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**NYC&G**  
New York Cottages and Gardens

# Carriage Trade

In the hands of interior designer Brittany Bromley, a 1920s carriage house in Locust Valley goes 21st century

BY **MIRANDA AGEE**  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY **JANE BEILES**

**Stripe It Rich**  
Schumacher's Acanthus Stripe in Shadow makes a bold statement in the foyer. See Resources.





On the day of her clients' install, interior designer Brittany Bromley found herself in the midst of a torrential downpour—the worst New York State had witnessed in decades. Custom furniture and antiques had to be meticulously covered up, all shielded in boxes and layers of plastic to keep them from getting soaked. “It was biblical,” the Westchester-based Bromley says of the deluge. “We had double the usual amount of people to help, and it still took us 40 hours to get my clients moved in. I had never witnessed anything like it—and I went to school in New Orleans!”

Bromley, a Chicago native who graduated from Tulane University in 2001, initially moved to Manhattan to begin a career in real estate. But she had always loved interior design, and often found herself advising clients on how to make their new homes livable. “What I really love about real estate is the people,”

she says, “and when I understood what clients were looking for, it made me a better agent. In retrospect, some of the extra services I was providing were probably closer to that of a designer.”

In 2009, Bromley and her boyfriend, who is now her husband, packed up their West Village apartment and moved to Bedford, where they purchased a 1796 center-hall Colonial in need of a complete renovation. When the work was done, friends and neighbors took note of Bromley's talent and started asking her to decorate their homes. “I was hesitant because I had never decorated professionally,” she says, “but they didn't care. My business kind of happened by accident, although I like to think that there are no accidents.” Six months after hanging up her real estate license, she had 14 clients and a small staff.

Bromley is currently working on homes all over the

**Refined Eye**

(ABOVE) The den features Farrow & Ball's Drawing Room Blue on the walls and shelving. The roman shade fabric is Michael S Smith's Kashmir in Coral/Blue. (OPPOSITE) An antique French *trumeau* mirror hangs on a foyer wall. The cushion on the Brittany Bromley Interiors armchair is covered in Jennifer Shorto's Raf for Claremont. See Resources.





country and a hotel in Greece, but word of mouth continues to be her best p.r. tool. So when a close friend's parents bought a 1920s carriage house to use as a vacation home in Locust Valley, Bromley got the call. She quickly drew up plans for a daring reinterpretation of classic American design. "The home needed a lot of love, but it was a blank canvas, and that allowed us to think outside the box," she recounts, noting that the clients had essentially given her free reign, with the condition of working within some of their design parameters. Bromley further credits what she calls creative capital—the idea of earning clients' confidence through time, ultimately allowing for bolder suggestions that push them outside their comfort zone—to bring the old home back to life. "There was a lot of trust with this project, which led to some extraordinary moments."

In the foyer, for example, Bromley relied on her skills of persuasion, deftly honed while she was in real estate, to get the green light to cover the walls in Schumacher's statement-making Acanthus Stripe.

**Dining With Flair**  
 (LEFT) Bromley's custom Greta chairs, covered in Kathryn M Ireland's Zazu Blue linen, surround a vintage Swedish table in the dining room. (ABOVE) Bromley designed the chairs and raffia pendant in the kitchen's informal dining area. See [Resources](#).





**Cozy Comfort**

(THIS PAGE ABOVE) Swivel chairs in the living room are covered in George Spencer Designs' Imogen in Seafoam. (RIGHT) Antique Gracie panels anchor twin beds in a guest room. (OPPOSITE) Another guest room's walls are papered in Waverly Classics' Red and White Country Life Toile. The paisley-print dresser and crewelwork rug are antiques. See Resources.



“**T**he home was supposed to look like it was collected over many years, and we really ran with that idea. There was a lot of trust with this project, which led to some extraordinary moments”



“When the wallpaper went up, the home really started to take shape,” says the designer, who went rogue in the den, painting every inch, save the ceiling, a warm high-gloss Farrow & Ball blue. Not only does the color create an enveloping, cocoon-like feel, but it also accentuates a vast array of antiques and art. “The entire home was supposed to look like it was collected over many years, and we really ran with that idea. Even though a lot of furnishings and accessories are new, it looks as if they have been here since the house was built, standing the rest of time.” ✨