

Let the Sun Shine in

A former weekend home gets reinterpreted for daily living, with natural light as the guiding force.



*interior designer J. Patryce Design & Company
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DINING ROOM
In this grand space, Joan Enger added coffered ceilings to "bring a sense of proportion" to the room
Table: custom. **Chairs:** Lawson-Fenning. **Paint:** Pigeon, Farrow & Ball. **Pendant:** Apparatus. **Armchairs:** vintage, 1stDibs.

EXTERIOR

Enger painted the six-bedroom residence—which sits on 20 manicured acres—a warm white with taupe accents. **Paint:** Cream Cloak (walls), Market Square Shell (trim), Black Beauty (front door), [Benjamin Moore](#).



“I WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THIS home was built in 1995,” says Joan Enger, principal designer at Hoboken, New Jersey–based J. Patryce Design & Company. “It definitely felt older and wiser.” The center-hall colonial on a hilltop in Tewksbury, New Jersey, had classic lines, expansive rooms, and breathtaking views of the countryside, giving it what Enger calls an “old soul” vibe.

However, the estate required more than just a few cosmetic updates to transform it from a weekend place into a functional, full-time residence for the homeowners, a family with two young children. To make it flow for everyday living, Enger performed an extensive renovation, which involved everything from adding a sizable kitchen to reconfiguring the layout to allow for maximal sunlight. “The views and the natural light are wonderful,” she says of the refreshed space. “The new floor plan helped pull the light through the home.”

While boldly leading this property toward a new era, Enger made sure to retain favorite elements, including the

unusually large scale of the living and dining rooms. “My goal was to transform the traditional, somewhat dated interior into a space that felt fresh and elevated, all while respecting the estate’s heritage,” she says.

Although the public rooms were always grand, the original kitchen was small and disconnected from the rest of the home, making the ground floor unnecessarily confusing. “One of the most significant changes was creating a more intuitive flow between the kitchen and the foyer,” says Enger, who introduced a secondary back hall to connect the spaces, making the layout feel more seamless and open.

Enger brought the same sense of serenity and warmth into the rest of the home, replacing the original thin oak flooring with wide quarter-sawn boards and incorporating soft hues on the walls. She also constructed coffered ceilings and custom millwork to make the vast rooms feel “warm and inviting, without being overfurnished.” The end result was less of a reinvention and more of a reimaging. “Many times, clients think they have to start from scratch,” Enger says. “But with floor plan edits and design updates, we transformed an outdated home into something spectacular.” ■

DEN

Eager to distinguish the intimate room from brighter sitting areas, Enger chose a moody palette. Tailored ceiling beams up the cozy vibe. **Rug:** Eliko Rug Gallery. **Chandelier:** Lumfardo. **Armchairs:** vintage, Guillerme et Chambron, in Pierre Frey fabric. **Paint:** Pantalon, Farrow & Ball.





KITCHEN

Without enough space for a traditional dining nook, Enger opted for a **banquette** that abuts one island. "The built-in approach preserved the flow," she says. A leather **bench** offers a comfy spot to hang in the middle of the action. **Marble:** New York Stone. **Chairs:** O&G Studio. **Pendant:** The Urban Electric Co.

"Anchored by the striking Viola Verde stone, the kitchen has a country-house feel."



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GUEST BATH

"We turned to bold stripes to bring a playful energy in the space," Enger says. "Dark floors ground the design, creating contrast and balance." **Wall tile:** Clé. **Floor tile:** Waterworks. **Marble framing:** BAS Stone.

BOY'S ROOM

In a space meant to grow with the son, the striped rug and bedding "add a youthful spirit," Enger says, without being too childlike. **Bed:** Serena & Lily. **Paint:** James White (walls), Drop Cloth (trim), Farrow & Ball. **Rug:** custom, J. Patryce Design.



PLAYROOM

Color drenching the room in Fountain Stone by Portola Paints creates what Enger calls "a serene, comforting atmosphere." **Sconce:** O&G Studio. **Chair:** vintage, in Dedar fabric. **Bench cushions:** custom, in Imogen Heath fabric. **Rug:** custom, J. Patryce Design.



BREEZEWAY

This pass-through from the front and side of the house to the mudroom was insulated and finished to make it functional year-round. **Pendant:** Moretti Luce, [Etsy](#). **Rug:** vintage, [Eliko Rug Gallery](#). **Cupboard paint:** Grandfather Clock Brown, [Benjamin Moore](#).

