



White shiplap adds a cozy aesthetic to the home, while splashes of metallic finishes evoke luxury.

design envy

A mom of three teenagers craved a crisp, clean and stylish home where everyone could gather.

By Antonia DePace //
Photographed by Jared Kuzia







The Project

A once stodgy, gambrel Colonial located in North Andover was given a complete face-lift by Jenn Sanborn of Sacris Design (sacrisdesign.com), including a jaw-dropping kitchen that seamlessly has a place for everything.

The Clients

The returning client was looking for a home that would be beautiful yet still family oriented for her three children. “She’s a divorced mom of three teenagers, and I worked with them a number of years ago on a project that involved their lower level,” explains Sanborn of the client, who’s also a nurse in Boston.

The Goals

“The main part of the house was almost like it was stuck in time,” Sanborn says of the home.

Originally starting upstairs with the teenagers’ bedrooms, both the client and designer added the first level to their to-do list. “She loves to cook, and she just bemoaned the fact that she had this tiny galley kitchen that just didn’t feel right,” Sanborn adds, noting there was a huge emphasis on creating spaces where family could gather, as well as creating an open floor plan.

Details, Details

A bit of reconstruction was required to create the client’s dream home, during which Sanborn moved the kitchen into the original dining room space and dining room into the formal living room. Smart layouts were especially needed for the kitchen, where wide windows looked out onto the beautiful woods area around the home. “The design that we came up with enabled us to have those beautiful windows above the cooktop,



Sanborn painted the fireplace in Rockport Gray from Benjamin Moore, tying in the neutral colors. Opposite page: Essentials For Living counter stools upholstered in Schumacher fabric complement the kitchen, which also features a Jaipur Living wool runner and Wolf, Bosch and Sub-Zero appliances.

which just totally transformed the feeling of the space,” Sanborn explains. Other elements include a mixture of warm neutral and white cabinetry, as well as a stunning leathered Via Lactea granite island from Montes Marble & Granite (montesmarble.com). “She really wanted the kitchen to sing as far as the functionality of it,” the designer adds, noting the appliances, which are fully integrated into the cabinetry for a clean and crisp aesthetic. A bifold door eliminates what would have been a harsh corner—it now serves as a space to keep smaller appliances accessible, all while making them disappear from sight for a clean countertop. Also in this area sits a coffee station, complete with a Miele (mieleusa.com) coffee system and wine fridge. From here, follow the horizontal shiplap throughout the first floor, into spaces like the dining room, which continues a neutral color palette with metallic accents. It’s in this room that the lactea granite used in the kitchen appears again, this time as the fireplace. Heading into the family room, high ceilings immediately transform the space, which is otherwise dotted with the owner’s leather sectional, a Woodbridge Furniture (woodbridgefurniture.com) console table and lamps from Visual Comfort (visualcomfort.com). “That room was not new construction, but it just got a big face-lift,” Sanborn says. Also in this area, a powder room serves as the perfect touch-up space thanks to a custom Striato Bianco marble (from Montes Marble & Granite) and a string wallcovering by Thibaut (thibautdesign.com). Gazing through the project, another standout moment comes in the client’s office, which is plastered in a Phillip Jeffries (phillipjeffries.com) grasscloth wallcovering resembling lotus flowers. “We started this project in the beginning of COVID... and she an intensive care COVID nurse in Boston. Throughout the whole pandemic, she was working right in the middle of it all caring for COVID patients,” Sanborn explains. “It was really wonderful to be able to create this space to come home to and to love because she was working so hard.” Other feminine touches come to play through curvilinear frosted glass pendants and sconces, as well as a comfy upholstered chair and ottoman by Wesley Hall (wesleyhall.com). A brass rail connects to a camouflaged sliding door, hiding office storage from the rest of the world.

“

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—JENN SANBORN



A string wallcovering from Thibaut adds texture behind the striato bianco marble vanity stone. Opposite page: A little nook in the foyer makes leaving and returning home a breeze thanks to a Currey & Co. bench.

The Outcome

Although the family lived in the home during the renovation, watching the transformation never took away from their reaction to the final result. “I think that’s the most rewarding part of this... when you are able to transform a space into something that you know the clients will just absolutely love,” Sanborn explains. “It is remarkable when people walk into it; they really kind of gasp sometimes. For a designer, there’s nothing more rewarding than having that kind of response.” ■