

# FLOWER

## A COLORFUL CLASSIC

For her client's fresh start, Bethesda, Maryland designer Kelley Proxmire takes existing pieces and gives them a whole new attitude with fresh color and stylish accents bequeathing the new home with a classic and collected appeal.

A pristine white Colonial Revival house sitting serenely on a tree-lined street in Bethesda, Maryland, actually has a couple of secrets lurking up its sleeve. First of all, it's not circa 1920s, but rather the year 2019. And while studied efforts were made to keep the original 1950s home, and simply renovate, it soon became clear to the homeowner and team that they needed to start from the ground up.



The family room off the kitchen shows off shades of green and warm neutrals. Kelley took her client's existing armchairs and recovered them in a solid Romo fabric with jaunty Fabricut trim on the skirts.

One of its best assets, however, didn't need any work at all—the home's lot directly borders the backyard of one of the owner's daughters on a parallel street. Also, with a new build, she was able to realize a floorplan exactly suited to her needs. "There's a primary suite downstairs with an attached office repurposed from the original living room, and it's separate from the rest of the home almost like an apartment," explains architect Luke Olson of GTM Architects. "The kitchen opens to a family room and laundry space that's entered from the garage; there's great flow and wide hallways."



The Colonial Revival style home's exterior includes classic character stemming from the columns, pediment, and windows. The white façade with black accents is a timeless pairing.



The stairway in the foyer brings a dramatic note accompanied by an elegant chandelier and a trellis-patterned Thibaut wallpaper. “Kelley found such beautiful pieces when we needed them,” says the homeowner. “This blue rug looks like it’s been custom woven.”

Luke incorporated many traditional architectural details that bring age to the new home's exterior including ionic columns set on a fieldstone base, a sunburst window and matching sidelights; classic front door and shutters; and a diamond paned window over the pediment. The interiors reveal a spacious foyer, a graceful stairwell, wide plank oak floors, and an extended barrel-vaulted archway that adds elegant gravitas.



For the dining room, Kelley used her client's existing table and side chairs and painted the buffet a soft gray for an easy update. New hostess chairs in a large-scale Schumacher botanical print adds lively pattern against the textured grass cloth wallcovering.

The other secret involves some of the interior design choices. While one would hardly associate Bethesda with Bermuda, in fact the island where the owner grew up and all of her four children were born and raised played a part in the decision making in several spaces. A beloved painting by noted Bermudan artist Sheilagh Head inspired the palette in the dining room with its palm green Phillip Jefferies grass cloth wallcovering; exuberant blue, cream, and green Schumacher botanical print; and blue edged chandelier shades.



Blue, a favorite of the homeowner's that speaks to Bermuda, pops up in many spaces throughout including this armchair in the foyer reupholstered in a Cowtan & Tout tapestry that's also used for a pillow on a nearby bench.



The client's painting of a Cuban landscape slips perfectly into the kitchen with its greens and hints of yellow.

"We were able to incorporate many of my client's existing pieces from her home in Massachusetts all throughout just reimagining them with fresh fabrics, trims, and paint," says interior designer Kelley Proxmire. "In the dining room, her table slipped right in; we updated the side chairs in a green Manuel Canovas woven print with blue trim. The traditional buffet was painted a dove gray to break up the wood tones and give it a more modern look."



A lovely statement in blue and green for the homeowner's study that includes her Moroccan rug, hand-carved jaguar, and desk.

Kelley employed a pale blue Lee Jofa fabric to dress the windows bordered in a cucumber green trim that ties everything together.

"I don't like to be wasteful or too extravagant, so I'm extremely pleased about how many of my things Kelley was able to update and include into the décor. A favorite rug from Morocco worked well in my study/office and the colors in the room spring from that," says the well-traveled homeowner. "And my hand-carved Brazilian jaguar found a home under the desk."



The cheerful kitchen sings with a fresh yellow, green, and white palette and pleated Visual Comfort pendants with brass accents. A Thibaut botanical print perks up the window over the sink.

The designer sprinkled more blue and green hues from the island painting and Moroccan rug to other rooms, mixing in additional shades in each space for a unique appeal. “The morning light is on the front of the house, not the back, so a bright white and yellows felt right in the kitchen with hints of green,” says Kelley.



The same Thibaut print is used as wallpaper in the mud/laundry room with plenty of welcome storage. A built-in bench holds shoes topped with a cushion in small geometric Schumacher print bordered in a yellow Samuel & Sons tape trim.

Sunny yellow continues in the mud/laundry room turning it into a very cheerful place for chores with a large-scale botanical Thibaut wallpaper. Another Thibaut wallpaper graces the foyer and climbs up the stairwell to the second-floor landing. While perhaps not intentional, its trellis pattern evokes gazebos often seen in seaside settings. The primary bedroom’s custom floral upholstered bedroom and duvet print also speak to Bermudan style. “The British introduced chintz and country house influences to the island, and this reminds me of my house in Bermuda,” says the homeowner.



The primary bedroom's appeal springs from a classic chintz-covered headboard and duvet accented with soft pink and dark green tones. Kelley reworked her client's armchairs and ottoman outfitting them in Perennials fabric with contrasting cording.

Visual Comfort chandelier and bedside table lamps.

While the client certainly got what she wanted—a light and bright, pretty and polished, home, so much of her joy springs from its more intangible gifts—the four bedrooms upstairs with ensuite bathrooms always at the ready to welcome her four children and eight grandchildren; a nearby capacious window seat and bookshelves brimming with children’s titles for reading and snuggling; a screened-in porch to enjoy indoor/outdoor living that extends the season well beyond her previous Massachusetts residence; and that hop, skip, and a jump to her daughter’s backyard where cousins and siblings can go back and forth.



A reading and lounging nook was one of the homeowner’s requests so she can curl up and read to her grandchildren, filled with a mélange of pretty prints for the pillows and cushion.

“This house has become such a constant in our lives since my children’s childhood home in Bermuda is currently a rental. My daughter who is living next door hopes to purchase it one day,” says the owner. “Until then, this home gives me and my family everything we need.” And that’s no secret.

# SOURCES

## FOYER

- Sheers: Vila Nova, V3140/03.
- Wallpaper: Thibaut, T4051/Green
- Fabric (client's bench): Gaston y Daniela, GDT5200-001.
- Trim (bench): Nina Campbell, NCT511-04
- Fabric (chair & pillow on bench): Cowtan & Tout, 11267-01
- Area Rug: Galleria Carpet, Kuma, 165120 color Royal Blue

## FAMILY ROOM

- Sofa: Kravet/Lee Jofa, Custom Workroom Sectional
- Fabric: Kravet, 33832-616.
- Fabric (client's own lounge chairs): Romo, 7867/61
- Trim (skirts): Fabricut, Gisele color 12.
- Fabric (Hepplewhite Chair): Jasper, JO 2041
- Sconces: Shades of Light, Long Arm Classic Connection Sconce
- Pillow fabrics: Lee Jofa, 2006188-37; Romo, 7867/61; Colefax and Fowler, F4333-05; Schumacher, 75370; Jane Shelton, 1810-03
- Pillow trims: Schumacher, 63110; Samuel & Sons, TF-58536 color 04; Fringe Market, Loopy color Natural Cotton
- Fabric (draperies): Pindler, P6343 Whitaker color Marigold; and trim: Jim Thompson, TR1006/02

## DINING ROOM

- Chandelier: Visual Comfort, Oslo Medium Chandelier
- Shades: Royal Designs
- Trim (shades): Samuel & Sons #977-44930-088
- Wallcovering: Phillip Jeffries, 8493 Stately Green
- Host Chairs: Thibaut Fine Furniture, Hudson Chair
- Fabric (host chairs): Schumacher, 177372.
- Fabric (side chairs): Manuel Canovas, 4891-04
- Fabric (draperies): Thibaut, W775444; and trim: Samuel & Sons, BT-58251 color 09
- Rug: Custom from Couristan, Cap Ferrat color Cool Mist
- Table, chairs, sideboard, art, accessories: client's own

## KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM

- Stools: Ballard Designs, Harris Counter Stools with Welt. Dimensions: 19.5"W x 21"D x 38.5"H, 26.5"Seat Height. COM Fabric: Colefax & Fowler, F4608-01
- Chairs: Canadel #5158. Fabric: Jasper, JP 7252. Finish: 80 Canvas – Antiqued.
- Table: Canadel, Wood Top Table 4268
- Roman Shades (floral fabric): Thibaut, F92947. Contrast banding & contrast welt: Fabricut "Wrangler, Driftwood"
- Pendants: Visual Comfort, Grosvenor Large Single Hanging Shade/Polished Nickel
- Chandelier: Visual Comfort, Country Small Chandelier / Belgian White.
- Custom Shades (chandelier): Fenchel Shades Fabric: Michael S Smith, T3004-02

## MUDROOM

- Window treatment fabric: Colefax & Fowler, F4608-01; Trim: Fabricut, Capri / Buttercup
- Wallcovering: Thibaut, T2947.
- Bench cushion fabric: Schumacher, 70540. Tape trim to go along front and sides of cushion box: Samuel & Sons, 977-41246 color 07. Self-welt

## OFFICE

- Fabric (draperies): Lee Jofa, 2017224-5; and trim: Evans & Sheldon, Empress Garden – Georgie Girl – Cucumber
- Chair and Ottoman. Fabric: Kravet, 33345 color 130. Contrast Cord: Samuel & Sons, 981-26621 color 079
- Fabric (French chairs): Cowtan & Tout, 11453-01
- Desk, accessories, art: client's own

## PRIMARY BEDROOM

- Chandelier: Visual Comfort, Country Small Chandelier
- Custom Upholstered Headboard. Size: King. Fabric: Lee Jofa, 889300-LJ. Self-Welt.
- Custom Duvet Cover: Duvet Front Fabric: Lee Jofa 889300LJ. Duvet Back Fabric: Kravet, LCT1028-001
- Custom Bedskirt fabric: Lee Jofa, BFC-3631 color 7
- Custom King Pillow Shams. Fabric: Lee Jofa, BFC-3631 color 7. Trim: Samuel & Sons, 977-39809 color 01
- Draperies: Fabric: Schumacher, 177762. Tassel Trim: Samuel & Sons, TF-57251 color 01
- Bench: Hickory Chair, Babette Bench1537-00. Fabric: Schumacher, 43278. Dark Green Contrast Cord: Samuel & Sons, 981-26621 color 169
- Bedside Lamps: Visual Comfort, "Sazarec Large"
- Re-upholster client's own lounge chairs & ottoman: Fabric: Perennials, 972-124. Contrast Cord: 981-26621 color 168
- Client's own bedside tables, circular side table, lamp, accessories

## SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

- Wallpaper: Thibaut, T4051/Green
- Fabric & trim (window seat cushion): Fabric: Lee Jofa, BFC-3520-153. Contrast Cord: Samuel & Sons, 981-26621 color 079
- Fabric & trim (22" pillows): Stroheim, Vivi – Color 01. Brush fringe: Houles, Riviera – 33019
- Fabrics (20" pillows): Pillow Front – Lee Jofa, BFC-3520-153 (same fabric as bench cushion); and Pillow Back and Flange Fabric – Dogwood 2298-56
- Fabric & trim (16" pillows): Molly Mahon, 179731. Brush Fringe: Fringe Market, 2" Cut Fringe Outdoor/Indoor color Skye
- Fabric & trim (lumbar pillow): Thibaut, W80011; and Stroheim, Guadalupe DG #16

## DESIGN AND BUILD

- Interior Design: Kelley Proxmire
- Architecture: Luke Olson of GTM Architects
- Landscape Design: Rasevic Landscape Company
- Contractor: Chesapeake Custom Homes and Development, LLC