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INTERVIEW WITH ELENA PHILLIPS, ELENA PHILLIPS INTERIORS | PHOTOGRAPHER JANE BEILES

Great Addition

A **SEAMLESS** extension and an **ELEGANT** aesthetic create a family's **FOREVER HOME**



This home is beautiful—what can you tell me about it? The house is an English country Tudor in Fairfield County, and I believe it was built in 1910. Previous owners had done some work on it, and the owners prior to my clients had renovated the kitchen, but nothing else had been revamped. On this project, we renovated, added onto or refreshed almost every space in the house.

left: The home's new addition offers a separate entrance through a small inner courtyard.
above: The addition (on the left) blends seamlessly with the original part of the century-old home (on the right).



above: The Urban Electric Co.'s polished nickel Altamont pendants hang above the island in the kitchen. The cabinetry is by Deane, Inc., and the window treatments by Classic Upholstery were crafted from an Amanda Nisbet fabric from Holland & Sherry. **opposite top:** In the eating area, Eames wire chairs from Design Within Reach are pulled up to a Dakota table from Julian Chichester. The Elias polished nickel chandelier is from Remains, and the curtains by Classic Upholstery are made in an Amanda Nisbet fabric from Holland & Sherry. **opposite bottom:** The family room fireplace is adorned with tiles from the Rookwood Pottery Company. On top of a hand-knotted area rug from J.D. Staron, the sofas and custom swivel chairs, all from The New Traditionalists, are gathered around a custom walnut two-level coffee table from Beam Custom.

The last stage was the third-floor renovation—what did that entail?

There was an existing office, conference room, screening room, guest bedroom and a really bad kitchen up there, and the whole floor was dark mahogany. We changed the entire floor and updated the office and conference room, turned the screening room into a family-friendly puzzle, game and TV room, and refreshed the guest bedroom. There are two bathrooms up there as well, and we redid the kitchen and workspace for the employees who work for the clients.

Did you work with a design team from the beginning? It was a collaborative project from day one. The clients are lovely and very hands-on, and the architect, contractor, landscape architect and I sat down every month in the dining room. It was a great project to work on in that regard.

With all of these changes, what design aesthetic was the driving force? The clients wanted their home to feel very elegant yet comfortable, and

there was some Art Deco inspiration from all of the antiques we purchased for the living and dining rooms. They really liked the feel of a sophisticated space where they could entertain. The house is grand—the ceilings are high, the rooms are gracious—but it's also welcoming, so we were playing up that idea with the mix of antiques with the upholstery and the warmth of the colors within the palette. Blue is my client's favorite color, so a vein of blue runs throughout the entire house, and we worked in other colors like pale green, soft cream and, in some instances, a little coral. In the dining room, for example, the chairs are deep, deep blue, but the walls are a soft green, and the grays and browns in the space provide a bit of richness. We added a little pattern in rugs and in the fabrics on pillows and chairs. We also worked extensively with a wonderful art consultant, so it was a collaborative effort with the art as well. The clients are drawn to landscapes and seascapes. The yellow painting in the living room is by Wolf Kahn, and that was balanced by contemporary photography on the other side. The palette of the rooms drove the art, but the clients also knew exactly what they wanted.



“There was no **DETAIL** left untended making this home **PERFECT** for them.”

—ELENA PHILLIPS

