

The entryway opens into a stunning reception area decked in white molding.



A photograph of a hallway with white wainscoting, a staircase with white balusters, and a dark wood door. The text is overlaid on the white wall.

ON THE AVENUE

A BACK BAY BROWNSTONE GETS NEW LIFE AS TEAMS OF BOSTON'S BEST ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS CREATE ONE-OF-A-KIND SPACES FOR A LARGE BOSTON FAMILY.

*BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
PHOTOGRAPHED BY
GREG PREMURU*



The redesigned dining room combines original elements with ultramodern sophistication.





From left: The custom-built staircase leads to the second floor; the primary suite provides peak comfort and ease; the en suite primary bathroom offers double vanities and sinks.



Sometimes, it takes a small village to raise a brownstone to its former elegance—especially during a pandemic. When teams of talented designers, builders and interior designers wrapped up work on a Back Bay beauty last fall, they were sure of one thing: Their work not only represented collaboration in the best possible way, but also checked every aesthetic and functional box for a Boston couple with six children, ranging in age from middle school to college.

“The clients’ goals were to refresh, modernize, brighten and add a bit of extra space” during the nearly-two-year gut renovation, says Kevin Cradock, the principal behind Kevin Cradock Builders (cradockbuilders.com). “The approach was to match significant original architectural details and use them to blend the new work; that way, the end result looked like a cleaned-up original.” The homeowners assembled a team for the

Commonwealth Avenue home that also included Kahlil Hamady from Greenwich, Conn.-based Hamady Architects (hamadyarchitectsllc.com) and Kristin Paton from Kristin Paton Interiors (kristinpatoninteriors.com) in Cambridge.

“At the beginning of the project, the home was quite outdated. It was ready to be overhauled with new energy, a new modern kitchen and updated bathrooms throughout,” says interior designer Paton, who says her firm’s style embraces a solid foundation of classical architecture and design, but matches the taste and lifestyle of each client in its bespoke approach. “For this project, the clients were very hands-on and wanted to be part of every decision. He was transitioning his career and really enjoyed the newfound freedom of being part of the design process, with both the decor and architecture. I think he really enjoyed helping to create their new Boston home for the next chapter of their life together.”

As to the goal of adding space, especially for storage, both Cradock and Paton note the clever creation of a loft space, where the family could have a small gym and television area with a daybed for overflow guests. The team also added custom built-ins along the stair risers leading up to this loft for ample storage.

The couple’s goal for the living room, which overlooks Commonwealth Avenue and is the largest area in the home, was to create an area for multiple purposes. “The order of magnitude included a place for him to work, a more formal area for occasional entertaining, an area for extended family movie nights and a perfect spot for the Christmas tree. We were able to achieve the full scope,” says Paton. The room, lined with carpeting from Steven King (skcarpets.com), includes armchairs from Holly Hunt (hollyhunt.com), curtains from Finelines (finelines.com) and a custom sectional sofa and swivel chair from Ferrell Mittman

(ferrellmittman.com).

The merger of the kitchen and family was achieved by rethinking the floor plan; it's now an open space updated with classic paneling provided by the team at Hamady Architecture. "The paneling really made the two spaces a great success," Paton says. "We added a mirrored wet bar behind paneled doors to create a jewel box moment. The navy blue velvet sectional sofa and banquette—both custom-made by Partners in Design (partnersindesignltd.com)—contributed to the versatility of this space. Whether used for homework or informal dining, it's really the heart of the house."

Formality was given a new, more casual meaning in the dining room. A custom dining table was crafted by Masterpiece (masterpiecehandcrafted.com) that could extend into a racetrack table—complete with custom chairs from Artistic Frame (artisticframe.com)—when the family needed an extra eating space for holidays and entertaining. A chandelier from David Iatesta (davidiatesta.com) also provides refined flair to the space.

Cradock's team built a stately staircase that leads to the second floor, where the primary suite boasts a new bathroom with a double vanity, soaking tub, walk-in shower and abundant storage. "The couple actually made the master bedroom suite a bit smaller, so they could create an extra en suite bedroom for guests or children returning from boarding school," Paton says. "We selected a palette of pale blue and ivory and added paneling to give it some architectural interest—the outcome is quite ethereal and





Clockwise from left: The living room includes a custom sectional sofa, while the dining room has custom banquette seating—both designed by Partners in Design; the delightful dining room boasts a custom table by Masterpiece; the kitchen offers gorgeous white countertops and a complementary island.



The elegant dining room

serene,” especially with a custom headboard from Partners in Design, custom bed skirt and curtains from Finelines, bedside tables from Visual Comfort (visualcomfort.com) and a chest of drawers from Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams (mgbwhome.com).

Both Cradock and Paton report the family is thrilled with the results of the renovation. “They are enjoying a space designed for how they live,” says Cradock.

Given how involved the couple was in the creation of new and lovingly crafted spaces, there were no surprises. “They spend a lot of time on Cape Cod, so I think this is a fun reprieve when they want some city time to explore museums or host family and friends,” says Paton, recognizing the calculus of any successful home project—it’s all about experiencing the joy of every room once the dust settles. ■

DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE

Brownstone townhome

LOCATION

Back Bay, Boston

INTERIOR DESIGN

Kristin Paton Interiors
kristinpatoninteriors.com

BUILDER

Kevin Cradock Builders
cradockbuilders.com

ARCHITECTURE

Hamady Architects
hamadyarchitectsllc.com

RESOURCES

ARTISTIC FRAME

Custom design of dining room chairs
artisticframe.com

DAVID IATESTA

Custom chandelier in dining room
davidiatesta.com

FERRELL MITTMAN

Custom design of sectional sofa and swivel chair in living room
ferrellmittman.com

FINELINES

Living room curtains
finelines.com

HOLLY HUNT

Armchairs
hollyhunt.com

MASTERPIECE

Custom dining table
masterpiecehandcrafted.com

PARTNERS IN DESIGN

Custom design of navy blue sectional sofa, banquette dining set and headboard in primary suite
partnersindesignltd.com

STEVEN KING

Carpeting
skcarpets.com



The lavish living room of the Back Bay brownstone

