







HOMES WITH HISTORY

CHARM SCHOOL

How six designers rejuvenated vintage spaces while maintaining their original character





Kelley Proxmire

STICKING TO TRADITION



SOMETIMES KEEPING IT CLASSIC IS THE BEST APPROACH

This 1934 Tudor-like house in Bethesda (left) is special to designer Kelley Proxmire—it's hers. She and her family have lived there 17 years, but she redesigned the living and dining rooms only this spring. Though—given her profession—she changes the home's spaces frequently, she sticks to a guiding principle: "You have to keep a nod to the house. If it's traditional, you shouldn't do all modern."

Even in spots where Proxmire had to add new elements, she did her best to keep them classic. She recently replaced the windows, selecting ones that looked as close to the originals as possible. "We painted the mullions black inside, which is a technique to keep them more traditional," she says.

But don't confuse traditional with precious—the bold wool rug in the dining room is both a stylistic and practical choice: "Dogs rule in this house," the designer says. "That rug stands up to them."