

finalists Dining Room

Elena Phillips Interiors

To create the elegant room Elena Phillips's clients wanted in their 1914 New Canaan home, a Gracie chinoiserie paper was a natural first step. Framed by the home's original crown molding, the one-of-a-kind paper, custom painted to fit the room, is a work of art in itself. Phillips kept other elements quiet, grounding the space with a neutral rug, and echoing the colors of the wallpaper's birds, butterflies, and flowers in the curtain trim. An antique English sideboard and a group of early 20th-century nudes on the mantle bring some history to the space, while a custom chandelier, dining table (which expands to seat up to twelve), and chairs add something new. The room is gorgeous by day and by night: A mirror reflects sunlight from the bay window—and the beautiful stairs in the entryway—but with a fire going on a winter's night, "the whole room will sparkle," says Phillips. —AK

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winner Bedroom



ELENA PHILLIPS INTERIORS

Peace Mission

Design projects often walk a fine line when it comes to meeting the needs of a husband and wife. For the owners of a renovated colonial in New Canaan, Elena Phillips conceived a master bedroom suite that would serve as an elegant and peaceful retreat, without being too feminine—or too masculine. To achieve that balance, Phillips opted for a neutral color palette of cream and taupe, added pops of blue, then incorporated feminine details such as a curvilinear headboard and embroidered linens. The generous space, which was reconfigured from an existing master suite and two smaller rooms, now features a bay window and deck overlooking the formal gardens and pool, his and her dressing rooms, and a large master bath. “At night, the homeowners can draw the drapes and create a cocoon-like feel,” says Phillips. The room’s two primary walls are upholstered in wool fabric with a custom tape trim, a pair of club chairs and an ottoman are covered in chenille, and wool drapes hang from antiqued brass poles with custom octagonal finials. An alabaster pendant with Greek key braiding sheds a soft glow at night, adding to the serenity of the space. The Nusilk area rug carries over into the dressing room, to create “an ensuite feel,” she says. In the bathroom, Venetian stucco walls in pale blue match the blue celeste marble mosaic around the tub. “The whole room is softly luxurious,” she says. “It’s an elegant and peaceful retreat.” —JM

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For this serene master bedroom, the designer worked with a neutral palette, adding blue accents, wool-fabric walls, a Nusilk rug, and chenille-covered furnishings. The bathroom’s polished nickel lighting and hardware are crisp and clean, while the dressing room is beautifully organized for easy access to clothing and accessories.



