNER NANCY BURFIEND PAIRED A LEATHER SOFA AND MODERN WINGBACK CHAIRS WITH A TRADITIONAL AREA RUG.



IN

October 2007, interior designer Nancy Burfiend got a call from two past clients. The couple had just purchased a 1913 home on Queen Anne Hill and needed help with the remodel. "You have to see this house," they told her. Burfiend, who was concerned about her busy schedule, reluctantly agreed to take a look. As soon as she saw it, Burfiend knew she couldn't pass up this project.

From the outside, it's easy to see why Burfiend fell in love with the home. The stately Georgian Revival-style house overlooking Parsons Gardens has a stunning symmetrical façade and great bones, but it needed interior updating to better fit the lifestyle of a growing young family. "It was a bigger, older home—lots of small rooms, no closets, a staircase for servants. We just don't live like that now," says the wife, who was expecting the couple's second child during the remodel.

The choppy floor plan wasn't the only problem. The previous owners had painted the walls stark white with primary-color accents for a museumlike feel—great for showcasing art, but not so great for busy family life.

The homeowners asked Burfiend for a warmer look that combines their traditional and modern tastes into a youthful yet sophisticated eclectic style. "I wanted to create a comfortable, inviting environment—to have something that the whole family can enjoy, spill things, what have you," Burfiend says. "We didn't want to have any rooms that were off-limits for kids," the wife agrees.

With principal architects Stuart Silk and Michael Troyer and contractors from Roberts Wygal also on board, the design team planned a fast-track remodel so the homeowners could move in and get settled before the birth of their daughter.



Most of the project involved redefining spaces on the main and upper levels. Silk and Troyer removed a service staircase and tore down a wall, fireplace and all, between the kitchen and the formal dining room to create an open area that is now the hub of family life. The former dining area was rededicated as a family room adjacent to the kitchen, and now the homeowners can cook while enjoying sunlight and garden views through south-facing windows. An elegant new dining room next to the kitchen features a zero-clearance fireplace and unique wine racks; it is perfect for both large holiday meals and casual pizza dinners.

A wall separates the kitchen and family room from a formal living and sitting area. Pocket doors can slide shut when the homeowners want to entertain while the kids watch TV in the room next door. Upstairs, Silk and Troyer expanded the master suite into a neighboring

bedroom to open up enough space for a walk-in dressing area and a spa-like bathroom.

Although they were reworking the interiors, the design team was careful to respect the traditional elements of the original home. The architects matched the existing hardwood floors and crown moldings and designed French doors to fit the style of the home's existing windows and doors. "It takes a real quiet, soft hand to work on these houses and be sensitive to protect the heritage but accommodate modern elements that families require today," Silk says.

Throughout the newly defined spaces, Burfiend created the eclectic look that the homeowners desired. In the study, a white lacquer desk, high-shine casework and a traditional fireplace mantel—salvaged from the wall that was removed between the old dining room and kitchen—

ARCHITECTS STUART SILK AND MICHAEL TROYER DESIGNED THE DINING ROOM'S UNIQUE WINE RACKS, WHICH THE HUSBAND REQUESTED AFTER SEEING A SIMILAR IDEA IN A MAGAZINE.

**opposite:** THE KITCHEN IS THE HUB OF FAMILY LIFE, WITH VIEWS OUT TO THE LUSH LANDSCAPE AND PLENTY OF LIGHT FROM SOUTH-FACING WINDOWS IN THE ADJACENT FAMILY ROOM.





left to right: THE MASTER SUITE IS GLAMOROUS WITH SOME TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS. SILK AND TROYER INSTALLED A HANGING MIRROR IN THE EAST-FACING WINDOW TO PREVENT HAVING TO MAKE EXTERIOR CHANGES IN THE MASTER SUITE. A SUNLIT HALLWAY CONNECTS THE BEDROOM TO ITS WALK-IN DRESSING AREA AND BATH. BURFIEND DESIGNED AN UPHOLSTERED HEADBOARD FOR A DRAMATIC TOUCH.



mingle for a look that's both edgy and chic. In the kitchen, an elegant Donghia chandelier adds a traditional touch to the otherwise contemporary room. The formal living room and a sitting area next to dramatic bay windows are refined yet cozy, with a leather sofa and upholstered chairs from the homeowners' previous home, two new chartreuse armchairs and a statement-making geometric sculpture. In the second-floor master bath, a Murano glass chandelier and contemporary egg-shaped tub—selected because it is shallow enough in which to bathe a baby—strike the right balance between traditional glam and modern minimalism.

Burfiend heeded the homeowners' requests for child-friendly furnishings and finishes throughout. Honed Calcutta marble, which easily stains, was nixed in favor of polished CaesarStone quartz on the kitchen counters. (The marble did find its way into less high-traffic areas such as the powder room, however.) Silk fabrics and sharply angled furniture were out, so

Burfiend searched for pieces with rounded corners and dirt-resistant materials that are practical but still gorgeous.

"Amazingly, I didn't feel like we had to make a lot of compromises," the wife says about designing with their children in mind and working within such a tight time frame. "The reason is probably that we had worked with Nancy before, and we really trusted her decisions."

The feeling is mutual. Burfiend lauds the designers' teamwork, and architects Silk and Troyer describe the owners as perfect clients who make quick decisions. Eight months after the start of the project, the homeowners and their 2-year-old son were settled into their new home. And their daughter arrived two months later, right on schedule. ■

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For resource information, see Sources, page 78.