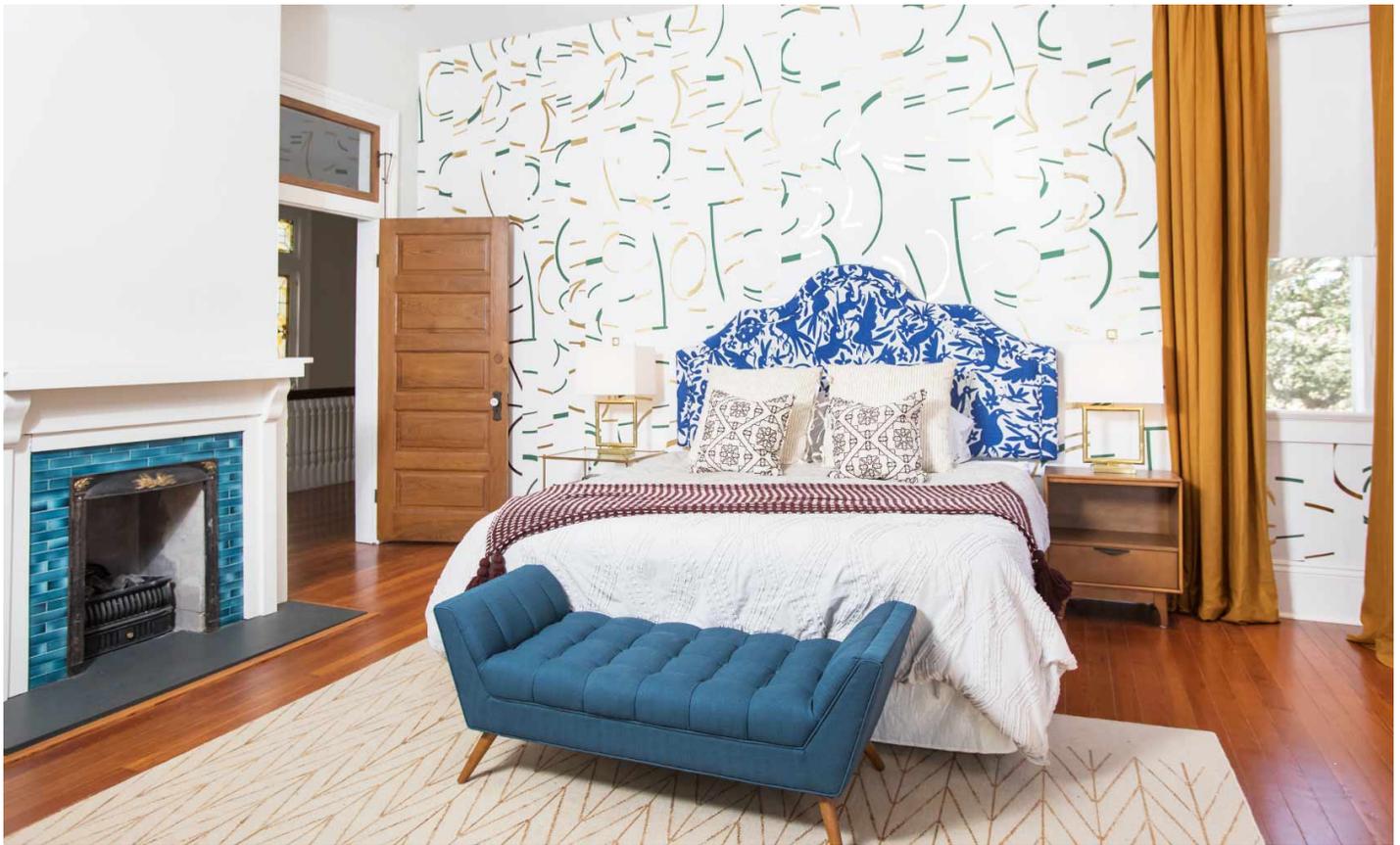


Design*Sponge

A Neoclassical Home Seamlessly Blends the Old with the New

by Garrett Fleming





In the late 1800s, immigrants and Americans alike were leaving their rural lives behind for the bright lights of our nation's burgeoning cities. While these metropolises brimmed with modernity and opportunity, unfortunately, they were being constructed quickly and with little forethought. And the cracks eventually began to show. Many cities faced sanitation issues, increased crime, a disregard for neighborhood planning and were becoming more crowded by the day.

In order to make life more pleasant for families, in the 1890s planners began borrowing from European design in what came to be called the City Beautiful movement. They constructed public parks, worked through infrastructure challenges, installed monuments and conceived ways to make thoroughfares less congested. One of the more noticeable shifts was the renewed focus on magnificent architectural design inspired by Neoclassical elements.

A shining relic from this era is communication strategist and new mom Karen Buck's home in New Orleans, LA. Finished in the 1920s, it boasts many traits of the City Beautiful era: grand columns, Greek-key tile work, abundant millwork and original fireplaces. It was these very details, in fact, that originally convinced Karen and her husband to quickly snatch up the home once it hit the market.

While the home's inherent style suited Karen and her husband, they still yearned to make it a *truly* custom fit. To do so, they enlisted designers Nomita Joshi-Gupta and Sarah Allee-Walsh of Spruce. For two months the pair worked alongside Karen to infuse cool hues and mid-century touches into the two-story stunner.

The project kicked off in the master bedroom. At the time, Karen was nearing the end of her pregnancy, and she challenged Spruce with creating a space with pep and personality but that would also help her unwind. To achieve this, Nomita and Sarah installed hearty blackout curtains the color of turmeric, layered a smattering of throw pillows onto the bed, put up graphic wallpaper and created a custom headboard to match the original fireplace's ocean hue.

Over the moon with the results, Karen then had Spruce move on to the nexus of the home: the living room. Since the space serves as a passageway to every other room on the main floor, the team created a layout that would optimize the flow of traffic through the house. They then took a note from the bedroom's breezy color scheme and tracked down blue accessories and patterned furniture to help the two spaces feel cohesive.

Last fall, all of this hard work culminated in a grand open house. Karen and her husband, with their daughter by their side, walked their friends and family through the finished house and introduced them to their little slice of the universe. While the joyful noise of the night's clinking glasses and laughter has long since faded, the adoration they felt in that moment has seeped into every corner of their home. What more could a growing family ask for than to thrive in a space so full of love? Enjoy! —Garrett

Photography by Susan Poag. Source: Encyclopedia Britannica.

Image above: Karen challenged Spruce to create a space inspired by life in the Caribbean: a slower-paced, pattern-filled affair. While prints like the one featured in her Otomi headboard aren't from the Caribbean, the color paired with the turquoise fireplace absolutely injects the vivaciousness Karen and her husband strove for when decorating. To make your own Otomi headboard, check out our DIY here.

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✓ 1/16

Even with new furniture, linens and drapery, Nomita still felt Karen's bedroom lacked a certain something. To give it more kick, Nomita hunted down this striking wallpaper. Its style nods to Karen's love for graphic design.





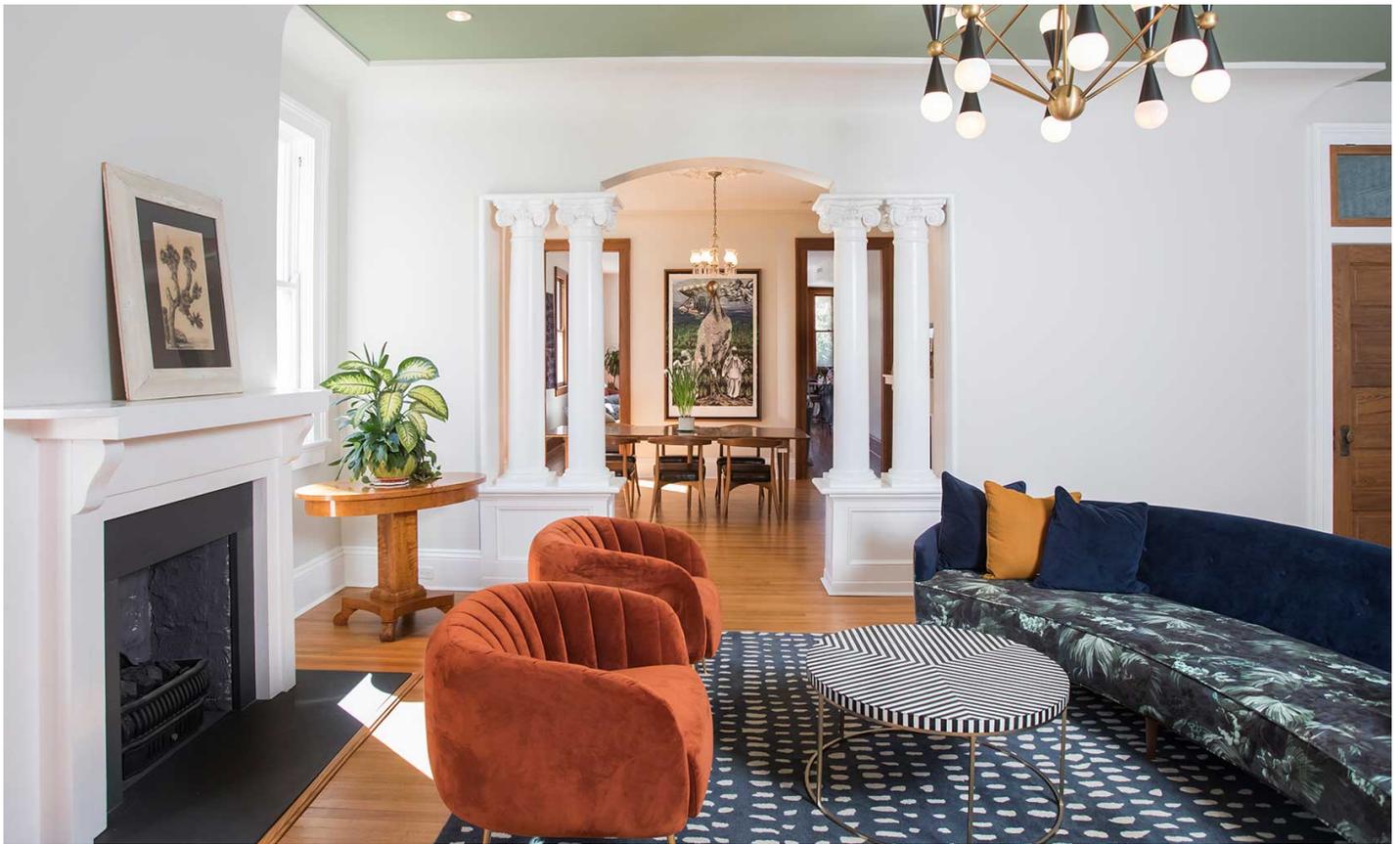
∨ 2/16

Karen's home was built during a time greatly influenced by Neoclassical and Baroque furnishings, the City Beautiful movement of the 1920s. Columns, like the ones we see here on her front porch, are common amongst houses built in the style.



∨ 3/16

Other original details like these stained glass windows and the main floor's cornices are what drew Karen, pictured here with Nomita, to this home in particular.



∨ 4/16

The family didn't initially plan for a gut renovation. Further inspections, however, showed that updated wiring and plumbing as well as infrastructure work would be required before redecorating could begin.



∨ 5/16

The layout of the home is a bit choppy. To shed light onto every nook and cranny, no window treatments were used on the main floor.



∨ 6/16

To give the space a one-of-a-kind vibe, Nomita had this sofa upholstered in an exuberant tropical print that perfectly encapsulates the Caribbean look Karen requested.



∨ 7/16

A close-up of the sofa's custom upholstery.



∨ 8/16

Karen and her husband had the detailed volutes on the home's columns refurbished during the renovation.



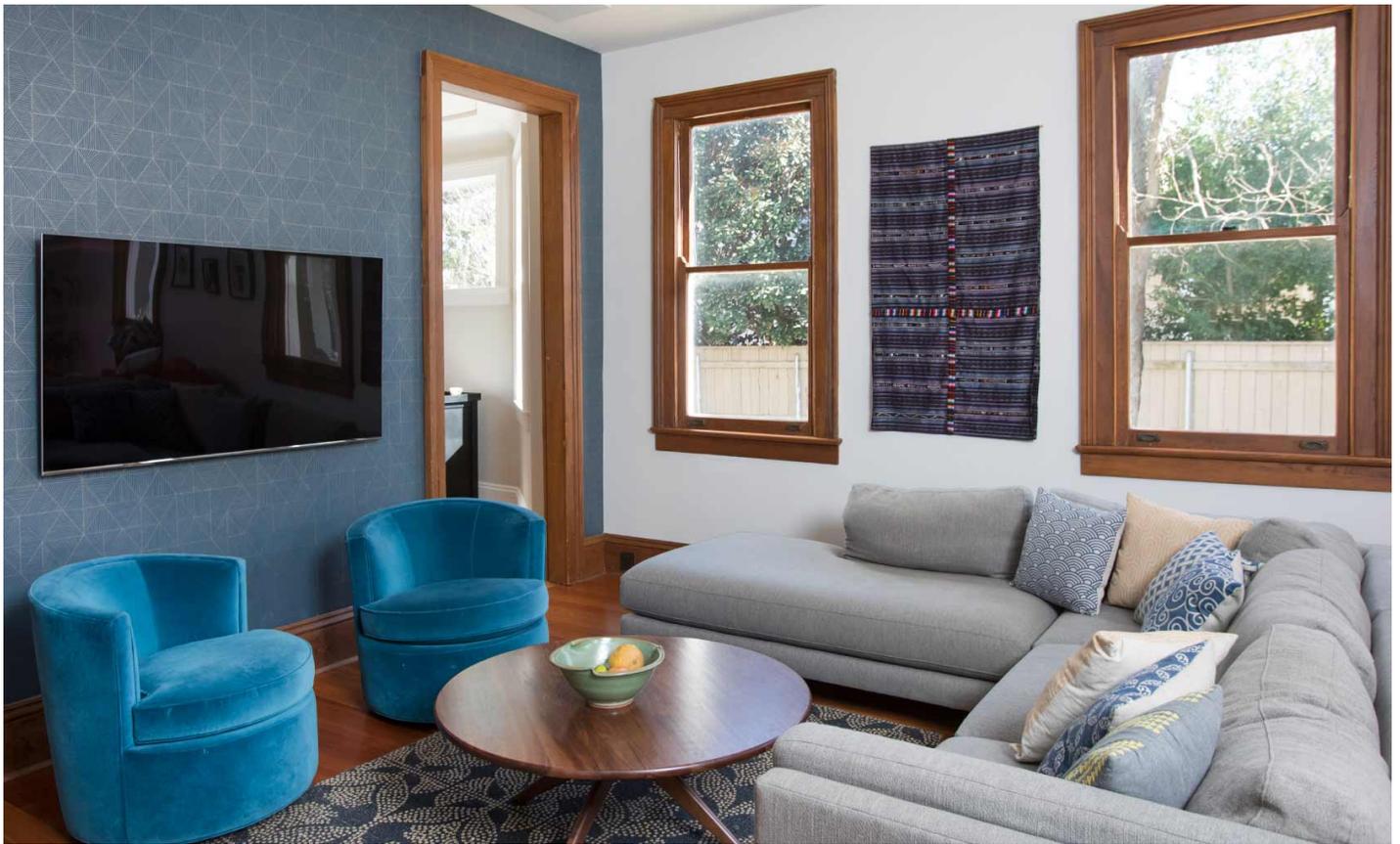
∨ 9/16

Art plays a major role in Karen and her husband's lives. Luckily, their home's original millwork is perfect for framing up statement pieces like this one.



✓ 10/16

By pairing this Greek key tile with contemporary furnishings in the bathroom, the throwback design doesn't feel dated at all. On the contrary, it feels both fresh and eclectic.



∨ 11/16

The family room is modernized through wallpaper from Portland, OR's Makelike. (For a peek at the home of the company's co-founder, head [here](#).)



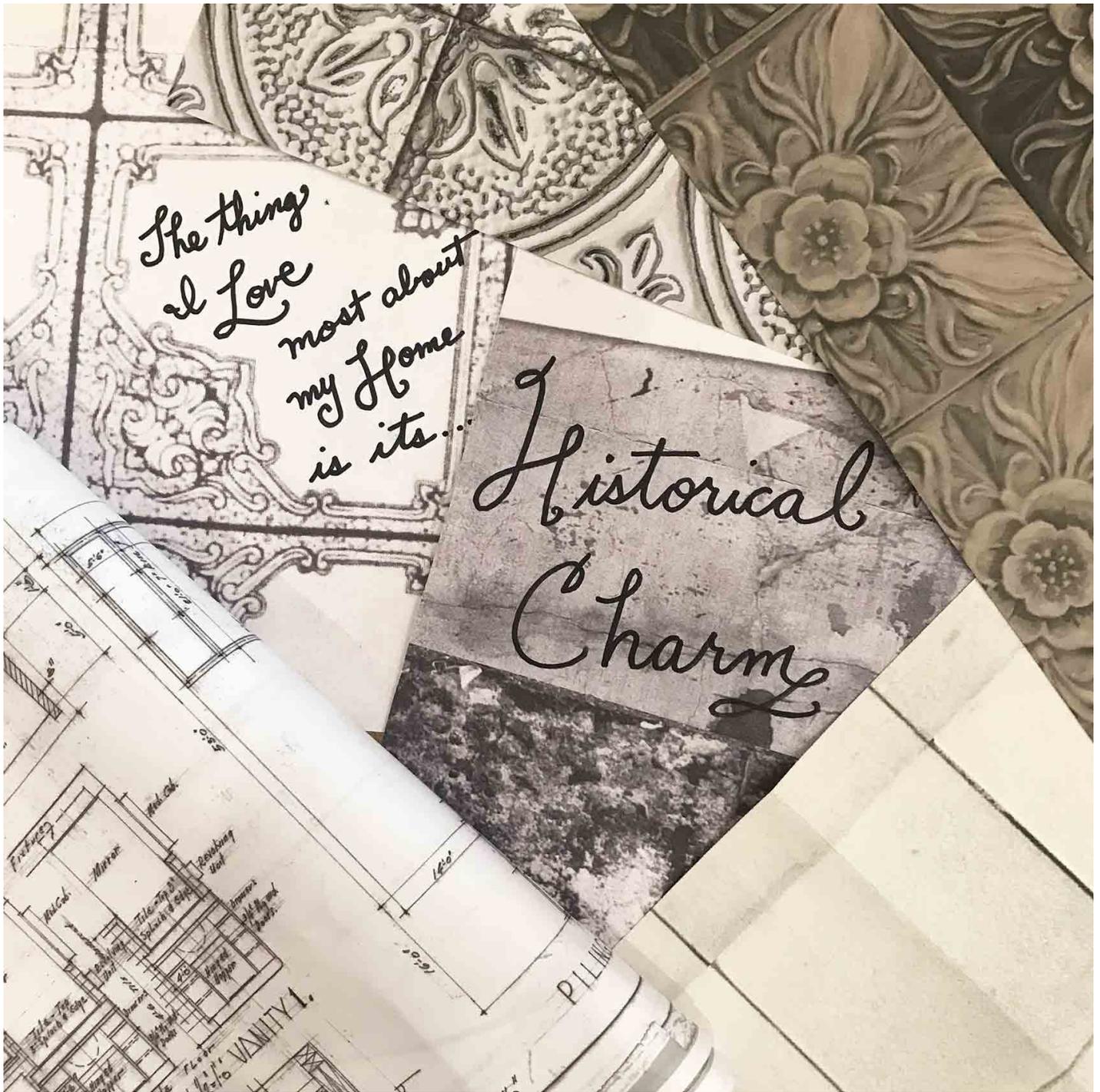
∨ 12/16

On the second floor, double doors help the interior and exterior spaces effortlessly flow into one another.



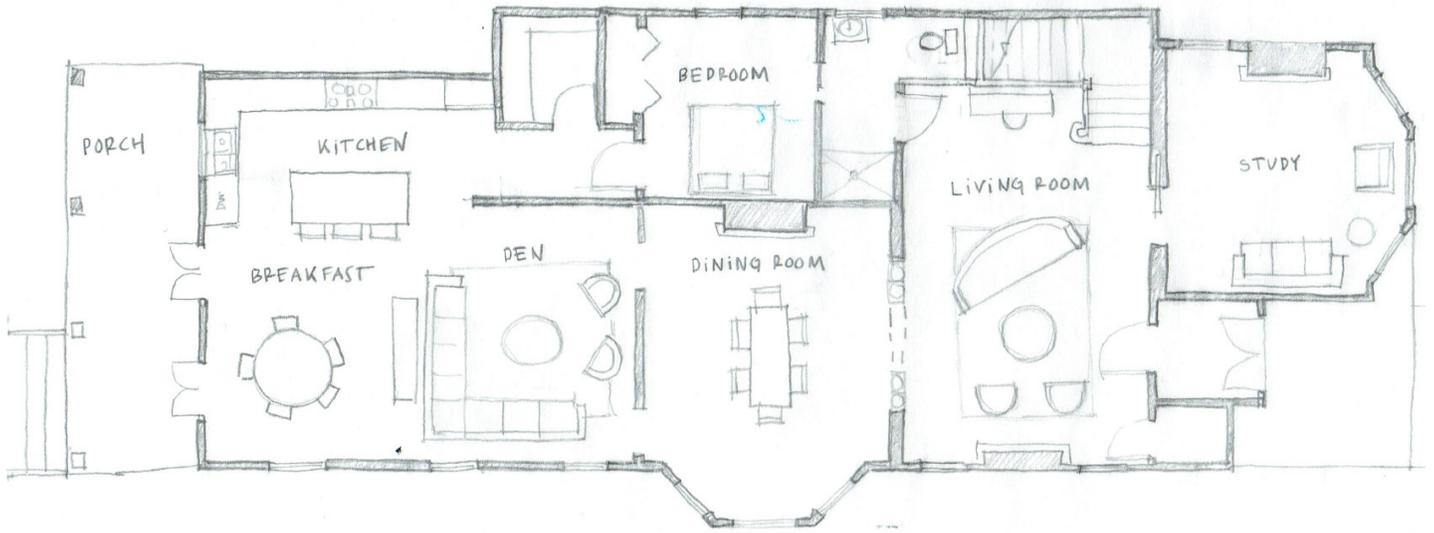
✓ 13/16

Thanks to the home's 4,000 square feet, the family has been able to entertain and cook more frequently than ever before.



∨ 14/16

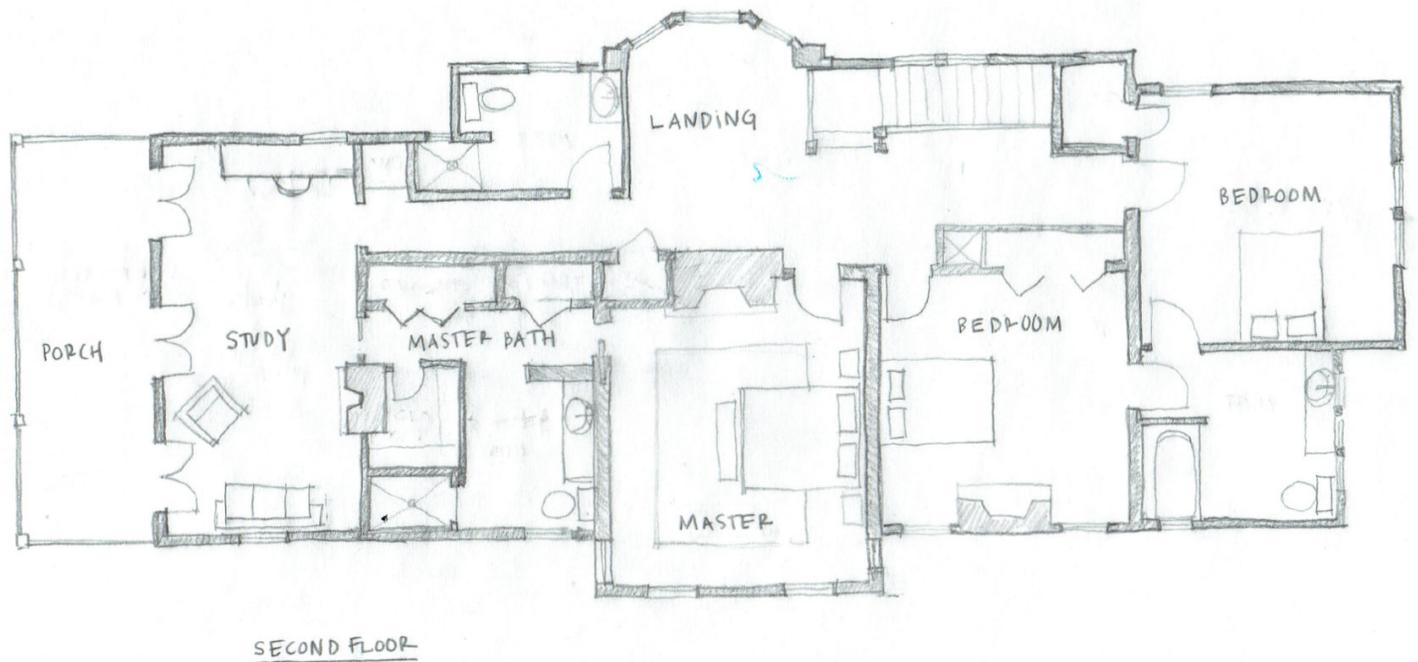
"The thing I love most about my home is its historical charm." –Karen Buck



FIRST FLOOR

✓ 15/16

The first floor's layout.



✓ 16/16

An aerial view of the second level.

Source List

Exterior

Interior design – Nomita Joshi-Gupta of Spruce and NOMITA JOSHI INTERIOR DESIGN

Architect – Daniel R. Samuels

General contractor – George Grunewald

Bedroom

Wallpaper – Custom Wallpaper “Offset Fir Green & Gold”

Headboard – Jacaranda

Bedding – West Elm

Lighting – Jonathan Adler

Throw pillow upholstery – Les Indiennes and Fabricut’s Nate Berkus collection

Bench – AllModern

Living Room

Ceiling paint – Benjamin Moore “Kennebunkport Green”

Sofa upholstery – House of Hackney

Chandelier – Joanthan Adler
Sofa, chair – AllModern
Rug – Novogratz by Momeni
Coffee table – West Elm

Dining Room

Dining table, chairs – vintage
Lighting – original

Bathroom

Tile – Stafford Tile & Stone

Family Room

Wallpaper – Makelike
Barrel chairs – antiques

Kitchen

Cabinetry, countertop – Gulf Breeze Kitchens
Range, hood – Wolf

