

**Boston**

# home

**68**

AWARD  
WINNERS  
INSIDE

## BEST OF BOSTON HOME

*The region's top architects, designers,  
showrooms, and more*

MODERN LIVING  
IN A HISTORICAL HOME

A NORTH END CONDO  
WITH HARBOR VIEWS

THE FUTURE  
OF CITY HOUSING

## DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT



As a designer, LISA THARP constantly strives for timelessness in her work. “I’m really bad at keeping up with the latest trends,”

Tharp jokes. “My favorite design accessory is a nice pile of books!” Turns out, being unfettered by trends serves her well in New England, as Tharp and her team tackle everything from Cape manses to modern city dwellings. But no matter the project, Tharp says she always keeps her personal mantras in mind: “1) Respect or enhance architecture; 2) Create a well-edited, comfortable mix that tells a story; 3) Strive for the spare, yet sophisticated; and 4) Connect to place.” This issue, the designer applies those philosophies to a Greek Revival house [page 96], which she transformed into a casual space while preserving antique details.



Whether it’s a glimpse of an interesting door knocker or fiery fall leaves, interior designer GERALD POMEROY is forever on the lookout

for design ideas: “I find inspiration everywhere,” he says. Recently, Pomeroy turned his discerning eye to a luxury condo in the Millennium Tower [page 66]. Here, he designed around his clients’ impressive art collection, adding colorful armchairs in the living room to complement the artwork. In achieving balance between his clients’ personalities and his own, Pomeroy says, he always aims for “timeless design that is elegant, comfortable, and, hopefully, always beautiful.”



Longtime friends JESSICA SCHWARTZ and RYAN STANTON had always shared a passion for interior design, but it took a little liquid

courage for them to turn it into a career. “One night after a few drinks, we decided to make it happen,” Stanton says. Four years in, the duo is almost *too* good at communicating (“We finish each other’s sentences, which annoys our husbands,” Stanton says), but they credit open and honest conversation as key to their success. Recently, they put those collaborative skills to work in a North End condo [page 86], where they helped their clients merge their unique styles.



THIS PAGE In this view from the kitchen, a small den opens to the revamped dining room at the front of the house.

OPPOSITE Neutral furnishings in the living room allow the original black marble fireplace to take center stage.



# LIGHTENING UP

*A young family moves into a historical house and brightens the interior with modified architectural details, new custom furniture, and a crisp coat of white paint.*

BY COURTNEY GOODRICH  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL J. LEE

**BEFORE THEY ACTUALLY** decided to buy their 19th-century Greek Revival, the soon-to-be-owners first called interior designer Lisa Tharp. Although they liked the house's location in Massachusetts and the space it provided for their family of four, the couple wondered if Tharp could create a simpler look for its interior, which was traditionally decorated and seemed uninviting. "I didn't want it to feel like a museum with plastic on the couches and don't-go-in-there spaces," the wife says. "We don't take ourselves that seriously."

Fortunately, Tharp—principal of her eponymous Boston-based firm—was up for the challenge. "This hip, young family almost didn't buy the house for fear it was too 'stately,'" the designer says. "I assured them that their dream of relaxed spaces for daily living and hosting extended family and friends was achievable—even in a house with a storied past."

After talking with Tharp, the couple bought the 6,300-square-foot home and got to work. Since "the bones, the light, and the architectural proportions were great," Tharp says, she proposed they cover the walls, the trim, and the ceilings with a fresh coat of white paint, which would make the spaces feel new and clean. "A crisp white palette snaps old interiors to fresh attention while serving as an atmospheric backdrop to a mix of interesting players," she says.

With the color scheme decided, Tharp and her



- FIRST FLOOR**
- 1 GARAGE
  - 2 GUEST SUITE
  - 3 MUDROOM
  - 4 FAMILY ROOM
  - 5 BUTLER'S PANTRY
  - 6 STUDY
  - 7 KITCHEN
  - 8 DEN
  - 9 DINING ROOM
  - 10 LIVING ROOM
  - 11 FOYER
  - 12 POWDER ROOM

**THIS PAGE** The kitchen features open shelving, a custom stainless steel exhaust hood, and leather stools at the island.

**OPPOSITE, FROM TOP** A study off the kitchen includes a kid-friendly game table and custom desk built into the bay window. A wine rack, originally from Doris Duke's estate, does double duty as wall art and a display for Legos.

An informal dining area in the kitchen includes a 1930s Swedish pine table, Bertoia chairs,

and a custom upholstered banquette.

Black soapstone countertops pop against the white cabinetry and Neolith backsplash in the kitchen.



clients talked about minimizing the use of chemicals during the renovation. “We were getting new furniture, and our kids were going to be lying on the couch and playing on the floors,” the wife says. “I try to avoid chemicals and wanted a home that was healthy to be in.” To that end, Tharp planned to use materials such as natural-fiber fabrics and non-toxic paints and floor stains, as well as formaldehyde-free wood in the overall design, which called for custom furnishings to suit the owners’ lifestyle.

Modifying the home’s architectural details would be crucial to the overhaul, too. In the original section, which dates to 1830 and has been added onto over the years, a foyer opens to a living room with new custom built-in bookcases made by Hingham-based Burnham Builders. “The room became much cozier when we added the bookcases,” Tharp says. A pocket door between the built-ins connects to the dining room, which—like the living room—features a black marble fireplace and hardwood flooring that Burnham Builders sanded and washed with a pale gray stain. Next, the team reunited the windows in the living and dining rooms with their original interior shutters, found in one of the property’s outbuildings. “[The shutters] are embrasured, meaning they fold into pockets inside the window jamb,” Tharp explains. “They are classical European and early American, and take advantage of thick walls.”



THIS PAGE, FROM TOP With classic columns adorning its exterior, this part of the house—which has been added onto over the years—dates to 1830.

Tharp revitalized the front foyer by having Natick-based Arteriors paint a graphic diamond pattern on the floor.

Complete with mahogany treads, the staircase leads to the second-floor bedrooms.

OPPOSITE In the dining room, Jean-Michel Frank chairs surround a custom marble-and-stained-wood table, designed by Tharp. An antique gold-leafed chandelier from Italy hangs above.



THIS PAGE, FROM TOP  
Accented by shiplap millwork and painted yellow floors, a small bunkroom behind the master suite fits four twin beds and one full bed.

Dark gray cabinetry in the family room breaks with the home's crisp white palette, while authentic Bramin Møbler chairs and a custom ottoman designed by Tharp make the space comfortable and cozy.

OPPOSITE The master bedroom features 10-foot ceilings and a paneled accent wall that Tharp and Burnham Builders worked on together, mapping out the panels with tape until they got the dimensions just right.

**CONTRACTOR**  
BURNHAM BUILDERS  
**INTERIOR DESIGNER**  
LISA THARP  
**PAINTER**  
MAURO'S PAINTING

The renovation continued in the study and the kitchen, which coexist in the center of the house. Here, creating gathering places for the children was paramount. To ensure that the kids do their homework in the study rather than hide out in their own rooms, Tharp had Burnham Builders fashion a custom desk in the bay window. In the kitchen, they now congregate at the dining table or the island, which—like the new perimeter counters—features black soapstone that pops against the white cabinetry and Neolith backsplash.

Tharp also focused on creating gathering places on the second floor, where she revamped the bedrooms. Featuring custom built-ins and shiplap-plank accents by Burnham Builders, a bunkroom behind the lofty master suite is everyone's favorite. Here, a new dormer allows space for four twin beds and one full bed. "Christmas is big in our family," the wife says about the need for those extra sleeping spots.

Tharp finished the room with whimsical yellow floors, painted by local artisan Pauline Curtiss, and a chalkboard wall installed around the TV. "There's a lot of functionality packed into this small room," she says.

The result is a house that's minimal but not stark, clean yet casual—all backed by that white palette. "I'm still glad I made that choice," the wife says. "I thought of it like a little black dress: It's a clean and neutral envelope that you can add personality to with the furniture and accessories." ●

# Get The Look

DÉCOR INSPIRED BY THE STORIES IN THIS ISSUE  
BY KARA BUTTERFIELD



Tveit & Tornøe for Muuto "Dots" walnut wall hooks, \$149 for set of five, A+R.



"MEASURE FOR MEASURE," PAGE 86

"Linea II" teak nightstand with brass pull, \$449, Crate & Barrel.



Braided abaca rug, starting at \$398, Serena & Lily.

Craig Bassam for BassamFellows "Tractor" walnut barstool, \$1,400, Design Within Reach.



Marguerite Valmond by Paul Colin, original lithograph, \$6,595, Chairish.



"Elana" lounging armchair, price upon request, the Bright Group.



Sean Yoo "Matera" walnut bed frame, starting at \$2,195, Design Within Reach.

Aerin for Visual Comfort & Co. "Clemente" brass wall light, \$496, Hawthorne House.



"LIGHTENING UP," PAGE 96

Studio VC "Studio" floor lamp, \$399, Circa Lighting.



"Iris" brass sconce with leather shade and black-walnut back plate, \$895, Jayson Home.

"Single Rachel" mahogany sconce, \$525, Dunes and Duchess.



Harry Bertoia for Knoll "Bertoia" steel side chair, \$638, Design Within Reach.



Petrified wood on metal stand, \$300, Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams.

"Leisure" cotton pillow, \$40, CB2.



Hooker Furniture "Sabeen" nightstand with Chinese walnut veneer, \$599, Neiman Marcus.

Ayush Kasliwal "Wrap" acacia-wood bench with jute rope, \$399, CB2.

