

Purple accents play a vital role in the décor throughout the house.

Global PURSUITS

In this classic home outside of Boston,

A BOSTON-AREA CLASSIC IS UPDATED WITH A MODERN EUROPEAN SENSIBILITY.

By **Diana Turowski**

Photography by **Michael J. Lee Photography**

a small-scale restyling of a family room grew into a full house renovation. Designer Jennifer Palumbo says that as the process began the homeowners, "became engaged in changing the style of their living environment to more closely reflect their style." Traditional architecture gave way to clean lines and bold colors, giving this home its modern feel. Jennifer created a "fresh, crisp, and updated interior that feels global and transitional." The homeowner's European roots, experiences and taste are captured in the chic design. "[I] categorize the style of this house as transitional," Jennifer says. "It is founded in the classic but streamlined and tailored to the level of feeling stylish and current."

The juxtaposition of neutral and bold colors keeps the house classic and upscale while adding gravitas and interest. "The color strategy was calm and neutral with pops of bold color and pattern," Jennifer says, adding, "The client has an affinity for various hues of purple." Bold colors and patterns were "vital to the interest" of the home and used "to inject energy and whimsy into each space." In the master bedroom, the stainless steel legs of the armless leather chair convey coolness while the hammered brass table beside it tempers the effect, supplying warmth.

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"[P]EOPLE SHOULD LIVE WITH THE THINGS THEY LOVE, WHETHER IT BE A TEXTILE, FURNISHINGS, CARPETING OR ART."

A geometric pattern in the wallpaper gives the room a modern vibe against traditional architecture.



In the living room, the architecture of the fireplace, windows and moldings maintained the classic feel of the home's origins, while the modern art, clean lines of the furniture and neutral tones provided an updated twist. Simple flowers in the center of the room are the only pop of bright color. This room is a perfect place for both elegant entertaining and casual family gatherings.

The focal point in the master bedroom is the bed frame upholstered in luxurious Duralee velvet fabric, which gives the modern room a cozy feel. Heavy curtains in a neutral tone add softness to the large-scale room. For a more dramatic look, the curtains were hung at the ceiling not right above the window. Patterns are kept subtle and do not overwhelm the space. The nightstands are made of beveled glass with an antiqued mirror finish. The antique

gold door pulls tie in with the hammered bases of the brass lamps that will patinate over time. "We're seeing the beauty of brass again," Jennifer says. "Here, it feels natural and a little organic because it's unpolished. It adds style in a global way."

Sleek modern finishes, fixtures and hardware give the kitchen and bathrooms a contemporary and clean feel. In the bathroom, the colors are kept neutral and serene to create a luxurious spa-like vibe.

Function and form are critically important for Jennifer. "I firmly believe as a designer that all spaces should be inviting and lived-in," she says. "Nothing should be off limits to the family that resides there. I also feel that people should live with things that they love, whether it be a textile, furnishings, carpeting or art."



ABOVE | The modern art and pops of color create interesting focal points. The neutral background colors keep the room from feeling too busy.

RIGHT | Placing colorful accessories on white lacquered furniture creates a cheerful yet clean space, as the end table and shelving in this home illustrate.



"I FIRMLY BELIEVE
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A bench made of reclaimed
wood provides an authentic
mix of old and new.



Shades of purple and brown
offer a feeling of warmth.



Reframing art in Lucite is a great way to give a favorite piece a more-modern look.



DESIGN 101

JENNIFER PALUMBO SHARES TIPS ON CRAFTING A STYLISH, MODERN HOME.

- **SHINE A SPOTLIGHT.** "It is essential to create strong focal points in each space with either color, pattern or form," Jennifer says. "It's important that when a person enters a space they know exactly where their attention should be first, then second and then third. This hierarchy of focus creates a sense of calm and purpose. It's fresh and not chaotic. This is very much the foundation of a more modern aesthetic."
- **UPDATE EXISTING PIECES.** "Already in the homeowner's collection, the bird prints had traditional gold frames." Jennifer reframed them in Lucite to suit the new aesthetic. "We totally turned them on their toes," she says. "You can appreciate the colors of the birds so much more."
- **STAY SIMPLE IN BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS.** "Keep it calm, work with a great mix of materials and textures that are timeless, create a strong focal point," Jennifer says.

Fresh white trim and neutral walls keep the entryway looking light and airy.



Keeping a kitchen uncluttered is critical for a sleek, modern look. The focus is on the design elements and unique accents.

"THE COLOR STRATEGY WAS CALM AND NEUTRAL WITH POPS OF BOLD COLOR AND PATTERN."



ABOVE | Storage is key in a bathroom. Ample drawers provide enough space to keep the counters clean.

ABOVE RIGHT | A dramatic headboard and warm shades of purple make this bedroom feel inviting and cozy.



Just because a space is beautiful, doesn't mean it can't function well for daily life and, likewise, even if you have a large family and pets, you can still live in a stylish space surrounded by things you love. "Not only does this family reside here, they have a dog the size of a small horse that happily resides here too," Jennifer says. "Nothing is too precious. Life is to be enjoyed, homes are to be lived in, pets and all."

See Sources, page 128.



ABOVE | A casually draped throw is a softer and more stylish look than a neatly folded one.

ABOVE RIGHT | Lucite furniture is an excellent choice to keep a small space from looking too cramped.

For more on **Jennifer**, visit jenniferpalumbo.com.

