



"Our dining table is now right in the middle of everything, with the most comfortable table and chairs on the planet," says homeowner Cindy Murphy. "We use and enjoy every inch of space on our main level, and it feels three times larger." The chairs and table from Lexington Home Brands are intentionally clean-lined, while trim work on the ceiling adds some pattern.

SMOOTH TRANSITION

THIS MUCH-LOVED FAMILY HOUSE IS STARTING A SECOND CHAPTER WITH A COMPLETE INTERIORS REDO

By LISA MOWRY Photography by LAUREN RUBINSTEIN



LEFT | Comfortable furnishings that Cindy calls “nap-worthy” fill the sitting room. A quilt-like rug and colorful painting from dk gallery in Marietta offset the neutral furnishings.

BELOW | Thibaut wallpaper and art from Gregg Irby Gallery outfit a home office specifically designed for video-conferencing.



Like many empty-nesters, Tom and Cindy Murphy cherished the memories and location of their family’s house, but knew it was time for a change. Their goal: to create a more modern home in the Canton neighborhood where they’d lived for 16 years and specifically, a house that celebrates art, craftsmanship, and nature. Rooms were reconfigured, wasted space was eliminated, and new furniture and art were brought in to reflect the big change.

“At first, Tom and I truly thought we were nuts to transform our matching-mailbox suburban home into a high-end, ‘bougie’ place that feels more like a cross between Sea Island and Alys Beach,” says Cindy. “Now that it’s done, we can’t imagine a more perfect home to fit our lives going forward.”

At first, they consulted architect Eric Rothman and interior designers Joann Kandrac and Kelly Kole about a kitchen

update, but everyone soon realized the project needed to have a larger scope. Out went the dated kitchen and rarely used dining room in the new floor plan; the goal here was to eliminate formal spaces. “The new dining area doesn’t have four walls and is open to three rooms, for instance,” says Kelly. “All the chairs are on casters for easy movement, and there’s power right under the table for family members to plug in their laptops.” A once-

plain porch is now a focal point of the first floor, with floor-to-ceiling glass pocket doors—and retractable screens—along with custom bed swings.

As another nod to contemporary life, the Murphys emphasized revamping home offices (they have three). One revitalized space is a “Zoom room” where visiting grown children can conduct video conferences; it has the latest technology with the warmth of geometric wallpaper and original art.

Eric thinks the Murphy house offers multiple design lessons to show suburbia gone hip. “Modern and traditional can play very well together as one lesson,” the architect says. “The narrative we wanted to create was that when you pass through that door, you leave the noisy, hectic, cluttered world and walk into a place that is clean and uncomplicated. It should be breathtaking and strong enough to break the hold of the outside world.”



"The Murphys are a very close family, and they specifically requested a big, cozy family room, so that's what they got," says Jaann. The Norwalk sectional has built-in USB ports and is deep enough to curl up in for TV watching or taking a nap. A floating concrete hearth designed by Eric contributes to the streamlined look.



Painterly wallpaper by artist Windy O'Connor adds personality to the powder room.



TOP LEFT | The new kitchen—in a space that once held assorted small rooms such as a laundry area and mudroom—was strategically placed for a prime view of the wooded backyard. A custom range hood by Smithworks Iron and Design adds some bling in an otherwise neutral space, anchored by laminate cabinets by Madera Arts and a Cambria-topped island.

BOTTOM LEFT | “Everyone loves an island, so why not make a kitchen that is mostly just a big island,” says Eric. “The island is where the magic happens, and the perimeter is where the cooking takes place and houses all the supporting elements like storage.”



“I love every room, but the porch is where I begin and end my days,” says Cindy Murphy. “Nothing is better than days when we can keep the giant sliding doors open.” Porch swings that hold full-size mattresses and include cupholders are from Atlanta Swing Beds.

RESOURCES | **INTERIOR DESIGN** Kandrac & Kole, kandrac-kole.com | **ARCHITECT** Rothman + Rothman, rothmanandrothman.com | **LANDSCAPING** Gibbs Landscape Co., gibbslandscape.com
TO SHOP THIS STORY, SEE PAGE 62.