

NEW JERSEY'S HOME & DESIGN MAGAZINE

design NJ

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017



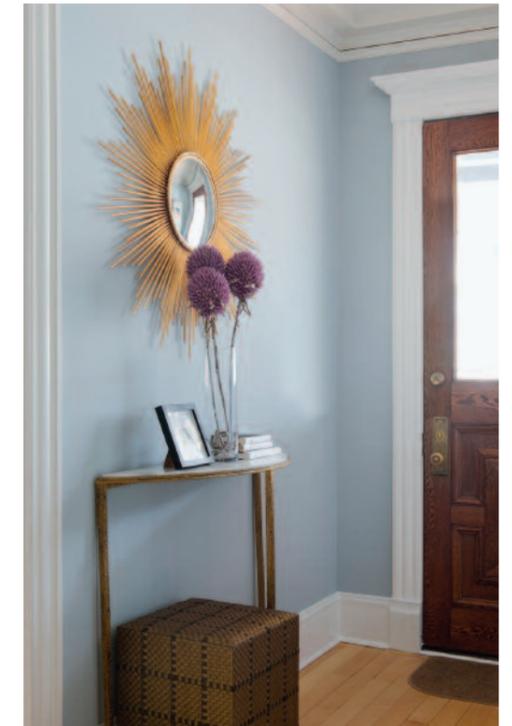
WRITER ROBIN AMSTER
PHOTOGRAPHER JANE BEILES
DESIGNER DIANA WEINSTEIN



The dining room design is an example of Diane Weinstein's melding of the husband's and wife's design preferences. The chunky Belgian farm table is a nod to the husband's native Belgium. The elegant ebony framed dining room chairs — with Belgian linen seats — address the wife's style. The stunning end chairs are upholstered in gray fabric with a pattern — outlined in cream-colored dots — that echoes the lines on the mirror-fronted armoire nearby. The designer struck a dramatic note with the pewter metallic ceiling.

Right: A cross between Swedish and French Country style marks the foyer's design. A cabinet with a distressed gray finish is topped by an antique-look, gold-rimmed mirror. The lamp atop the cabinet has a base wrapped in gold rope and a pale gray silk shade trimmed with lace.

Far right: Designer Diane Weinstein's version of eclectic is evident near the front door, where she paired a woven cube and a small console table with hammered gold legs and marble top. A gold sunburst mirror hangs above it all.



CREATIVE & ECLECTIC

A designer creates an exuberant and fresh twist for the redo of a Glen Ridge Victorian

The word “eclectic” may be a tad overused in design circles;

still it's an apt description of the interior redesign of a Glen Ridge home. But that's only part of the story.

Designer Diana Weinstein had a particularly fresh, exuberant and creative interpretation of eclectic in her design scheme for the Victorian Greek Revival home dating to 1892.

Weinstein, whose firm is Glen Ridge-based Diana Weinstein Design, used a strategic mix of old and new to create depth and to address the home's his-

toric roots. She mixed finishes and furnishings in unexpected ways: grass-cloth walls and sisal rugs with metallics on the ceilings, an acrylic table flanked by classic furniture silhouettes upholstered in fun fabrics, a shimmering glass chandelier over a chunky wood dining room table, contemporary artwork paired with antiques.

And throughout the spaces she included whimsical touches, unusual juxtapositions and unique accessories.



The designer chose a gray linen/wool blend sectional sofa for the television room. The sectional is a custom design that fits a nook that's now open to the dining room after a wall between the two was removed. The wife fell in love with the whimsical bright red fabric with an antler design. Weinstein says they used it for throw pillows, injecting a bit of fun into the room.



HIS & HER STYLE

Weinstein was called in to design a total redo of the home's first floor minus the kitchen, which the previous owners had renovated. The project encompassed the entryway, television room, dining room and sitting/music room. Her goal was to meld the husband's and wife's styles: He is from Belgium and she is a New Jersey native.

His style is "simpler, less embellished, more serious," Weinstein says, with "big chunky tables, natural wood, muted grays." The wife, meanwhile, favors a "chic, sophisticated look." The designer also needed to keep the spaces family-friendly—the homeowners have three children and a pet dog—and to fashion an accommodating environment for European guests who come for extended stays.

The only structural change to the home's footprint was the removal of what Weinstein calls "a strange, transitional nook, or wall, between the television room and the dining room." Removing the wall opened up the two spaces for entertaining and made for a better flow of traffic.

Although the remaining walls were left intact,

Weinstein transformed the small rooms typical of Victorian homes into "stylish, functional ones."

INJECTING SOUL

The home's one-of-a-kind look is immediately visible in the foyer, which Weinstein calls a cross between Swedish and French Country style. The message the designer wanted to make right off? "A sophisticated couple lives here, so I gave them some edgy elements," she says.

An elegant cabinet has a distressed gray finish and above it is a gold, antique-look mirror. The lamp atop the cabinet pairs a base wrapped in gold rope with a gray silk lampshade trimmed in lace. The lamp's gold base echoes the mirror; the gray lampshade complements the cabinet. "Funky Dr. Seuss-like flowers" on the cabinet are the type of unexpected accessory that Weinstein favors. Here they provide a pop of color and some texture.

Weinstein continued the distinctive look near the front door, where she placed a woven cube next to a delicate console table with hammered gold legs and a marble top. She calls this kind of mixing of finishes—

Left: The table behind the sofa in the television room, like the sofa, is custom made to fit the space in front of the Victorian home's bay window. A washed oak traditional Belgian lamp sits on the table along with two unusual accessories: moss inside of glass bell jars.

Right: This glass-fronted cabinet occupies a nook in the television room next to a fireplace. An unusual mirror framed in antlers complements the bright red throw pillows with an antler pattern. Weinstein's unique use of accessories is evident here with the container of calligraphy brushes—"sculptural and fun," she says—and a moss ball set in a wood tray.

Weinstein designed the sitting/music room as a “jewel box” for the lady of the house. Black grass-cloth walls form the backdrop. An airy and modern Lucite coffee table sits in front of a natural Belgian linen sofa with gray grosgrain and nail-head trim. The artwork above the sofa is four framed white intaglio prints.



The wife's love of red inspired these coral French bergère chairs in the sitting/music room. They flank another unusual piece: an occasional table with a white poured plaster tree trunk base and a black granite top.

found throughout the house — “putting soul into everything.” Over the console hangs a gold sunburst mirror, a once-trendy design that has virtually become a classic, Weinstein says.

BELGIAN INFLUENCE

Another example of Weinstein's version of eclectic — along with her melding of his and her styles — is in

the dining room. An elegant glass chandelier crowns a chunky Belgian farm table. Graceful side chairs at the table have Belgian linen seats with nail-head and red grosgrain trim for a pop of color. “I gave the husband his table and gave the wife these pretty chairs,” Weinstein says.

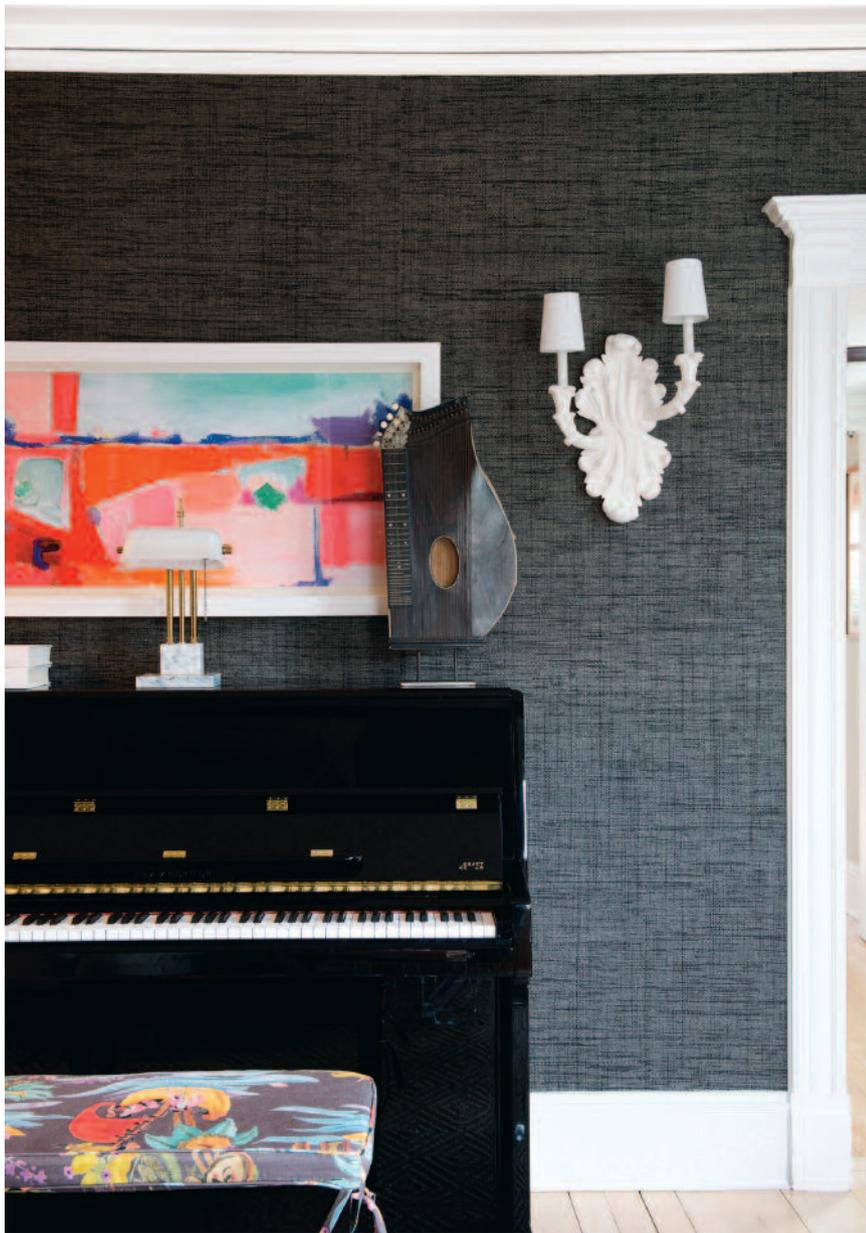
The designer then used end chairs that she calls “young and edgy.” They are upholstered in a gray fabric

with a pattern outlined in cream-colored dots that evokes the lines of the mirror-fronted armoire nearby. The armoire and all of the dining room chairs bear an ebony finish. The ceiling is dramatic with its pewter metallic paint and gunmetal trim. In another nod to the husband's heritage, Weinstein placed a large photo of the countryside on a prominent wall. It reminded her of Belgium's Ardennes forest.

Weinstein likens the total picture to a fashion combination. It's “a nice play of jeans with a dressy shirt and heels,” she says.

A JEWEL BOX

Perhaps the home's most dramatically eclectic space, though, is the sitting/music room. While Weinstein was attentive to incorporating the husband's style



The sitting/music room is aptly named for this black lacquer piano. The piano bench is covered in a colorful cotton/linen fabric with bursts of bright red, purple, coral, aqua and gold. An abstract piece of art — with some of the same bright colors — sits in its chunky white frame above the piano. With her flair for the unique, designer Diana Weinstein placed an antique wood and string violin — a find from an antique store — atop the piano, serving as a virtual piece of sculpture.

an angle. Feminine French bergère chairs, upholstered in coral cut velvet, face the sofa.

A modern Lucite coffee table is at the center of the sofa and chairs, while an artful pedestal table — a poured plaster tree trunk base topped by a black granite top — sits between the chairs. At one end of the room there's a shiny black lacquer piano and a piano bench covered in an antique Chinoiserie-style fabric with a riot of bright colors, including aqua, coral, red, purple and gold. The same fabric is used on one of the sofa's throw pillows.

“As a designer, I don't want it all to look like everyone else's [designs],” Weinstein says. “This fabric is not like something you can find anywhere. It's very ‘designer.’”

Weinstein says the sitting/music room was originally “an awkward small pass-through of a room that was never used. We turned it into her [the wife's] now-favorite room, where she loves to sit, read, talk on the phone or listen to the kids play the piano.”

Robin Amster is a Madison-based writer and editor.

and preferences elsewhere in the redesign, “When it came time to do the sitting room — the last room we did — it was all about the wife,” she says. “She was so thoughtful of her husband throughout the process that I wanted to make a pretty jewel-box retreat in this room.”

The room is extremely bright, so she felt comfortable covering the walls in black grass cloth. And privacy is not an issue, so she used no window treatments. “The idea was to keep it open and let the light stream in,” she says.

Weinstein placed stark white plaster sconces with a sculptural look on the black walls and a sisal rug on the floor. A Manhattan-style sofa in natural Belgian linen with gray grosgrain and nail-head trim is set on

SOURCES Overall: interior design, Diana Weinstein Design in Glen Ridge. **Dining Room:** armoire, side chairs and end chairs, Hickory Chair; table, Restoration Hardware; rug, J. Herbro Corp. in Fairfield; chandelier, homeowners; photo artwork, Soicher Marin in Sarasota, Florida. **Foyer:** console table, cube, sunburst mirror, Global Views in Dallas (T); lamp, Ro Sham Beaux in Charleston, South Carolina (T); mirror, Worlds Away in Memphis, Tennessee. **Television Room:** sofa and console table, Hickory Chair; sofa throw pillows, Ryan Studio in Chantilly, Virginia; coffee table, Sherrill Furniture; rug, J. Herbro Corp.; lamp (on console table), Arteriors Home in Carrollton, Texas; antler mirror, HALO Asia in Hong Kong (T). **Sitting/Music Room:** wallpaper, Phillip Jeffries in Fairfield; sconces and tree-trunk table, Arteriors Home; coffee table, Interlude Home in Trumbull, Connecticut; sofa, Hickory Chair; chairs, custom Hickory Chair with fabric by Duralee; throw pillows, custom with fabric by JAB; rug, J. Herbro Corp. T=To the trade.

As Featured in December 2016/January 2017 of

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