

Grand Traditions, Enduring Appeal

AFTER A TOP-TO-BOTTOM RENOVATION, A
THE CUTTING EDGE WITH SERENE INTERIORS

SHINGLE STYLE HOUSE ON LONG ISLAND CELEBRATES THE CLASSIC AND
THAT PROVE THE IDEAL SETTING FOR EYE-CATCHING CONTEMPORARY ART.



INTERIOR DESIGN BY **DAVID KLEINBERG** ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN BY **KEVIN MURPHY**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **WILLIAM WALDRON** STYLED BY **OLGA NAIMAN** WRITTEN BY **KATHLEEN HACKETT**



WHEN DAVID KLEINBERG FIRST VISITED his clients' Shingle Style home on Long Island, New York, his initial task was to reconcile the description of the interior the couple told him they wanted with the room he was sitting in. "The place was decorated to the nines in Americana with a strong red, white, and blue palette," he recalls. "It was over the top." Anyone familiar with Kleinberg's work would understand his dilemma. "I like to think that my name comes to mind when someone wants a timeless, tranquil interior," he says.

A striking Roy Lichtenstein work and vases by ceramist Shio Kasuka are right at home amid the dining room's subdued, elegant palette. Custom chairs in a Jim Thompson fabric. Custom table. 1950s Italian chandelier. OPPOSITE: Custom sofa by Anthony Lawrence-Belfair in a Lee Jofa fabric. 1950s American lamps. 1970s Belgian cocktail table. Custom rug by Patterson Flynn Martin. OPENING PAGES: The front facade. Shingles stained in Cabot's Bleaching Oil.



ONCE DECORATED TO THE NINES IN RED, WHITE, AND BLUE, THE HOME IS NOW **timeless and tranquil.**
THE NEW LOOK IS VERY GROWN-UP WITHOUT BEING STODGY.



In the kitchen, crisp whites and gleaming metallics offset strong architectural details. Stools, Bernhardt Design. Refrigerator, Sub-Zero with custom stainless steel panels. Pot rack, Ann-Morris Antiques. Cabinets and island in Gray Owl, Benjamin Moore. Art, Elizabeth Peyton.



The hallway's original woodwork is the perfect foil for pieces from the homeowners' collection of contemporary art. 1940s French sideboard, Wooster Gallery. Custom sofa in a Donghia fabric. Custom rug by Patterson Flynn Martin. Sculpture, Sarah Braman. Framed photograph, Cindy Sherman. OPPOSITE: Custom armchair in a Pindler & Pindler fabric. Custom sofa in a Great Plains fabric. Art, Carroll Dunham.



"My rooms generally look very grown-up without being stodgy." And that happened to be what the financier husband and his wife, who have a nearly adult son and daughter, really wanted. "They did a 180-degree design turn," says Kleinberg.

"Blame it on art," says the wife, who credits the aesthetic about-face to her husband's almost-overnight obsession with collecting contemporary paintings, photographs, and works on paper. The self-taught art lover gets full marks for all of the pieces in the house; Kleinberg held no sway and confesses that he was pleasantly shocked and surprised by some of the choices. "Frankly, my taste isn't nearly as edgy," he says.

The wife, however, has taken her husband's new pursuit in stride. "We loved our house before. Everything was peachy. But the art couldn't live in it," she says. Indeed, every vertical surface was covered in patterns, antique American quilts, and murals—including one of none other than George Washington on horseback. When the first acquisition—a Kenneth Noland work that now hangs in the entry hall to the master bedroom—came through the door, it was clear that the color-field painting wasn't going to play well with *ye olde*. Despite the fact that it was the husband's mad passion



driving the change, he was the one who had reservations about shifting gears. “He asked David if he thought he could do better than what we were living in,” says the wife.

Kleinberg, of course, knew that he could create the perfect backdrop for such diverse contemporary artists as Carroll Dunham, Roy Lichtenstein, Elizabeth Peyton, and Mark Grotjahn. He chose a neutral ground punctuated by pale blues and greens, a palette in sync with the views of the water right outside the door. “Sometimes we gravitate to obvious color choices because they are the right choices,” says Kleinberg. The designer admits that in his head, he thinks he does beige rooms. “But when I look at them, they’re not beige at all,” he says.

Indeed, he relied on a combination of materials, textures, and shapes to give the interiors their character and didn’t allow any one piece to overwhelm the space. “The rooms ooze a quiet beauty now,” says the wife, who routinely hosts the couple’s boisterous family and friends in the spacious living room. “David really understood how we wanted to live and entertain in the house,” she says.

By filling it with a streamlined mix of midcentury and custom furniture and subduing the palette, he managed to make it cooler and younger, without falling into trendy territory. In fact, it’s quite the opposite. “When a house is full of animated people, the furniture doesn’t have to wear party hats,” Kleinberg says. “Now each room reads like a well-dressed woman who knows how to have fun.” □



Subtle patterns and choice furnishings create texture and visual interest in the serene master bedroom. Bronze bench, Eric Appel. Blue glass lamp by Roberto Giulio Rida, Bernd Goeckler. Curtains in a Lee Jofa fabric. Custom headboard in a Schumacher fabric. Walls in Gray Mist, Benjamin Moore. OPPOSITE: Custom tile, Artistic Tile. Pendant light, Waterworks.

The manicured pool area is bordered by the sea and lush old-growth trees. Chaise longues, David Sutherland. Cushions in Perennials fabrics.



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