

# Bergen

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## HAPPY AT HOME

THE HOME ISSUE



MODERN RENO in Allendale

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# A COLONIAL GETS HIP

In Allendale, a designer's stately brick home is given a bright new interior with the features of today.

By Donna Rolando

Design by Sue Arlio

Photography by Chris Marksbury



There's always room for one more at this Amish-made solid cherry farm table, wire-brushed for a driftwood look. The French country chairs introduce navy from the home's gray-and-blue color scheme, while being stain-resistant for worry-free dining. An impressionist waterscape offers a soft blend of blues as contrast against the taupe custom grasscloth walls and matching Roman shades. The room's French feel is accentuated by the two chandeliers with their iron and crystal, says Karen Arakelian, owner of White House Living and its umbrella firm, White House Designs for Life.



This page: The family room with its stacked stone fireplace is the favorite hangout, which means the sectional from Century Furniture had to be both comfortable and durable. The blues in the ikat pillows and geometric rug by Masland Carpets play gently against the soft monotone hues on the walls and draperies for a spa-like feel. Opposite page: The solid oak coffee table with hand-forged iron legs by Charleston Forge is more than a looker; it's big enough so everyone can have a spot. In the background, arched windows retain their beauty with minimal window treatments.

## { PERSONAL SPACE }



**A Hoboken family** had their radar set for Allendale and completed their quest in a tight market with a large brick-façade colonial they had every intention of gutting and remodeling.

"We loved that the house had excellent bones and 5,000 square feet," says homeowner Susan Ritz. "We had the opportunity to knock down walls and put in features that really all new homes have now." Today, this more transitional home includes a mudroom, cathedral ceilings in the master bath and a walk-in closet with an island in the main bedroom.

Ritz, a designer with GAF Design, worked on the project with GAF Construction and architect Philip Finamore, both of North Haledon. But when it came to the design of each room, she wanted a second set of eyes.

Enter Sue Arlio, interior designer at White House Living in Wayne, part of White House Designs for Life. The mission: Breathe new light and life into a darker traditional setting, making it as elegant as one would expect from a stately brick colonial, but also uber-family-friendly for the kids—girls ages, 4, 7 and 10.

"White House worked with me with colors to lighten the feel of the house," says Ritz. "It gave me good direction. Sue was unbelievably supportive and reliable and gave me lots of tips."

Ritz especially likes how colors flow from one room to the next, "yet

each room in its own right is something special."

One highlight that sees lots of holiday action is the dining room, with its banquet-sized farm table made of solid cherry with a wire-brushed driftwood effect. No need to cut back on the guest list for this family that loves to entertain.

"I love that there's grasscloth on the walls in the dining room, which adds texture and elegance, along with gorgeous built-ins spanning the length of the wall," says Ritz, noting that the built-ins are perfect for displaying her china. French country chairs from Fairfield Chair and an abstract landscape over a metal bar cart infuse shades of blue. "The iron and crystal [of dual chandeliers] accentuate the French feel of the room," says Karen Arakelian, White House owner.

But the heart of the home is undoubtedly the family room, which fits the whole gang with a sectional from Century Furniture and a solid oak coffee table with hand-forged iron legs by Charleston Forge.

"The coffee table had to be big enough," says Arlio, and the room well-lit (it features double chandeliers from Currey Lighting), because there just may be a new piano in the family's future. The focal point of this room is the fireplace—once traditional brick, now transformed with stone layers and a landscape on the rustic mantel that brings out the space's spa-like feel, she says. The homeowner's mom and dad often relax on the swivel chairs by the fireplace when they visit.



Arlio describes the aesthetic as serene in the way soft, monotone colors play off subtle shades of blue in the ikat pillows and the geometric rug over wide-plank hardwood floors.

The kitchen is also geared at entertaining, with a dinette table from Lexington Home that is spacious enough for family and friends yet stylish with an iron base and white top. The home's carefree spirit is continued in the high-performance (durable and stain-resistant!) chair fabric with shades of blue.

The kitchen's color palette is one of contrasts, with the deep grays seen in the island base and swivel stools offsetting white Verona quartz counters and a backsplash with light gray veining. "We wanted it functional for the young family, so we went with quartz," says Arakelian. Other accents are the trio of pendant lanterns in brushed nickel and a porcelain farm sink.

For the room that makes a first impression, Arlio says, the owner "definitely didn't want the traditional credenza; she wanted a spot that would be very inviting." The outcome is warm but wow in the dual feather watercolors, which pick up the navy in the velvet custom bench and gray in the area rug, says Arakelian. The metal bunching tables seem to climb with the stairway, and what better place to feature flowers?

The multifaceted renovation of this house took five months to complete in 2017, just in time for Christmas, providing an extra reason to celebrate for a family that believes "the more the merrier." The colonial is just what Ritz wanted, she says—"comfortable, easy living for the children, but stately, not compromising its integrity."

This page: Deep gray in the island base and custom swivel stools contrasts with the white of the cabinets as well as the Verona quartz counters and backsplash with light gray veining. The porcelain farm sink and a trio of brushed nickel pendants complete the look. Opposite page: For an entry foyer that says "Welcome!," designer Sue Arlio teamed up a pair of feather watercolors with a velvet custom bench in navy and a gray area rug. Mirrored, iron nesting tables follow the line of the stairway and are perfect for a floral display, says Arakelian.

