

BEFORE + AFTER

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RYE REDO:
OLD IS
NOW NEW

DOWN UNDER:
AMAZING
UPDATE



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COLOR
MARIGOLD
MOMENT

FASHION HOUSE
FIERCE
FLORALS

HAUTE STUFF
BRIGHT
LIGHTS

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WORTH THE WAIT

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BY LAUREN FETTERMAN



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ON THE COVER L TUTUN INTERIORS | PHOTOGRAPHY AMY VISCHIO

IMAGE OVERHAUL

THE THRILL OF A GOOD “**before and after**” CAN’T BE overrated. THERE’S SOMETHING SO **compelling** ABOUT WITNESSING POTENTIAL FULLY REALIZED, CHALLENGES ELEGANTLY SOLVED AND EXPECTATIONS FAR EXCEEDED. WHETHER STARTING WITH A BLANK SLATE OR A LACKLUSTER ROOM BEGGING FOR A REFRESH, THE **right mix of talent and ingenuity** CAN TAKE ANY SPACE FROM SO-SO TO STUNNING. HERE, A DOZEN DESIGN PROS **show and tell** HOW THEY’RE TRUE **agents of change.**



CARMIÑA ROTH

Setting the scene: This is an elegant, classical Georgian house in backcountry Greenwich. We were hired to add architectural details to the interiors and update the décor. The family room, which is adjacent to the kitchen, has always functioned as the main hangout space for this family of six. There was insufficient seating, however, and the colors in the room and the sheers on the windows made the space feel a bit drab and dark.

Design goal: To create an inviting, relaxing place for the family to gather and watch TV. Seating needed to be resistant to wear and tear but stylish enough to stack up to the rooms flowing into it.

Launching point: The navy window treatments in Quadrille's Lysette in reverse set the tone. There are notes of blue throughout the house.

The details: We chose to keep a neutral backdrop because the room flows into the kitchen and up the back stairs to the upstairs hallways. We had to work with an existing monumental stone fireplace,

so we selected a variety of textiles, primarily in shades of blue and orange, to add pops of color that contrast with the earthy stone and wood elements.

Integration of existing pieces:

The large square ottoman was the correct proportion, so we didn't see a need to replace it. We simply covered it in a Holly Hunt leather that is the color of an Hermès box.

The biggest challenge: The double-story windows. Previously, the top windows were covered with blinds, and the French doors and flanking windows had non-functional drapery panels. We hung a drapery rod above the windows to unite the openings and to let in more natural light.

Favorite elements: The two wing chairs covered in a Galbraith & Paul hand-blocked printed velvet and the Franck Bohbot photograph from his "House of Books" series.

What made the biggest impact: The mix of patterns on the textiles,

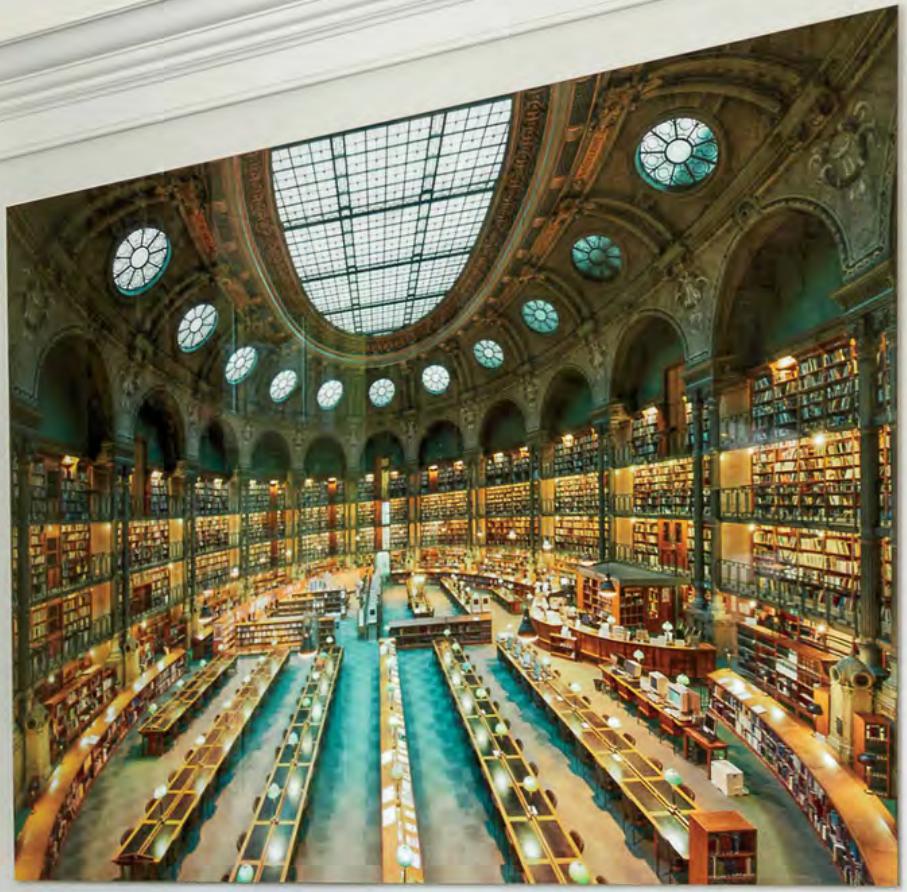
ranging from the Quadrille window treatments to the C&C Milano prints on the pillows, really brought the room to life.

A special request fulfilled:

The client really wanted a soft, plush rug. We custom-designed a wool rug with Holland & Sherry that fulfilled our aesthetic requirements and is also very durable.

Resources:

Interior designer: Carmiña Roth Interiors, LLC, 203-987-5961; carminarothinteriors.com





ALANA IRWIN

Setting the scene: This is an older home from the 1970s. This room was a huge, empty space with some scattered toys for the clients' children to play with.

Design goal: I was drawn to the idea of making this a midcentury lounge for entertaining and relaxing. The clients and I have a love for midcentury design, so I wanted to incorporate as many details from that era as I could.

Launching point: I had a replica of a midcentury sofa custom-made in a gorgeous navy velvet. Since the room is long, it was important to get the scale of the sofa proportionate to the room.

The details: After selecting the fabric for the sofa, I found an amazing Mis-

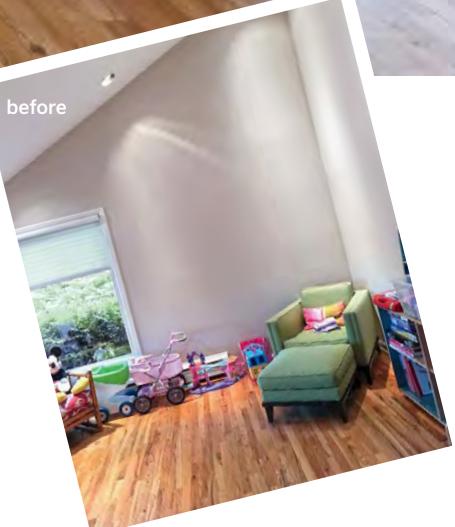
soni fabric that I had made into an extra-long lumbar pillow for the sofa. I decided to incorporate those colors into the design, so there are pops of purple, magenta, yellow and navy throughout the room. I found the blue silk rug at a design show in New York City, and I sourced the plexi art from Lulu DK in London. She worked with me to obtain the exact colors I was looking to incorporate into the room.

A special feature: The multiple entertaining areas. To the far left, I created a bar area with a vintage Milo Baughman console and two Karl Springer-inspired ottomans. Moving to the right, you find a Lucite game table, the perfect place to play checkers with the children or cards with adults. And as you move to the

main lounge space, there are multiple seating areas for relaxing and entertaining. Since the clients have children, I wanted everything to be accessible to them, so most of the fabrics are Crypton, which means they're not only pretty but practical.

Favorite element: The coffee table. I love the contrast of the espresso wood and the ivory, and the lacquered trays are removable when serving drinks.

The biggest challenge: The slanted ceiling and lack of any architectural element. The long room needed a focal point, so I presented the idea of creating a feature wall with a gas fireplace and bookshelves, which I had built. To take your eye away from the shape of



the far wall, we hung a giant vintage Charlie Chaplin poster, which draws your eyes to the art and not the shape of the room.

Resources:

Interior designer: Alana Irwin, Combined Interiors, New Canaan; 203-536-6216; combinedinteriorsct.com
Builder: AVM Construction, Stamford; 203-904-3883





MEGAN WUNDERLICH

Setting the scene: This 1916 residence was built in the Storybook style popularized during that period. The steeply-pitched roof with a dramatic overhang gives the home a sense of playfulness and whimsy. This kids' bathroom lacked any style—it was a simple, utilitarian space in the home.

Design goal: The bathroom had been overlooked during a larger home renovation. We wanted to modernize it so it would mimic the new renovated home.

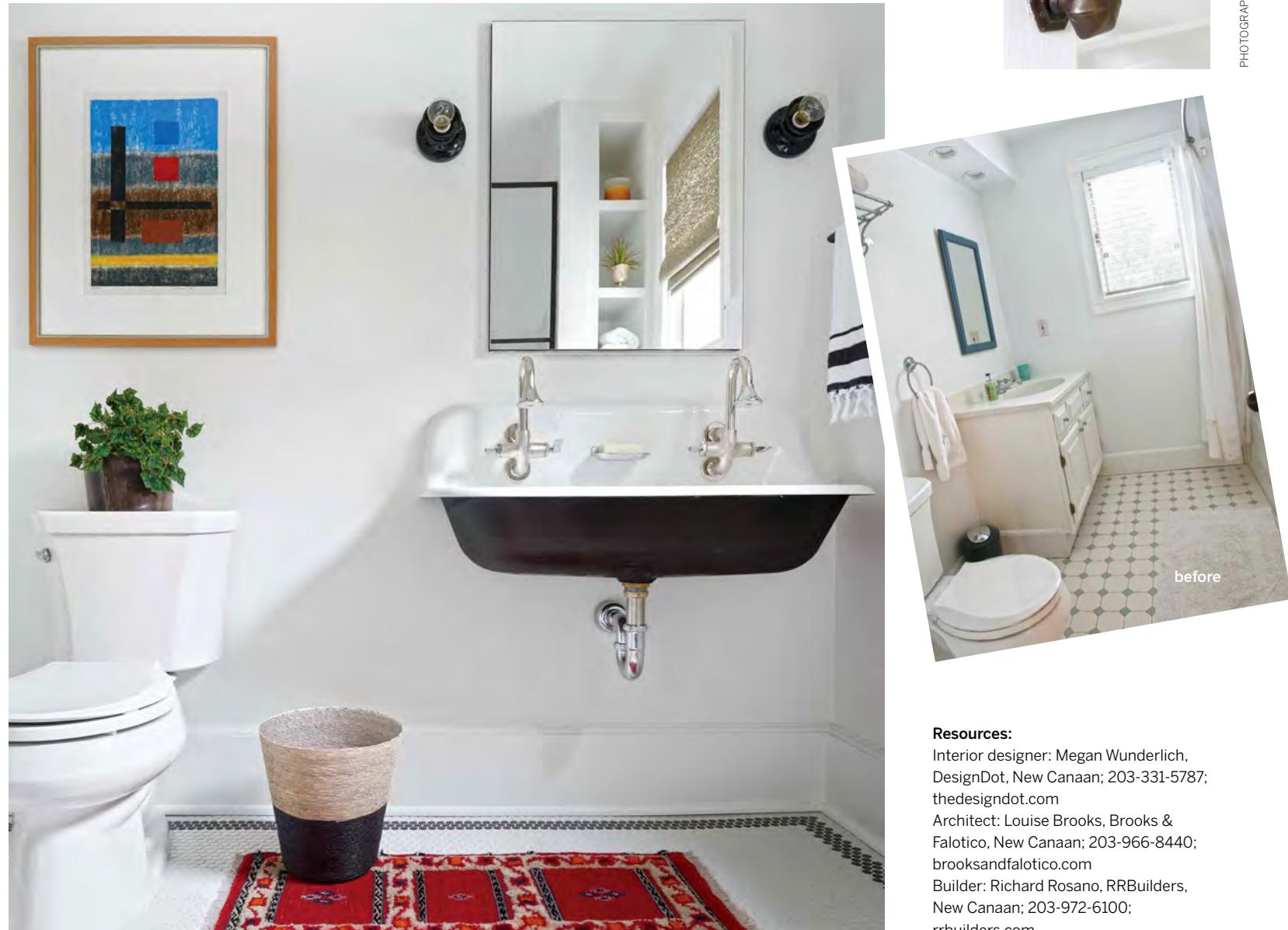
The biggest challenge: Creating a striking, sophisticated design with similar elements to the rest of the renovated home without making the space too serious since it's a kids' bath.

Favorite element: The black-framed windowpane shower door adds definition to the expanse of white while making the smaller space look lofty.

What made the biggest impact:
The black Kohler single wall-mounted

sink creates visual interest and an element of surprise consistent with the whimsical architectural style of the Storybook home.

The details: The timeless black-and-white décor is clean and uncluttered, like the rest of the home, and was achieved by using neutrals and carefully selected elements like the sink and a postmodern Danish chair.



Resources:

Interior designer: Megan Wunderlich, DesignDot, New Canaan; 203-331-5787; thedesigndot.com

Architect: Louise Brooks, Brooks & Falotico, New Canaan; 203-966-8440; brooksandfalotico.com

Builder: Richard Rosano, RRBBuilders, New Canaan; 203-972-6100; rrbuilders.com





PHOTOGRAPHS: JANE BELLES; PORTRAIT: LORIN KLAIRIS



TINA ANASTASIA

Setting the scene: This room is an intermediate space between what was originally a bedroom and a sitting room. Since the clients' children are twins, we thought a playroom between two bedrooms would make sense both now and in the future. We made the playroom symmetrical on both sides of the French doors by adding a bath into the bedroom on the right.

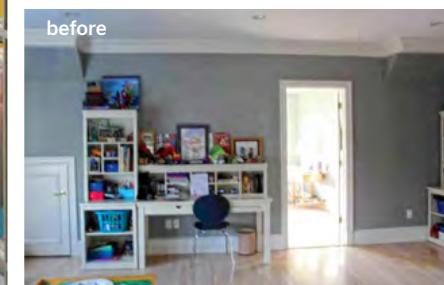
The details: We wanted to go happy and bright. We placed the colorful "birds on a wire" print above the windows, and that kicked off the color scheme. We wanted some type of fort, but since a tent is too typical, finding the geodesic dome was a hit. We bought the blown-glass balloons above it in the corner from Italy, and we had a decorative painter paint the colorful dots on the ceiling. We built out the remainder of the pieces, including an orange sofa and green metal chairs, from there, with Benjamin Moore's Stem Green on the

walls and a layering of colorful rugs, one a comfy shag, and the other a flatter one so toys don't fall into it and get lost.

A unique feature: We were going to put wallpaper on the ceiling, but we didn't want seams, and we wanted all of the colors represented. So we hired Chinon Maria to paint all of those dots on the ceiling by hand!

Favorite element: The geodesic dome—it's open and bright inside, and we like the cozy, padded pie-shaped floor. We also like the storage cabinet with colorful bins from Ikea—something so simple became so useful for toy storage, and it looks great, too.

What made the biggest impact: At first, we thought that with all of the color in the room, white walls would be best, but we realized that color needs color. Painting the walls Stem Green made everything come to life.



Resources:
Interior designers:
Tina Anastasia and Katie Schelle, Mark P. Finlay Interiors, Southport; 203-254-2388; markfinlayinteriors.com



In this new lower-level haven, sophisticated yet durable vinyl Linkfloor flooring from Porcelanosa is underfoot, and antique reclaimed wood appears throughout the space for added warmth.

Game Changer

AN **unfinished** BASEMENT IS
CONVERTED INTO A **cozy retreat**
FIT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



Let's set the scene—tell me about this space.
This family home is a traditional Colonial built in 2005 and decorated in a transitional style. The basement was unfinished, and the homeowners' two young boys used to ride their scooters around in it. There were two swings hanging from the rafters, a trampoline and a ball pit. It was the perfect space for the boys and their friends to play on rainy and snowy days.

What did you envision for its transformation?
I wanted a cozy space for the family that would also function well for entertaining. The boys were growing up, and the basement needed to be reinterpreted to meet the family's changing needs. They wanted a spot to watch movies, a small kitchen area, a bar, pool table, craft room, exercise room and an additional bath.

What materials and colors did you select?
We used an amazing vinyl Linkfloor product from Porcelanosa in a gray wash on the floor. Antique reclaimed wood added warmth in a custom built-in, kitchen shelves, bar, table and benches. The space is painted Farrow & Ball's Dimpse, and the ceiling, doors and custom cabinetry are painted Down Pipe.

Did you mix in any existing pieces? Apart from the vintage worktable that serves as the craft room island, we started from scratch. That table holds special memories for the wife because it had been her father's workbench.



above: A full bath is conveniently tucked under the stairs and across from the exercise room.
right: Outfitted with brass hardware, the clean-lined kitchen and bar area are primed for family get-togethers. **below:** The cozy reading nook was a special request and is now a favorite spot.



This **READING NOOK** is the older son's **FAVORITE** spot to read.





top: A vintage worktable once owned by the wife's father has been repurposed as the craft room island; a velvet sectional and comfortable throw pillows set the scene for movie nights.
above: The exercise room can be conveniently closed off with a glass-windowed barn door when needed; natural light floods into the space thanks to a new bank of large well windows.

Any unique touches you included? Both the husband and wife were born in July and are Cancers, and the crab motif can be found throughout the house. Greenwich Tile & Marble custom-made a lovely mother-of-pearl crab tile that's incorporated into the kitchen backsplash. It's a small detail, but it tells their story.

What decision made the biggest impact? Before, this basement had three tiny windows near the ceiling that let in very little natural light. The decision to excavate and put in a bank of three large well windows was a total game changer in the space.

Did the clients have a special request you were able to fulfill? The homeowner insisted on including a reading nook under the stairs. The contractor and I weren't sure if there would be enough room for it, but now it's the older son's favorite spot to read.

Did you encounter any challenges during the design process? Making the space warm and inviting. It's a large space with high ceilings. By incorporating rich colors, reclaimed wood, a velvet sectional, brass hardware, texture, interesting textiles and unique lighting, we achieved the look and feel we were going for.

What is your favorite element in here?

I really love the barn doors with glass. They make the space feel open yet allow the craft room and exercise room to be closed off so many activities can be taking place in the space at the same time.

—INTERVIEW BY LAUREN FETTERMAN

Resources:

Interior designer: Eileen Deschapelles Interior Design; 203-561-9314; edinteriordesign.com
 Contractor: Nelson Segovia, Nelson S. Construction; 917-559-7615



right: Previously located on the far right-hand side of the house, the kitchen was outdated and lacked functionality.



left: The fireplace in the large master bedroom impeded the flow of the room.
opposite top left: An asphalt roof and tired shingles both needed replacing on the exterior.



right: Although not part of the original plan, the master bath was gutted.
opposite bottom left: The living room had been used only for formal entertaining by the previous owners.

