WELL Agea

AN ICONIC BOSTON BROWNSTONE DEFIES ITS VINTAGE STRUCTURE TO ACHIEVE A MODERN LOOK.

By Sarah Reidy-Ferguson
Photography by Debby Krim, dkrim.com
Design by Catherine & McClure Interiors

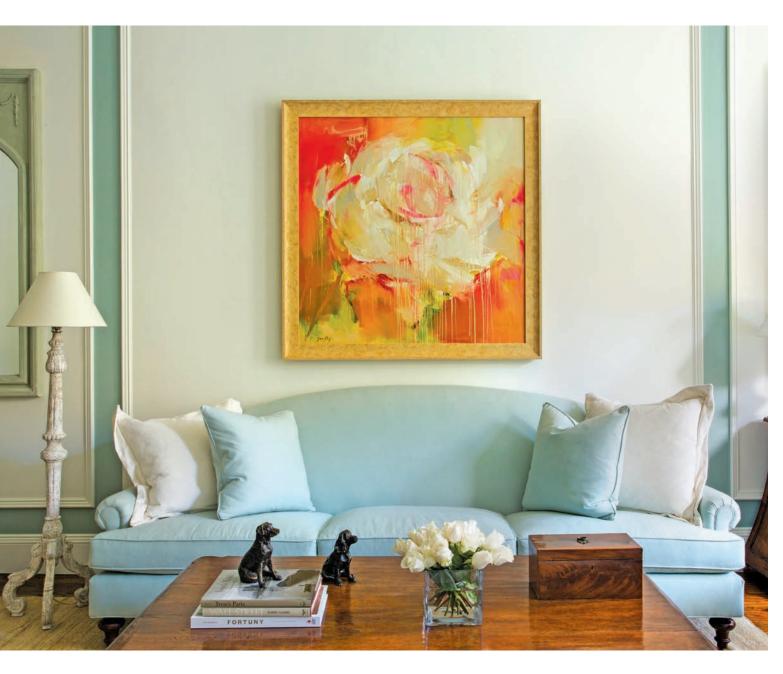
estled along the leafy-lined

streets of Boston's Back Bay neighborhood stands an original 1872 brownstone. The interiors of this classic red brick and stone charmer are underscored by alluring qualities that span the style spectrum from refined elegance to livable sophistication. The team responsible for achieving this seemingly effortless design balance is Catherine Skaletsky and Danielle McClure, motherand-daughter founders of the Boston-based firm Catherine & McClure Interiors.

The pair viewed this creative endeavor as a dream project, offering 12-foot ceilings and ornate moldings, and, they note specifically, no plaster dust involved. Catherine and Danielle have known the homeowners for over a decade and had the pleasure of working on their previous residences. "She gave us carte blanche trusting that the results would be spectacular," Catherine says of one of the homeowners.



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For the living room's furnishings, the designers included anchor pieces—a generously sized dark wood coffee table and an Italian chest topped with limestone lamps—accented by a plush sofa with soft curves and a deep seat.

From the onset, Catherine and Danielle took into account that period homes tend to be dark. This focused their choices on crafting the design scheme best described by the pair as "reflecting a light and airy ambiance, perhaps with a hint of California." The designers developed a contrasting color palette inspired by tones lifted from selected fabrics that ultimately dictated all other favored design components. "Blue walls, sandy-colored carpet and accents like an oyster-hued throw are some of the lively colors used to create a subtle West Coast vibe," Danielle says. "Regardless of the weather, the space gleams and white-painted woodwork adds to this aura.'

Catherine and Danielle credit New England's cooler temperatures as influencing the selection of decorative elements that echo a cozy and welcoming appeal. Soft-to-the-touch fabrics, plush carpet and inviting deep-seated furnishings play integral parts within each room.

An architectural wrinkle that the designers needed to address was the home's lack of a formal dining room. The homeowners entertain frequently and a defined dining space was essential. Reworking the living room floorplan was the obvious answer. "We masterfully created a dining area at the end of the living room in front of the bay window flanked by custom banquettes,"

the designers say. The homeowners have found this seating arrangement suitable for both business and social gatherings.

In structuring the living room's design at the opposite end of the space, the designers sourced anchor pieces, including a generously sized dark wood coffee table and an antique Italian chest topped with limestone lamps. The living room's fireplace was designed with a mantel surround salvaged from a historic Boston mansion, and is matched in decorative impact to the sofa positioned against the opposite wall. Cleverly placing furniture and highlighting existing architectural details further emphasize Catherine and Danielle's skilled

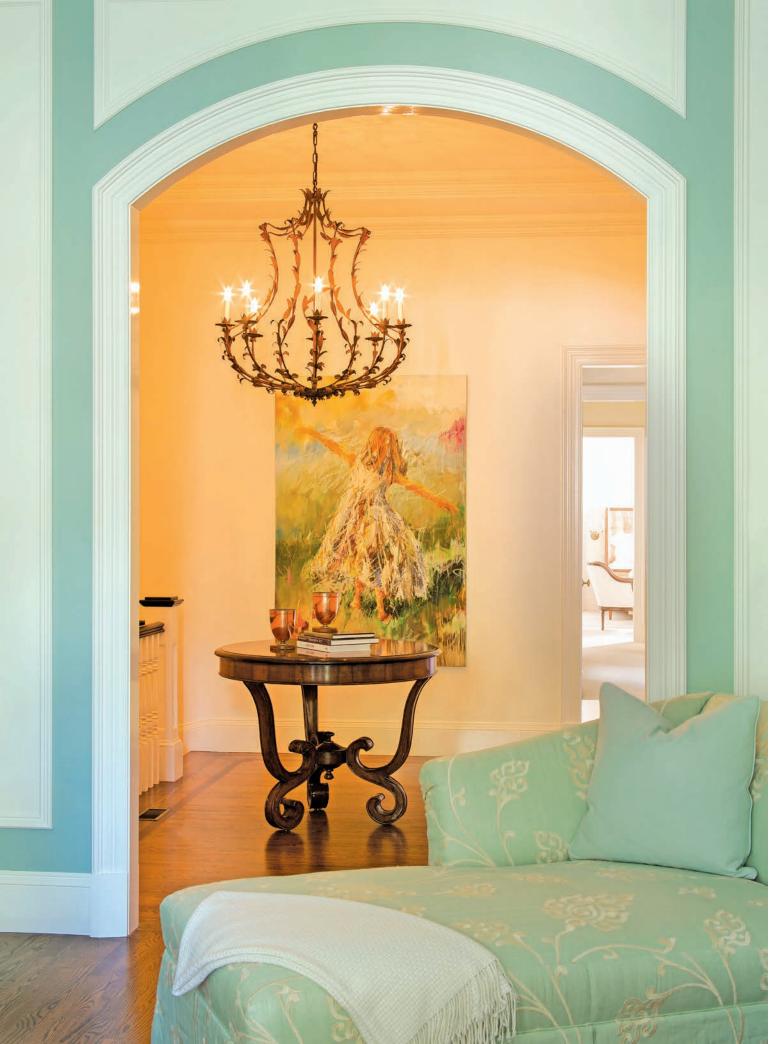
approach to achieving the living/dining rooms' successful relationship between balance and proportion.

The pair extended the airy ambience design theme into the kitchen. It was decided that current cabinetry and appliances would remain, but pale marble would be preferred over the existing dark granite countertops. Next to the window Catherine and Danielle positioned a counter-height marble-topped table joined with a pair of white upholstered nailhead trim barstools, creating a setting that the homeowners enjoy regularly for casual meals.

Additionally, a creamy tone-on-tone tile backsplash that rises all the way to ceiling

mantel salvaged from a historic
Boston mansion. The over-scale
cabinet serves to balance the grand
height of the ceiling as well as
provide storage for cocktail and
entertaining needs.

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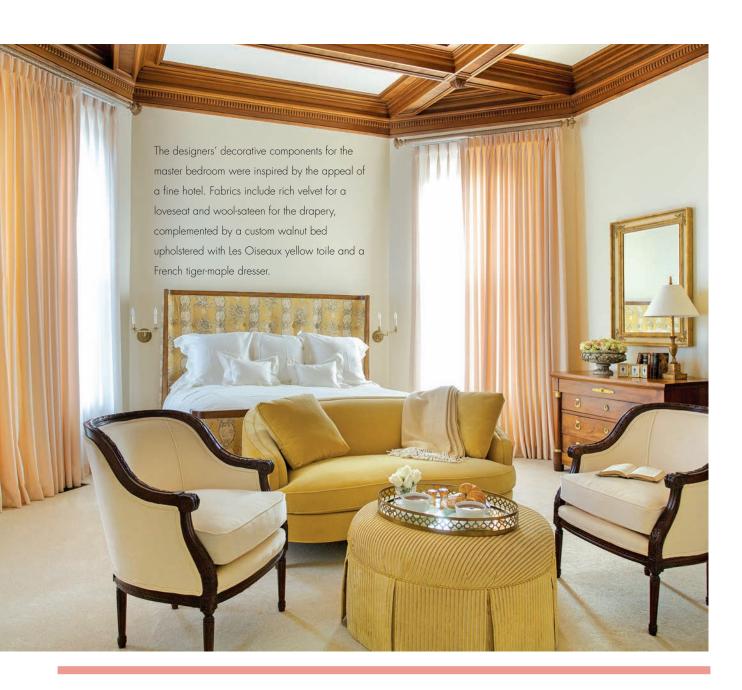
OPPOSITE | Beyond the lush chaise lounge topped with an oyster-hued throw, an ornate and eye-catching chandelier hangs above a classically shaped decorative table in the hall.

TOP | Due to the brownstone not having a formal dining room within the original floor plan, the designers cleverly created a dining space at the end of the living room. Custom-designed banquettes are positioned in front of the bay window on either side of the table.

was installed to draw attention to the lofty 12-foot height.

The completed interior design of this iconic brownstone is a true testament to Catherine and Danielle's singular viewpoint. As a design team, the pair acknowledge that they strive to create spaces that take root in identifying each client's unique tastes, to reveal the fullest expression of their preferences and personality. "We bring a style to that equation often referred to as 'transitional,' embracing a mix of modern and antique, and one-of-a-kind pieces that make a room something extraordinary," the designers say.

See Sources, page 128.



MODERN MIXING

FOLLOW THESE FOUR TIPS TO GIVE A CONTEMPORARY EDGE TO A CLASSIC HOME.

• PROVIDE CONTRAST TO A DARK ROOM BY selecting a light color palette applied to paint, fabrics and finishes.

• OLDER HOMES CAN REFLECT A FRESH APPEAL in redefining traditional floor

in redefining traditional floor plans. Place furniture to best represent the needs of your contemporary lifestyle. • HIGHLIGHT EXISTING ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS BY emphasizing

their details. Install tiles to meet the edge of a tall ceiling. Paint ornate moldings. Select overscale furnishings to balance the proportions of large rooms.

HITCOLS, IT décor and interpresent of-a-kind piece design scheme the development of the development of the proportions of large rooms.

• THOUGHTFULLY
LAYERING TREASURED

ANTIQUES, newly acquired décor and interesting one-of-a-kind pieces within a design scheme underscores the development of a room's singular style.



