*Twist on Tradition*
Drapery trim by Pierre Frey dictated the moody palette for the salon, where designer Karen Ferguson combined influences from eras past with her eye for layering textures that could rival filmmaker Wes Anderson.

# NEW GROOVE

*Pulling nostalgic memories into the present moment, interior designer KAREN FERGUSON and late architect FRANK NEELY curated a 1930s home as personally as a favorite playlist*

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*Press Play*
*above* Made of marble, crystal, and iconic 1980s and '90s hip-hop cassette tapes, the original *Rhyme Capsule* sculpture by artists David Schwartz and Isaac Z. sets the tone for the home's offbeat interiors.

I LIKE HANDPICKED SONGS on an old mixtape cassette, a well-curated home combines life's greatest hits with sentimental melodies that instantly transport listeners to a specific time and place.

For one couple of newlyweds and new parents, the house they desired for their growing family sounded a lot like the grand homes of their grandmothers: full of loved ones and heirlooms that leave lasting memories.

To bring this dream to life, they enlisted late architect Frank Neely, an expert in high-end historic renovation, interior designer Karen Ferguson of Harrison Design, and builder Neil Johnson of Canonbury Homes, Inc. to update a 1930s residence for modern living while paying homage to its past.

The vision first began to take shape in the foyer, where Neely introduced an unexpected ceiling of glass cubes—like a coffered treatment, yet transparent. That irreverent choice set the tone for interiors rooted in tradition, but with a youthful, funky twist. In turn, the black-and-white floor tile below skews artful and offbeat, rather than symmetrical and predictable. Opposite the front door, the homeowners' favorite art piece wows guests: a





*Happy Hour*
*above* Antique crystal decanters are on display behind the bar. Installing the stained paneling was the biggest design challenge during the home renovation—and the extra effort paid off. *left* A pendant lined with mirrored tiles from Oxshott Collection illuminates the music room's grand piano. The fabric wallcovering is Frivole Ebene by Métaphores.



*Added Bonus*
In the study, original wood floors are juxtaposed with newly installed rift-and-quartered panels for a cozy, layered feel. Above the mantel, a work by Stephanie Henderson through Pryor Fine Art echoes the chartreuse and pastel pink of the dining room's mural wallpaper.

1,200-pound marble sculpture by artists David Schwartz and Isaac Z. depicts a crystal boombox filled with 180 hip-hop cassettes raised overhead by a figure who kneels in reverence.

Beyond the entryway, a winding staircase leads up through a vestibule, clad in striped padded walls, to the family's private retreat. In the primary bathroom, Ferguson started with the fixtures—a foolproof litmus test for determining a client's personal style. In this case, they opted for vintage-inspired porcelain and polished-nickel hardware apropos for the circa-1930s home. Mirrored medicine cabinets in the curved plaster surrounding the vanity, fluted globe sconces, frosted glass on the shower door, and paneled walls soften the cast-iron tub and geometric floor tile. The tasseled waterfall valance is what Ferguson calls "the cherry on top." In the adjacent bedroom, a half tester takes advantage of the vaulted ceilings, while a lion toile holds special symbolism for the homeowners' son.

Back on the main level, the ability to entertain large groups was another guiding design requirement. "They want to have a house where at Passover, everyone can have a seat," adds Ferguson, noting that despite having relocated to Atlanta from California, the homeowners have already mastered the art of Southern hospitality.

A nod to the famous lobby at The Colony Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida, a custom de Gournay wallpaper wraps around the dining table with hand-painted palms, tropical birds, and jungle animals, including another majestic lion. The pink-and-green scheme carries into an adjacent breakfast room, with movable furniture on castors for overflow capacity during dinner parties.

In the kitchen, a double island topped with soapstone, large concealed appliances, and pewter countertops around the perimeter ensure plenty of space for prep and serving. Behind pocket doors, grown-up fun continues in the Art Deco-leaning parlor, complete with a poker table, swivel club chairs, and a stocked bar.

Since completion, the home has struck a new chord, as it

*Delightful Dining* Ferguson and her clients specified the pink Amazonia wallpaper painted on Xuan paper for the dining room. Reminiscent of the lobby in Palm Beach's famed Colony Hotel, the mural's lush scene features banana leaf plants and exotic animals.



*Moveable Feast*
A pedestal table on casters, surrounded by green-painted armchairs from Dennis & Leen, can be shifted easily to accommodate impromptu guests.

was one of the final projects for Neely, who worked on it while receiving cancer treatment in New York. "[He] never lost sight of the details that were important to the client," says Danielle Neely of her late husband, pointing to how he designed the entryway to show off one of the couple's most cherished pieces of art. "To Frank, design was a living, breathing collaboration that didn't have room for egos. He was never more excited than when the clients, designers, and builders were all bouncing ideas off each other to create a home that the owners loved."

Their shared appreciation for creativity culminates in the home's music room, where a pendant lined with mirrored tiles hangs like a reimagined disco ball above the grand piano. "They want their kids to grow up learning to play piano," shares Ferguson. Like a cherished family heirloom, the songs—and memories of them—are something they can hold onto forever. *See Resources, Back of Book.*



*Shine On*
Ferguson's clients trusted her vision to juxtapose a classic Pratt + Larson tile backsplash from Renaissance Tile & Bath with pewter-like Grothouse Anvil on the perimeter counters in the kitchen. The cabinetry is by Block + Chisel and dual islands are topped with honed black soapstone from Walker Zanger.

*Mix & Match*

Balancing antiques with new pieces, such as the gray burl nightstands from Bennett to the Trade, keeps the bedroom furniture from feeling too heavy.

"The whole family has this gorgeous red hair, so pink, mauve, maroon, and green—colors redheads naturally look nice with—are what I based the whole color scheme around." —*Karen Ferguson*



*It Takes Two* *below* Ferguson and architect Frank Neely worked hand in hand to execute the curved plaster surrounding the vanity that is as functional as it is fashionable. The cabinetry is by Block + Chisel and the tub, hardware, and sconces are from Waterworks. *below left* In the upstairs vestibule, Ferguson covered the padded walls with a timeless navy-and-maroon stripe from Kravet.

