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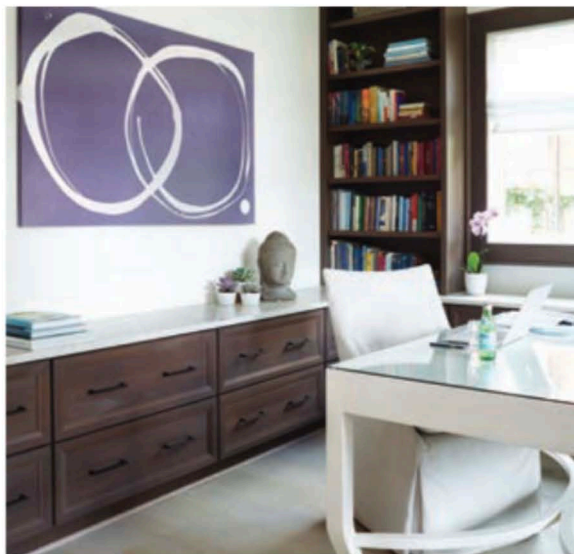
Erica Burns forges a timeless look in a new Bethesda abode, layering classic elements with panache

Text by JULIE SANDERS Photography by STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

When Mindy Frankel decided to renovate her circa-1940s house in Bethesda, it turned out to be more cost-effective to tear down the outdated residence and start afresh. She hired architect Mark Giarraputo of Studio Z to design a new home that would reflect its vintage neighborhood while giving her the conveniences she desired.

During the planning stages, Frankel—a sign-language interpreter and single mom—tapped Erica Burns to help guide her through the process of selecting furnishings and finishes. “I wanted an updated traditional look,” she says. “I prefer things that are classic and timeless.”

This was familiar turf for Burns, who leans towards this sensibility in her work. “I love things rooted in traditional style,” she explains.



Frankel's home office (above) is located by the front entry, making a bold abstract canvas by Kayce Hughes an immediate focal point. The room features built-in cabinetry and Pietra Fina quartzite countertops; the custom partner desk is by Bausman. In the dining area (right), industrial-chic light fixtures from Urban Electric hang above a Bausman table, Lee Industries host chairs and side chairs from Lillian August.



In the master bath (this page), Burns combined a rustic, tumbled-slate floor with expanses of elegant marble in the shower enclosure and on the walls and vanity. The soaking tub by MTI offers a window view. The chandelier above it is from Urban Electric.



How did you choose the furnishings?

Part of what made this project work so well was the amount of customization we were able to do. All the furniture is custom-measured so it fits the spaces perfectly. The fabrics are beautiful linen or linen-and-cotton blends, but we used stain-resistant Perennials indoor-outdoor fabric on the Lillian August dining chairs and Schumacher performance linen on the Lee Industries sofa.

What are the highlights of the master bath?

We paired heated, tumbled-slate floors with marble surfaces. For an MTI soaking tub in the window niche, we used plumbing fixtures by Newport Brass. The double vanity features Kohler sinks and a beautiful Valley Gold marble countertop from Marble Systems. I really pushed for a curb-less shower, which looks so clean. The shower has Calacatta Chablis marble tiles from Architectural Ceramics and a marble floating bench.

"I love this house because it feels like it's been here a long time." —ERICA BURNS

How did you select the art?

The art and rugs bring color into the interiors. Mindy had art from her family and we also commissioned some. The painting over the mantel is by Michelle Armas in Atlanta. We sent her a piece of wallpaper Mindy loved and she created the art based on that. The modern piece in Mindy's home office was commissioned from Kayce Hughes.

Can you name a favorite design element in the house?

The window treatments by Gretchen Everett are beautiful—custom pleated and cross-stitched. It's those subtle details that make the difference. I love this house because it feels like it's been here a long time. It's the combination of architecture, materials, furnishings. It's homey. ■

