

NEW COLONIAL GOES CONTEMPORARY

When Carol and Gerard were building their colonial five-bedroom, four- and one-half bathroom, Muttontown, Long Island, NY, home, Carol began thinking of how she wanted to decorate and started seeking out some ideas. “My taste is really a contemporary style, but yet I also wanted a hint of traditional aspects to the design,” she said.

She decided to research local designers to help her decorate, but at first didn't have much luck. “When I met with several area designers I felt they really didn't listen to what I wanted. They suggested some very expensive options,

and their ideas weren't what I was looking for.”

So, moving forward she started to think about decorating it herself. “I was frustrated. All of the designers kept telling me their design ideas, and it wasn't what I wanted.” Coincidentally, while talking to other moms at her daughter's dance class, Wendy Garfield, Owner of La Strada-Meuble, Objet, Décor, was also waiting for her daughter to finish the dance class. She overheard Carol discussing her dilemma with the other moms. Wendy told Carol that she was a home designer and that she could possibly help her.

FINDING THE RIGHT DESIGNER

“One of my biggest problems was that the designers that I met with wanted to change the architectural design of the home, and I didn't want that. They also didn't pay attention that I wanted to stay within a certain budget,” Carol said. “Wendy actually listened to me—and she went with my ideas and helped make them work for my family. She learned what my style was very quickly and moved forward with suggestions.”

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Wendy eagerly learned what was important for Carol and her family. “They



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wanted the home to feel lived-in and comfortable, but also to have a contemporary style with a traditional touch,” Wendy said. The goal was to have the home be stylish and contemporary but not feel like a museum.

Starting the design process from a blueprint during the early stages, Wendy says this is the best way to begin—working with a clean slate. “When you begin the design process early on, it can save a lot of money and time.” The bedrooms, bathrooms, family room, dining room, living room, kitchen, and a finished basement needed everything—painted walls, flooring, lighting, furniture, banisters for the stairwells, and cabinetry and hardware. There is so much detail and hundreds of options. It can be a daunting task for homeowners. The right designer will make these decisions easy, while focusing on the vision she has for the home and the look the client is seeking. “Once you purchase cabinets or tile, it’s too late to change your mind when the materials arrive,” says Wendy. “A good designer can visualize the room before it is complete.”



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La Strada's and Wendy's mission has always been to capture the homeowner's personal style while creating beautiful rooms that they will enjoy for a lifetime. "The relationship we establish with our client is what is most important to us," Wendy says. "We do our utmost to understand their needs so that we can create rooms that are functional while reflecting how the homeowner wants to live. We also seek to offer that million-dollar look without the million-dollar price tag."

TRANSITIONAL DESIGN

The living room is outfitted in Carol's favorite colors—silvers, blues, and greens—and Wendy chose a light blue backdrop for the room, with a calming effect. A crystal chandelier hangs in the center, and old-world molding holds the traditional style Carol was looking for. Custom draperies were chosen for the ceiling-to-floor windows and Wendy custom-designed a mosaic-tiled based, glass-topped coffee table,

which is placed between two beautiful white sofas.

The dining room boasts sage green walls and Wendy hired an artist to paint a unique leaf design on the main wall. A huge dining room table is in the center of the room and the dark buffet is below a stunning silver mirror, adding a modern twist.

"Wendy helped me think outside of the box and take some chances," Carol said. "Her ideas were really great, and in the end, some of her subtle suggestions are my favorite focal points of the house."

For example, when doing the kitchen, Wendy suggested doing it in two tones, instead of one to make it more interesting. She also incorporated a mix of glass and stainless tiles into the design, which is Carol's favorite part of the room.

In the main-level powder room, she mixed glitter in the paint to give it a sparkle. "I was really nervous about the glitter," Carol said. "I didn't want my bathroom to look like a disco. But after we

did it, Wendy was right—the walls have a great subtle sparkle to them. I love it."

HIGHLY RECOMMENDS DESIGNER

Carol is so happy with her home that she has already recommended Wendy to three of her friends who recently wanted to begin new decorating projects. "I love the work she did for us, and I love how our home turned out," she said.

According to Wendy and La Strada's motto, her clients' reactions are what matter most. "When finishing a project, I only need to hear two things from my clients to know that I have done my job," Wendy says. These two things, which she is pleased to say she often hears, are "I love my house" and "My home is me."

Sources for This Article:
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