

CLASSICAL ELEGANCE

SOPHISTICATION AND FLAIR UPLIFT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THIS TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY GETAWAY ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD.

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THE BLACK AND WHITE marble floor of the entry hall became Kim's point of inspiration for her home's interiors and overall color palette. Accented décor includes antique lighting and furnishings. Perched at either end of a period sideboard, a pair of chairs upholstered in a pop of Grassy Green is a deliberate eye-catching design element added to the room.



A FEATURED WOOD DEMILUNE SIDEBORD sits proudly against the original ornate molding. Treasured paintings by French artists are hung above while recent family photos look at home below in ornate frames.



(ABOVE)
PRESERVATION OF CLASSICAL ELEMENTS

is key to capturing that old-world elegance. Kim retained and restored the original period details of the home, the grand staircase, intricate moldings and hardwood floors—an elegant backdrop for showcasing treasured antiques and accessories. The color palette is influenced by Kim’s affinity for variations of black and white tones. An accent hide is placed under a round decorative table topped with objects positioned in a tight vignette—a design tip Kim suggests for an uncluttered look.

FRENCH ELEGANCE SURPASSES ORNATE ROOMS BRIMMING WITH INTRICATE FURNITURE PIECES AND SHIMMERING CHANDELIERS—it is built on maintaining a balance between opulence and sophistication, gilded glamour and sweeping, sleek lines. For interior designer Kim Radovich, president of Kim E. Courtney Interiors & Design on Long Island’s North Shore, the focus is clear—restore integrity to design. “Whether lovingly preserving a historic estate or infusing new construction with classic detail,” she says, “my firm is committed to the finest aesthetics for both residential and commercial clients.”

It’s with this passion that Kim set out to renovate her own home—a turn-of-the-century residence originally built as a summer getaway for New Yorkers—soon imbuing the property with an undeniably French refinement.

À LA CLASSIQUE

Working as her own client, Kim wanted her home’s interiors to reflect a style she describes as “classical elegance.” The 18-month-long restoration project began with paying particular attention to original architectural components. Applied crown and base moldings were copied and then installed in areas of the home where

previous owners had removed them. She feathered in quarter-sawn tiger oak floors to meet salvaged counterparts and then restored the original butler's pantry with the addition of new hardware.

Kim's affinity for a black and white color palette inspired the very eye-catching yet sophisticated entry floor tile; she credits the glossy black and white marble, laid in a diagonal checkerboard pattern, as her design jumping-off point for the interiors of the entire home. The introduction of contrasting black and white tones and complementing shades of gray and taupe also served as a foundation for Kim to begin a process of layering additional decorative elements throughout the rooms. This technique allowed her to easily interchange and infuse colorful accents. "My pop of color is a deep kelly, clover, grassy green that sings in spring and summer and works especially well in winter at holiday time," she says, "and the addition of spots of russet in fall always feels good."

Within this design scheme, Kim stresses the importance of recognizing elements of scale and proportion when selecting your accenting décor. "With fabrics, I always consider that the juxtaposition of soft and hard surfaces and fabric patterns should vary," she says. "For instance, a large stripe and small floral need a mid-sized pattern to bridge them." She also pays close attention to differences of size in lighting and furniture, an essential balance when decorating with ornate French pieces. "There is nothing more disconcerting than a dining table with a chandelier that overwhelms, and by the same token, a large overstuffed sofa flanked by weightless side tables always looks awkward," Kim says.



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THE STUNNING MOLDING DETAILS in the living room have been restored to their original grandeur. The unique concave plaster ceiling was “originally designed and installed by Hyde Park Mouldings and then restored during our renovation by Hyde Park,” Kim explains. “Lions and tigers and bears and whales and squirrels dance around the ceiling. I love pointing it out to guests and letting them have a go at finding all of the whimsical animal reliefs!” Due to the room’s large scale, Kim creates the complementing furniture arrangement by floating a pair of sofas and designing more than one seating area.



CONTRAST FINDS A HOME IN THE KITCHEN, with the theme of black and white applied to the countertops. "Soapstone surrounds juxtaposed with a honed island is dramatic and suits the period of the home," Kim says. "The random pattern created by the backsplash in a brick subway tile adds texture." The reflective metal finishes of appliances and hardware mirror the details of the glossy entry floors, with pops of red from produce and cookware adding whimsy.



SHIMMERING ACCENTS add drama to the dining room. "The design in subtle tones of champagne, silver and gold allows me to mix metals easily when dressing the table," Kim says. "Walls are dramatic in a luminescent gunite gray and black ground with chinois-patterned wallcovering. A round table is always optimal—it encourages good energy and balance." Kim deliberately leaves out a host or hostess chair, opting for all side chairs to promote "a collective share in the abundance and conversation equally."



A CUSTOM-DESIGNED banquette nestles into a cozy corner of the kitchen for a casual eating area. "The banquette is always a great solution for a tight space where chairs just won't work around a table and traffic flow is key," Kim explains. The banquette has been upholstered in a nubby high-performance black-and-ivory check from Kravet. Kim's selected color palette, shades of black and white, is extended to drapery, and a range of black finishes inspire the décor in the form of a chalkboard, side table and dining table.

A VARIETY OF TEXTURES adds a tactile quality to the master bedroom. "The walls are upholstered in a soft gray ostrich skin with crisp white-panel moldings," Kim notes. "This application is the first layer for this luxe master bedroom suite." To create the look of plush comfort in this suite, Kim spared no expense with her textiles. "The fabrics are all sumptuous," she says. "I used slubby silks in shades of rose and gray with espresso accents. Crisply ironed ivory linens are essential. A very special embroidered Scalamandré foot warmer is included."





“THE HOME INCORPORATES A PLETHORA OF DESIGN AESTHETICS,” KIM SAYS. “ANTIQUE FURNISHINGS, LIGHTING AND CLASSIC ART JUXTAPOSE NEW UPHOLSTERY AND FURNITURE RANGING FROM TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY TO MIDCENTURY MODERN.”

THE MASTER BATH exudes classical elegance. An abstract painting hung above a generous-sized soaking tub inspires the room’s calming color palette. The room reflects a luxurious appeal through the selection of hotel-quality fixtures and finishes.



FRENCH ACCENTS

As an admitted Francophile, Kim notes she is drawn to the elegant simplicity indicative of French style. “The house is filled with interesting items my husband and I have collected over the years. Paintings by admired artists Luigi Loir and Eugène [Galien-Laloue] are featured on many of the walls,” she says. “And all the art in the living room is French impressionism.” Kim expertly balances an old-world appeal with fresh style through a mix of classic and current décor. “The home incorporates a plethora of design aesthetics,” she says. “Antique furnishings, lighting and classic art juxtapose new upholstery and furniture ranging from turn-of-the-century to Midcentury Modern.” She even has a trick to keeping her home outfitted with modern comforts while maintaining that look of high elegance: “Period pieces! My 19th-century Frenchman’s wardrobe is retrofitted as a bar and houses all of the audio equipment.”

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Adding the flavor and feel of refined French living to your home doesn't necessarily mean a trip to Paris or Provence. Kim's simplest recommendation for interpreting classic elegance is to start by keeping design simple while paying close attention to detail. "I always keep collections in odd numbers and prefer to display them in tight vignettes," Kim says, "lest they read as clutter." To capture that European charm, it's all about "surrounding yourself with the things that you love," she says, "and then accessorizing with my three essentials: flowers, candles and music." ■

BRIGHT WHITES AND BEAUTIFUL WALLPAPER

makes this guest room a favorite among visitors. "The Anna French wallpaper is so pretty," Kim says. "It is called Snowbirds. A snowy ground with a silvery sketch of birds, berries and flowers. The pop of yellow make this space so very cheerful. Sunny night tables by Somerset Bay flank the headboard. The bed is outfitted with layer upon layer of down-filled, crisp-white linen."

