

NEW ENGLAND MODERN

JACI CONRY

photography by MICHAEL J. LEE

BRAHMIN BEAUTY

Lined with gaslights, gracious Federals, and Victorian row houses built during the 1880s for the city's elite, Beacon Hill is arguably Boston's most picturesque area. Honoring the architectural origins of this brick residence in the neighborhood was crucial to Georgantas, who filled the home with many vintage elements. However, it was equally important that the home feel modern and bright.

"The whole house felt so dark. There was mahogany wood everywhere. It's located on a heavily shaded street, so there wasn't a lot of natural light coming in on the lower levels," says Georgantas. In the living room, she removed the dark woodwork and designed wall tracings for the fireplace wall. "The walls were very boring. Most of the original moldings were no longer there. The wall tracing makes the area feel more dressed up," she says. On either side of the new streamlined fireplace hang vintage tubular brass sconces by Pietro Chiesa. When Georgantas discovered there was only one sconce available, she had an exact replica made to create a pair.

Since the main entrance of the home is part of the living room, Georgantas called for the installation of a frosted-glass wall to close off the entry, creating a sense of distinction between the two spaces. She designed a sizable curved sofa that fits snugly under the windows. "It's a smaller, awkwardly-spaced room. The homeowners wanted to entertain in here. The sofa can fit a lot of bodies," says Georgantas, who also designed sleek leather "fireside chairs," which can be moved around the room.

In the dining room, the mahogany walls were invigorated with smoky lavender lacquer paint, and a faux silver Phillip Jeffries wall covering sheaths the ceiling. "The homeowner was very concerned about the room

feeling dark. The mirrored wallpaper and reflective lacquer surface makes a huge impact," says Georgantas. An antique amethyst and Murano glass chandelier emanates a lovely lavender-tinted glow.

Georgantas used wallpaper in several key spots to create interest, including the walls of the stairway between the third and fourth floors, where a textural Dedar wall covering depicts star and floral motifs. While it has a muted palette, the embossed quality has movement to it, creating a multidimensional effect. The third-floor guest room features Harlequin's Sumi wallpaper, a gold large-scale brushed geometric pattern with an abstract feel. "It's all about the movement of the wall covering," says Georgantas. "With wallpaper like this you can finish a space without feeling like you have to fill every spot on the wall with art."

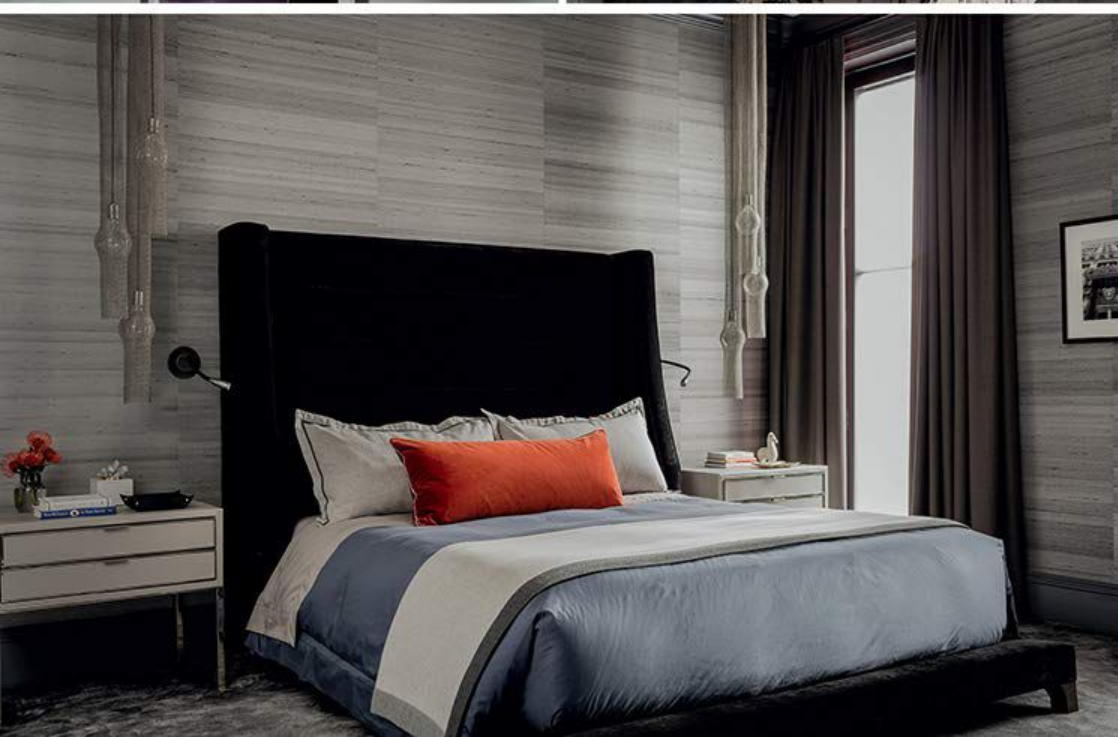
The second-floor library was also paneled with dark wood. "It was handsome, but the husband didn't need a big space devoted to his home office," says Georgantas. "We put his desk in the media room on the top floor and converted the library into the master bathroom." The adjacent master bedroom had minimal closets, so Georgantas created a scheme in which the original master bathroom became a connecting hallway into the new bathroom from the bedroom; the former hallway was made into an expansive closet for the wife. The bathroom is a serene white haven with built-in millwork encasing cabinetry on one wall for the husband's clothing. The original library door was kept intact. "This way, the husband can wake up, shower, get dressed in the bathroom, and be out the door in the morning without waking up the wife," says Georgantas.





ABOVE: Elms transformed an out-of-place wet bar into a striking focal point. **RIGHT:** Elms replaced the living room fireplace with a sleeker model trimmed with brass rivets. Storage is concealed behind built-ins painted a glossy gray lacquer, and a fur rug adds a distinct textural note.





CLOCKWISE, FROM OPPOSITE PAGE: A built-in desk with shelving above makes for an attractive and functional home office enclave. In the powder room, the walls are Venetian plaster, and the custom sink is made of marble with etchings that reminded Elms of a Missoni fabric. In the daughter's bedroom—"a tiny jewel box of a space," says Elms—the wall behind the bed is sheathed with an iris emblazoned wallpaper that has a Monet-esque appeal. In the master bedroom, the cashmere drapes, silk wall covering, and velvet headboard combine to create a luxurious feel.



ABOVE: On one end of the library, a low-backed sofa offers a pleasing place to stretch out and enjoy the view. **OPPOSITE:** At the other end of the room, a handsome desk is paired with Lucite chairs with faux zebra-hide seats.

