

Summer 2020

TRADITIONAL HOME

**LOVE YOUR
KITCHEN:
TIPS+TRICKS
+MUST-HAVE
FEATURES**

get set for
Summer

**PRETTY ROOMS
WITH FRESH
STYLE AND
COLOR**

SHEER BEAUTY
WINDOW FABRICS WITH
AIRY ATTITUDE

**SAVOR THE
SEASON**
A LIGHT MENU
FILLED WITH
SUMMER SALADS



Find a CONTEMPORARY ART AND BOLD COLOR INVIGORATE A NEW ENGLAND HOME Surprise WRITTEN BY GRACE RIGDON PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN BESSLER PRODUCED BY STACY KUNSTEL Inside



Living room Designer Liz Caan
drenched walls and trim in
deep, dramatic, and Dutch-
inspired "Hague Blue" paint
from Farrow & Ball.



Visions of 19th-century charm danced in Susan and Michael Caraviello's dreams. The soon-to-be empty nesters wanted a home that embodied the appeal of New England's winding cobblestone streets and gabled abodes. The headaches and heartaches of renovating an old home, however, they could live without.

So Susan and Michael, who owns custom building firm Verdant Properties, decided to make history—by constructing a home with classic 19th-century Greek Revival looks and 21st-century amenities.

"The greatest compliment is when people ask when we renovated our historic home," Susan says. "That's how much we cared about weaving in the tiniest details to re-create our piece of history—and then we tell them it was built from scratch."

Outside, the Wellesley, Massachusetts, home offers august columns, mullioned windows, crisp shutters, and a gracious

Dining room A ceiling light from Apparatus Studio crowns the formal eating space, where walls are covered in a textural sisal from Cowtan & Tout. **Office area** An acrylic writing desk keeps the work nook in the living room unobtrusive. **Entry** Caan introduced the vivid blue that runs through the home on an upholstered Oly Studio bench in the entry. **Porch** Wicker furniture outfitted with vibrant pillows entices the homeowners to spend time lounging in the summer sun.





Family room New and vintage furniture pieces create an interesting push-pull in this relaxed gathering spot, where Caan called on pillow fabrics for hits of energizing color.

THE GREATEST COMPLIMENT
IS WHEN PEOPLE ASK WHEN
WE RENOVATED OUR HISTORIC
HOME.” —homeowner Susan Caraviello



porch furnished with antique wicker pieces that celebrate traditional style—and transport Susan back to her sunny Southern childhood.

Inside, paneled walls and crown molding continue the home’s classic bones. But rooms—and the Caraviellos—are far from stuck in the past. With designer Liz Caan, they layered in jewellike color, midcentury touches, and a wealth of contemporary art to put a modern spin on their traditional home.

“I was able to take the family’s menagerie of contemporary artwork and use those pieces as the foundation in each room,” Caan says. “Michael and Susan have gifted each other artwork from their brother-in-law’s gallery for the past 23 years, and they have it to show in almost every room.”

That includes the living room, a space the Caraviellos wanted to serve as both a formal gathering space and a home office. “My goal was to create the look of a Parisian parlor,” Caan

Breakfast area A custom banquette follows the curve of a midcentury Saarinen table. Jet black upholstery fabric repeats the black on window sashes. A shiplap ceiling infuses comfortable farmhouse charm.

Kitchen Lantern-style fixtures from Urban Electric visually contrast a soapstone-covered island. Collected pieces add to the feel of age and character, while just-cut flowers keep the mood fresh.





says. Deep blue walls serve as a canvas for art, sophisticated furniture, and Susan's elegant baby grand piano. Attention to detail shines in touches like decorative tape trim on sumptuous Roman shades. Panels beside Susan's acrylic desk infuse stately architectural detail and smartly cloak file drawers.

Like Susan's office area, the formal dining room layers mid-century elements on top of a traditional envelope. "I wanted to play with modernizing the space while sticking to its conservative roots," Caan says. A clean-lined Parsons-style dining table juxtaposes pleated draperies and chinoiserie chairs while an effervescent glass bubble chandelier speaks to midcentury form and modern-day energy.

The adjacent cooking space continues the thoughtful amalgam. "Susan wanted a very white and traditional-looking kitchen yet chose a stunning black soapstone for the waterfall island that correlates to sculptures and artwork around her home," Caan says.

A white subway-tile backsplash and beaded-board ceiling evoke a homey New England atmosphere while touches of brass infuse subtle glimmer. An eat-in banquette keeps things cozy as it also celebrates a midcentury aesthetic. "We used our existing Saarinen table and embedded it into the nook, creating



an intimate eating area," Susan says. Indoor-outdoor fabric on the bench and stools shrugs off messes.

Continuing the kitchen's light painted walls, the family room uses throw pillows and paintings to create pops of color. A custom-made velvet ottoman ties to the love of blue seen throughout the home. Cushioned furniture pieces, an expansive fireplace, and sweet window seats make the room even more inviting.

Garden views entice the Caraviellos outdoors, where they love to host gatherings of family and friends. Lush foliage and picturesque pergolas shade backyard barbecues and impromptu wine tastings. No matter the season, the Caraviellos know how to throw a party.

"Our goal was to create a welcoming place that our two children could come home to," Susan says. "We are delighted with how it turned out—I can't imagine living anywhere else."

Interior designer: Liz Caan

For more information, see sources on page 91

Family Susan and Michael Caraviello wanted to create a home with historic charm that welcomes modern living—including visits from son John. **Powder room** Cole & Son's "Nuvolette" wallpaper sets a dreamy backdrop for glimmering brass on lighting and the slim vanity.

