

Decorative arts, such as fancy wood trim and stained glass, distinguished Arts and Crafts homes such as this one. Kravet Inc. grasscloth wallpaper updates the party-size foyer, while the dining room reveals an elegance not commonly found today.

UNE GRANDE *old dame*

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In a way, they hated to do it. The new owners of a north London Arts and Crafts-style century home were pondering changes they would make just after moving in, close to 20 years ago. “The work had just been so well done,” recalls one of the owners, “and by very, very good painters.”

Times had changed, however, and the couple were keen to bring their own personal style to what would become a multi-stage refresh and renovation. The décor was clearly dated, so ripping out yards of pinkish beige carpet on three levels and removing Grecian-style faux marble columns between the living room and foyer topped their to-do list. It was also time to replace a pink-and-green colour palette and 80s-style finishes throughout the home, even in the attic. *Continued on page 38*





“The perfect place to make bold, high-impact choices.”

“We loved the bones of the house,” the owners recall of their determination to make sure their plans did not compromise the home’s charming symmetry, such as a centre foyer on each of three levels from which all rooms open. They also loved the elegant layout for entertaining large groups, and the space the home provided both inside and out for a growing family.

Eventually every room, with the exception of a corner sunroom, would be transformed. First on their timeline was redecorating the living and dining rooms, with help from **Stephanie Sinclair** of **Portico Design Company**. The dining room was given a coat of deep green to frame an elegant oriental carpet, art and heirloom furniture. Intricate paint finishes on living room wall mouldings were painted in a rich greyish-beige neutral, with colourful details adding drama to the room’s coffered ceiling.

A few years later, and after completely gutting and refinishing the lower level to add a family room, home gym, kitchenette, bedroom and bathroom, attention turned to the kitchen. The owners hired **Susan Jory** of **Susan Jory Interiors** and contractor **Andrew Walker** of **Andrew Walker Construction** to work with them.

Continued on page 40



The new kitchen was carefully planned to blend seamlessly with the home’s traditional features. A new window by Golden Windows overlooks shaded gardens and a slate floor, contrasting cabinetry and funky chandeliers (Living Lighting London) update the room’s traditional styling. **OPPOSITE, TOP:** Two conversation areas divide the spacious living room, which is graceful and serene with a coat of Keystone Gray by Sherwin-Williams. Susan Jory Interiors designed the grey velvet sofa made by Finn’s Upholstery Ltd. Painting over the sofa is by Scotty Schafer. **BOTTOM:** The soft colour palette displays art beautifully and highlights decorative details like the woodwork around the fireplace.



ABOVE: Outside renovations tripled the size of the deck and added pergolas for style and shade. Clear panels connect this alfresco dining space to surrounding gardens. **RIGHT:** The corner sunroom, with its original red tile floor and stately windows, immediately captured the owners' hearts when they first toured the home. It's been a favourite go-to ever since.

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: Walls in Wythe Blue (Benjamin Moore) and an oversize glass-enclosed shower (London Glass & Mirror) add a spa vibe to the master bathroom. **TOP RIGHT:** The master bedroom includes seating for reading or watching television. **BOTTOM:** Master bedroom walls are painted Fog Mist (Benjamin Moore).



Without removing major walls or significantly enlarging the original space, Sue and Andy were able to provide the owners with a seamless and modernized kitchen that has ample work space and integrated appliances (**London Major Appliances**).

The duo made sure to keep the new space stylistically compatible with original architecture and interior details throughout the rest of the house. Their work in the kitchen included features such as full-height cabinetry, a natural quartz-topped island by **Classic Granite and Marble** and Montauk Black natural slate floors from **Olympia Tile & Stone**, with radiant in-floor heat.

"I think the colouring of the cabinetry and island is a traditional choice with a modern feel," Sue says. "The island being a different colour is an updated twist on the traditional kitchen and blends beautifully with the Caesarstone counters (Classic Granite and Marble). I think the mosaic marble backsplash is a very high-end finish that really suits the house."



The kitchen is conveniently connected to a renovated mudroom with access to the lower level and garage.

French doors open the kitchen to a large Brazilian hardwood deck overlooking the pool area (**Forans Fence, Deck & Spa**). Forans also added a black-trimmed, glass-panelled fence around the deck for views to the gardens, and two large pergolas for sun protection. Other outside work included a new Timberline roof by **Hanenburg Roofing**.

While the kitchen was being renovated, Sue redecorated the main floor powder room, choosing a regal shock of gold-and-turquoise-flocked velvet Designers Guild wallpaper for maximum impact.

Like a "little jewel box" is how Sue describes the powder room, which adjoins a water closet. "I just think a powder room is the perfect place to make bold, high-impact choices." *Continued on page 42*

feature

A later stage in renovations set Sue to work once again, this time on second-and-third storey bathrooms and room décor, including custom-made drapes and roman blinds by Susan Jory Interiors to enhance the beds and bedding. They were designed by Sue and made by **Finn's Upholstery**. Floors were refinished by **ABC Floor Sanding & Refinishing**.

The upper floor renovations culminated in the master bath gut and redo last year. Cabinetry by **Paul Vandeborne** and Sugar White quartz countertop from **Natural Stone City** complement tile flooring from **Centura London** and fittings and soaker tub from **The Ensuite Bath & Kitchen Showroom**. It's all about a timeless look that flows easily from the traditionally-styled master bedroom.



The stately home will soon open its doors to a new family. The present owners have decided to move on, undertaking yet another historic renovation nearby. Fortunately, they'll be moving with many happy memories of a special place of grace and beauty. And one that's been just as loved as a welcome gathering place for friends and family. **OH**

TOP LEFT: Custom drapes, blinds and bedding in fresh blue and white energize a bedroom on the second floor. Walls are Cloud White (Benjamin Moore). **TOP RIGHT:** One of several renovated bathrooms throughout the home got a cheerful update with painted stripes. **LEFT:** The middle floor includes a foyer similar in size and scale to the one on the main floor. The landing in the stairway to the main floor features arty stained glass windows.

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