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A BRAND NEW CAMPANK

A BRAND NEW HOME WAS THE PERFECT BACKDROP FOR CAREFULLY CURATED LAYERS OF COLOR, PATTERN AND TEXTURE

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY NEIL LANDINO, JR.

Push Up: A Chesterfield set of colored leather nest sits the tone in the den, where the leather chair, natural-hide ottoman and olive oak side tables are all through Wakefield Design Center. Shades restored by the company's in-house woodworkers, including J.D. Starn, show Passaic's



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DEPENDING ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW, the notion of a blank canvas can either be very daunting or incredibly irresistible. For one couple with three young children, the wall-to-wall expanses of white in a new Darien Colonial proved to be the latter. There was no one else's touch on it. It was completely raw, explains the wife about the appeal of the spec home designed by architect Alex Kalit-Nagy. "My husband and I both love big classic houses, and this one was also in a neighborhood where we always envisioned living."

Similarly, interior designer Amy Zolna of Clarity Home Interiors saw the untouched walls, wainscots and crown moldings as the perfect backdrop for layering on the saturated hues, subtle patterns and textural variety that would make the house a standout. "I love color and I like taking risks," says Zolna, who dove in with deep peacock walls enhancing the crisp white paneling and a painted table in similar tones in the entry. An offbeat enamel-cut pattern on the wood floors designed in collaboration with decorative artist Christopher Rollinson. ("We started clear of more traditional diamonds or squares," Zolna notes.)

Zolna notes further contributions to the idea that this is a traditional home with a bit of an edge. Drawing inspiration from an abstract painting by Janet Marz, the designer introduced pops of fuchsia in the living room with accent pillows on the white velvet sofa while continuing the deep blue on a pair of crushed velvet stools that provide seating by the fireplace in the long, narrow space. "My father is from India, so I love bright colors," shares the wife. Reminiscence of a jewelry display, the glass and brass coffee table is lined with a pink velvet shell, and a white hair-on-hide chair adds a textural layer. In answer to the couple's request to reuse and repurpose as many items from their previous homes as possible, the designer flanked one window with their two matching wood chairs and mirrors, and replenished a set of vintage wood-framed chairs with a chromastone dragon fabric. "It's an iconic subtle print on linen that is very crisp and fresh," explains Zolna, who sheathed the walls in a calm taupe-gray

Dine in Style (above) Christopher Rollinson handpainted the dining room walls with layers of silver leaf. Zolna designed the custom drapery panels with Schumacher linen. **Pattern Plays** (below) The dark-toned wood in the dining room, traditional grasscloth, and the walls complement the subtle hues of Schumacher linens and floor. Christopher Rollinson is complemented by a Highland House Hamilton table. The soft lines of the brass Circa Lighting ceiling fixture contrast with the floor's geometry. See Resources.



Design Detail (over) A Williams Sonoma goose-neck lamp illuminates the sink in the pool house. **Colonial Bones** (left) Thanks to grand columns and beautiful brickwork, the back side of the house makes an elegant statement. See Resources.



Poolside Perch (over and opposite page 74) Lamps at CIE Furnishings in blue and gray tones provide comfy seating under the pool house pergola. The landscape design around the pool is by Kristen Andronovitz. See Resources.

grasscloth and then framed the windows with white linen drapes edged with hand-sewn gray beads. We were going for a light, layered look and the dark chaises were tricky, but the walkovering was perfect against those gorgeous pieces.”

In the dining room, lively, ornate drapes set against silver leaf walls with a handpainted bird and butterfly motif is another successful juxtaposition. “The wall pattern ties to their Herard Rothschild print,” explains the designer, who utilized an existing table and chairs, freshening the liver with durable white Perennials fabric. “The exploding chandelier is a modern surprise.”

A Chippendale leather wingback, a commodious tufted blue velvet sofa and lacquered paneled walls in the den establish a warm, inviting ambience. “This room is the same size as the living room, but we wanted it to feel smaller and cozier, and details like the haw wood wallpaper on the ceiling and the handpainted linen shades with a subtle floral pattern help accomplish that,” says the designer, who grounded the space with an Irish linen rug. “It feels like wool and it’s so soft—it was like wrapping the room in a cashmere sweater.”

Stepping into the landscape where architect Ed Clemence designed the pool house to be a miniature replica of the main residence and builder Bob Ficker finished the pergola and brick details, Zolin notes. “The architecture is traditional, but it has a modern, youthful vibe.” The efficient structure includes a full bathroom on one side, dressing room with built-ins on the other, and handy refrigerator drawers in between. The blues and grays established in the main house continue on the wicker furnishings, and an exuberant floral array in the landscape also ties back to the primary residence. About this, the designer explains, “The colors in nature and the hues on the interiors play off each other to create a lovely balance both inside and out.”