The dining room's gold hardware and glass chandeliers are ideal accents to the space's dazzling array of patterns.

Pattern Player

An antique home in Wellesley reveres the past with plenty of modern pizazz.

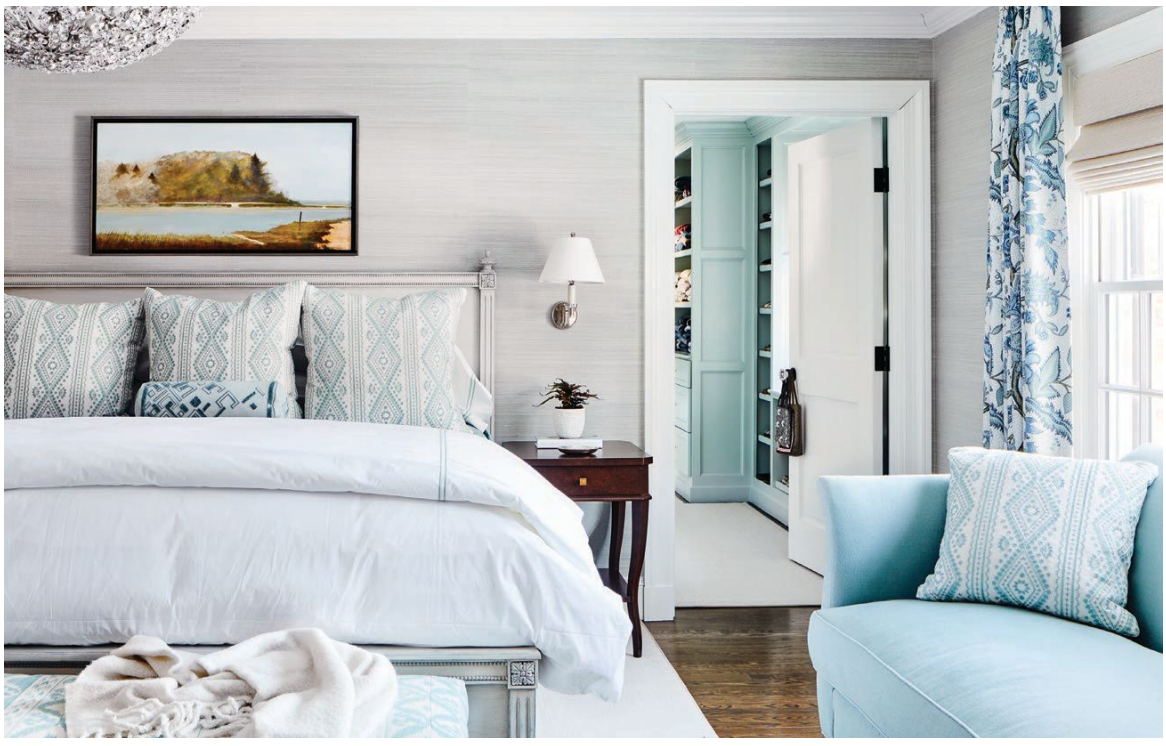
By Jaci Conry
Photographed by Read McKendree

The kitchen, with its Shaker-style cabinetry and soapstone and marble counters, says Rosenfeld, "was designed to feel fresh and clean." Opposite page, from top: In the family room, the homeowners' existing vibrant rug is right at home with the layers of pattern and color Katie Rosenfeld selected; soothing blue tones in the master bedroom were used to instill a calming vibe.

The new homeowners of this 1930s English cottage-style house felt it needed to be renovated to suit their modern lifestyle, yet they deeply honored the home's architectural origins. "Located in the oldest neighborhood in Wellesley, where the houses were all built prior to the 1940s, this home had amazing bones," says interior designer Katie Rosenfeld, who came on board once the homeowners had contracted Catalano Architects to reconfigure the floor plan. "But it needed to be made into a functioning family home for this generation."

The homeowners felt strongly about historic preservation, and it was essential to them that their home's architectural integrity was honored. So, while the home was taken down to the studs, Rosenfeld and her team strove to retain the home's antique charm by using period hardware, the original doorknobs and cremone window bolts; the dining room's original terra-cotta floor was also preserved.

An addition to the back of the house made space for a larger master bathroom, a new window-filled family room, a breakfast room and mudroom. The kitchen was reconfigured to feel fresh and clean. "It's not a huge house, but the quality of everything is top-notch," says Rosenfeld, noting that a new slate roof and copper gutters were also installed.



Rosenfeld is deeply devoted to pattern, and much to her delight, the homeowners gave their blessing to use it liberally throughout the home. “My style is to sort of throw things on the floor and mix them up—and not purposely match anything,” she says. While the act may sound haphazard and risky, it creates a beautiful atmosphere in this home. In the dining room, Pierre Frey’s Le Grand Corail, an iconic Braquenie print from the 19th century, depicts a swirling floral and foliage motif, while the drapes feature an ornate blue Brunschwig & Fils scheme. Lamps on the sideboard are festooned with yet another floral pattern. “None of the patterns match, but that’s why it looks so good,” says Rosenfeld.

The family room is another array of multifaceted textiles, including a pair of chairs upholstered in a Lee Jofa suzani pattern; two other chairs by the fireplace feature a navy blue block print, while the drapes are emblazoned with hand-screened mini blue artichokes a la Sister Parish.

For the master suite, the homeowners wanted less vivacity. “It needed to be very serene and sanctuarial with a little less color,” says Rosenfeld. Walls are adorned with harbor blue Phillip Jeffries hemp wallcovering, and the drapes’ Schumacher fabric depicts the traditional tree of life in shades of aqua that echo the high-gloss paint of the nearby closet built-ins. “There’s still pattern in the master; it’s just quieter,” says Rosenfeld. ■

From left: The study contains an en suite bathroom so it can double as guest quarters. The bathroom woodwork is painted a rich blue, and geometric Walter Zanger tile creates an artful pattern on the floor; the renovation included carving out space for a sunny breakfast room.

Design Details

TYPE
Single-family residence

LOCATION
Wellesley

ARCHITECTURE
Catalano Architects
catalanoarchitects.com

INTERIOR DESIGN
Katie Rosenfeld & Company
katierosenfelddesign.com

RESOURCES

HICKORY CHAIR
Master bedroom bench, nightstands and sofa
hickorychair.com

JAMIE YOUNG
Mirror in blue bathroom
jamieyoung.com

LEE INDUSTRIES
Leather sofa in study
leeindustries.com

NEW RAVENNA
Master bathroom tile
newravenna.com

URBAN ELECTRIC COMPANY
Hanging light fixture in study
urbanelectric.com

VANGUARD FURNITURE
Ottoman in study
vanguardfurniture.com

VAUGHAN DESIGNS
Kitchen pendants
vaughandesigns.com

VISUAL COMFORT
Dining room pendants
visualcomfortlightinglights.com