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HIGH



EXTRAORDINARY
INTERIORS





Town & Country

By Kimberly Taylor
Photography by Angie Seckinger

A home built in the 1800s has a tougher time than anyone realizes. Over and over, it is loved and then abandoned, and suffers when owners have bad taste. Surely, rambunctious children and Chesapeake Bay retrievers, both experts at trampling gardens, have abused it.

Kelley Proxmire's client purchased a home such as this, a rambling vernacular farmhouse built in the 1800s in Trappe, Maryland. Over the years, the home had been remodeled and added on to; the client planned to use it as a second home, to escape the clamor of D.C. Trappe is located upon the lower portion of the Eastern Shore. It is mostly rural and very close to the ocean, a perfect spot for an artist or a recluse.

Proxmire, owner of Kelley Interior Design based in Bethesda, had designed the interior of her client's first home and was asked to help with the second. The owner wanted her Trappe residence to have furnishings and mementos from her D.C. home. There was a problem, though: The homes had two very



Kelley Proxmire





different aesthetics. The shore home was casual and beachy, the northwest D.C. home, elegant and traditional. "We brought the formality of D.C. to the 'casualness' of the Eastern Shore," says Proxmire.

This is most evident in the home's living room. It is nautical, with its whites leavened with blues and greens, yet it exudes a formality fostered in part by its clarity and symmetrical arrangements. Built-in shelves flank the fireplace. The furnishings, some repurposed, restuffed or remade from her D.C. home, are plush and substantial. The sofas face each other and in an old fashioned way are centered in front of the hearth, inviting conversation over coffee or aperitifs. Mirrors add nineteenth-century glamour and accent pillows keep the palette lively.



There are bits of the D.C. home throughout that are re-utilized. The table in the dining room came from the library. To give them a fresh look, Proxmire painted the chairs white. The silver and china displays are family heirlooms from her grandmother. The art in the living room and kitchen are also from the client's home in D.C.

Brisk splashes of orange wake up almost every room. The shade is inspired by the large bright orange sign that says "Peaches." This also came from the D.C. home. It seems to have found its proper place, here on the shore, where peaches are synonymous with summer and often sold in roadside stands.

Initially inspired by a pair of orange lamps, Proxmire incorporated many orange accents into the D.C. living room. Orange remains a favorite shade in Trappe as well. The total transformation of



the Trappe home was the catalyst for the owner deciding to move there. "My client liked the home so much that she said, 'I want to live in Trappe.' So she sold her D.C. home quickly for a nice price and lives here full time." This gave Proxmire a chance to build upon the original concept and incorporate even more D.C. furnishings into the home, which the owner appreciates. In Trappe, there is town and country; sophistication and fresh air. And, this house is really happy. [AM](#)

Resources:

Kelley Interior Design: kelleyinteriordesign.com