

Chevy Chase Village

AN EXCLUSIVE PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE

Life

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MEET THE WELLERS!

Happy Passover and Happy Easter!

Photo by Kyung Jung of Yellowwhale Family Portrait Studio



GTM Architects designed the Abells' new home to reflect the architectural styles of other houses on the Chevy Chase Village street.

A "BIG" Small House

GTM Architects Renovated the Abells' Chevy Chase Village Home to Make It Live Larger

Photos courtesy of GTM Architects and Kelley Interior Design



Clever built-ins, such as the ones at the entry door adjacent to the staircase, offer storage solutions around every turn.



The central living room, with interior design by Kelley Proxmire, connects to many of the first floor rooms, including the owners' favorite spot – the away room.

 Kelley Proxmire



The exterior of the Abells' Chevy Chase Village home before renovations.

When Chris and Trish Abell decided to downsize from a larger Chevy Chase Village home to a smaller home they owned and previously rented in the same neighborhood, they knew they wanted to renovate the house to make it a comfortable family home. But renovations in historic districts, such as this community, require careful attention to details and preservation of the character of the homes.

In order to accomplish their goals, the Abells called on George Myers of GTM Architects, whom they had worked with in the past. Myers' expertise in historic preservation was significant in the execution of this remodel, which was challeng-

Because the house was on a lot that was less than 6,000 square feet, which is the lot size requirement to build a new home, 50 percent of the home had to remain intact, thereby slating the project as renovation. Working with Gibson Builders, walls of the home had to be temporarily braced as the house was lifted and an entirely new foundation was built.

"The existing house was in bad condition and had structural issues," says Myers. On the exterior, Myers turned the gable in the opposite direction, in keeping with the architectural styles of the homes on the street. Since the footprint of the original home was 1,280 square feet, the challenge was to make the most of every inch.

Knowing the owners wanted as much open entertainment space as possible on the first floor for family and friends, the new main level plan includes a side entry with a mudroom/pantry connected to the kitchen, an "away" room/den adjacent to the living room, and a small wet bar. The 14'x18' living room doesn't have any walls, "making it live bigger," Myers says. "It was a balancing act to push the level of openness in the home." An elevator shaft

The second level includes a master suite and two additional bedrooms with a shared bath. Since the Abells are empty nesters, they use the extra bedrooms on this level as an office and a sitting room. The attic is now a loft with another bedroom and bath, while the lower level has a media room/playroom.

"In order to make the house feel spacious, while at the same time maintaining distinct rooms, large cased openings were used throughout the main level," adds Myers, who also mentioned that the foyer and stair hall are separated from the living room by 12-foot-wide cased openings.

Working with interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design, the Abells chose a neutral décor that also is durable for visiting grandchildren. "They didn't want the interiors to be overly decorated," Proxmire says. Since rooms are open to one another, Proxmire used varying shades of beige that transcend each space and create a soothing palette with touches of green in the away room and master bedroom. "We wanted the house to feel light and airy," Proxmire adds.

Tricks of the design trade, such as trompe l'oeil hiding the television, a custom mirror over the fireplace and a dining room table that expands to seat more guests, make the spaces appear larger, while practical custom built-ins add storage solutions.

"We have everything in our home that we want," Chris Abell says. "It's truly a 'big' small house with all of the touches we desire: transoms, built-ins, plenty of closets and storage, washers/dryers both upstairs and in the basement, and a third floor suite for visiting children, grandchildren and guests."

For more information about this home's design, contact GTM Architects at www.gtmarchitects.com and Kelley Interior Design at www.kelleyinteriordesign.com.



With an expandable table, the dining room accommodates visiting family and friends.

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was also provided for future needs.