



Respecting Tradition

While infusing the house with a fresh attitude, designers Don Easterling and Nina Long made sure the original beauty of the architecture remained intact. Floors throughout were unchanged, including the hardwoods, the brick in the bar area, and a lovely mosaic tile with Greek key detailing in the master bathroom. In the dining room and foyer, bold light fixtures draw the eye up to the intricate ceiling medallions. The living room, once a deep red, was reimagined with a lighter paint color to enhance its innate beauty. In lieu of the fussy window treatments of the past, streamlined panels, classic Roman shades, and even undressed windows in the family room allow light to pour in, making the windows focal points. The old-school paneling in the study was a must-keep for the homeowners. And while some fireplace mantels and surrounds received updates, they remain in keeping with the age of the home. “When given the chance to work on a house like this, Don and I firmly believe in taking cues from the original architecture,” says Nina. Adds Don, “It’s a joy to work on historic homes. You are stewards of the past, giving the intrinsic beauty a boost while still allowing it to tell a story.”

RIGHT: A Sherrill sectional and Pearson chairs create a cozy corner in the family room. The multi-tiered, beaded chandelier adds a dose of wow. **OPPOSITE:** The breakfast room’s ode to blue-and-white includes chairs and a table from Hickory Chair, an antique clock, a custom settee with a fringe trim, and a large-scale chandelier from the Ralph Lauren collection for Circa Lighting.



“It was certainly helpful that we had worked with these clients before, so we knew what they liked and how they wanted to live in the house.”

—DESIGNER NINA LONG

white too.” While Nina and Don decorated with many of the clients’ antiques throughout the house, they chose the reproduction table for its functionality. “Antique dining tables often don’t have the scale for large rooms or the durability needed for livability,” says Don. “Some antiques can be too fragile, and

we like things to work—no shaky legs and no drawers that don’t open properly.” The selection of the dining room chairs was debated among the pair. “I have always admired these chairs but was scared they were too over-the-top,” says Nina. “Don insisted on them, and I’m so happy with the result! They add a

fittingly glamorous note to the room.” The family room, bar, kitchen, and breakfast area showcase the enduring magic of blue-and-white with Chinese export porcelain, a jaunty navy leather-and-brass chandelier from Ralph Lauren, and white Chippendale-style dining chairs with striped cushions. A standout