

Best Building Upgrades | Favorite Countertops | Tips from Thom Filicia

designNJ

NEW JERSEY'S HOME & DESIGN MAGAZINE

October/November 2019



OPENING UP IN DEMAREST

CAPTURING THE LIGHT IN PRINCETON

EMPTY NESTING IN ESSEX AND SUMMIT

\$5.99 US

11 >



0 71486 01916 9

Points of Light

DESIGNER KATIE EASTRIDGE AND ARCHITECT MARC BRAHANEY CREATE A LUMINOUS HOME ON A HEAVILY WOODED PRINCETON PROPERTY



The entry level of this stucco Colonial-style home is highlighted with a bracketed portico and a slate roof that varies in color and proportions. A stucco wall encloses an inner courtyard that in each season is a kaleidoscope of blooming flowers and is punctuated with evergreen for winter.



Sitting high above a wooded vista that overlooks Stony Brook in Princeton, this new home came to life on the foundation of a previous one where the owners had lived for many years.

Architect Marc Brahaney of Lasley-Brahaney Design Build and Katie Eastridge of Eastridge Design Home, both based in Princeton, collaborated with the owners to create an "upside-down" Colonial-style home. Because of the proximity of the brook, the footprint of the former house couldn't be extended. Thanks to a slope, however, they were able to design the living areas on the ground floor and a suite of guest bedrooms on a lower level.

"When you walk in the front door it feels like a one-story home," Eastridge says. "You walk directly into the living room and on the right a staircase to the lower level."

The front door opens to an expansive, light-filled space comprising the living room, dining room and kitchen. Large windows that overlook the vista and Stony Brook below are crowned with fixed transoms that add interest and more light. Natural-hue raw silk shantung draperies on thin nickel rods and rings maximize the light. In addition, each of these rooms has a skylight as well as cove and recessed lighting and lamps to augment the natural light.



LIVING ROOM | The living room is elegant and very livable. A small-scale vintage chair upholstered in a bold ikat print joins comfortably with treasured vintage pieces in a conversation grouping around a Kenya black marble-topped cocktail table.

FIREPLACE | A Gascongne Bleu limestone wall frames the classic Calcutta marble fireplace with a custom-designed bronze screen and fire tools. A Shelly Fleet oil-on-canvas painting of an owl draws the eye to a silverleaf framed mirror above. Different styling shown in this photo and the one at left demonstrates the room's versatility.

NEUTRAL TONES | A hand-woven salt-and-pepper Peruvian throw with oversized fringe echoes the soft natural tones in the atmospheric oil painting by New York City artist Louise Chandel.

A coffered living room ceiling, pitched to the top of the ridgepole, rises to 18 feet and is painted a custom white. The walls are a custom gray-lilac hue and are accented with moldings that frame doorways and windows.

The owners wanted their home to be welcoming and comfortable, working with Eastridge to blend a comfortable contemporary sofa and chairs with vintage pieces. To these they added accents such as a black lacquer zig-zag table and a round black cocktail table that contrasts with the lines and angles in the design of the chairs that surround it.

The deep-stained oak flooring throughout the home is carpeted in the living room with a high-pile gridded silk. "This is a walk-barefoot kind of house," Eastridge says. And as one walks from the living room to



Vintage dining room chairs by Adrien Beaudou, newly upholstered in silver metallic fabric, surround a high-top mahogany marquetry table that has a centered brass star fillet and expands to seat 12.

kind of house," Eastridge says. And as one walks from the living room to the dining area, those bare feet will feel the change from soft and luxurious to the smooth texture of a pieced cowhide carpet. In silver, charcoal and soft gray hues bring out the highlights in an abstract canvas that covers one entire wall of the dining room, referencing a nighttime cloudscape.

Architect Marc Brahaney designed an unlacquered brass chandelier with sand-blasted glass shades to cast a soft light in the dining room.

Marrying the dining room to the kitchen is a tall island that serves both

rooms with storage space for items used for both functions. The island forms a "T," with a lower section doubling as a breakfast bar on one side and sink with work area on the other. The countertop is highly figured quartzite with lustrous orange and purple veins.

"The homeowner is an amazing cook, a woman who loves to entertain," Eastridge notes. To accommodate that love, this kitchen features a La Cornue French range with a high BTU burner and powerful hood. And because good light is important to a good chef, the kitchen ceiling

Faintly wood stools by San Diego-based artisan Roy McMakin carry the home's color palette and elegant simplicity into the kitchen. The workspace layout is efficient, and the doorway leads to a pantry, laundry and outer wing of the home.



features a punched pyramidal cutout that rises to 12 feet and an additional skylight.

"A lot of good meals are prepared in this kitchen," Eastridge says. "This a family that has so much fun in this house. They love to have their family and friends in. It's not only an open and elegant home, it is very functional." ■

Janet Purcell, a regular contributor to Design NJ, is a Hopewell-based writer.

SOURCES Overall: design, Eastridge Design Home in Princeton; architecture, Lasky-Brahaney Design Build in Princeton; landscaping, David Mount of David in the Garden in Flemington; all lighting, Lasky-Brahaney Design Build. **Living Room:** furniture, draperies and fireplace tools, through Eastridge Design Home; marble fireplace, design and fabrication by Lasky-Brahaney; carpet, Beauvais; upholstery of purple chair and ottoman, Jonas Fine Upholsters. **Dining Room:** chairs, Adrian Pearsall through Retro Knox LLC; dining table, Holly Hunt; wall canvas painting, Mary Boone Gallery; carpet, Beauvais. **Kitchen:** countertops, Stone Source in Carlstadt; cabinetry, custom paint finish, Terry Conella of Conella Studio in Wisconsin.

For contact information, page 126