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BLANC CANVAS

Hidden treasures are revealed in the renovation of a century-old Seattle estate turned welcoming home for a modern family.

Written by **JENNIFER MCCULLUM**
Photographed by **JOHN GRANEN**

DESIGN TEAM
architecture: **Stuart Silk Architects**
interiors: **Susan Marinello Interiors**
construction: **Roberts Group Builders**
landscape: **Kenneth Philp Landscape Architects**

OPPOSITE: A 1920s English Arts and Crafts–style home in Seattle's Denny-Blaine neighborhood was modernized for a family of four by Stuart Silk Architects and Susan Marinello Interiors. Among the designers' first moves was to repaint the front door—originally an anachronistic purple—in Benjamin Moore's historically appropriate Black Beauty. **THIS PAGE:** In the entryway, a Murano glass chandelier illuminates an acrylic painting by Michael Schultheis, commissioned through Winston Wächter Fine Art. »

ABOVE: In the living room, "everything you touch is soft and cozy and evokes a feeling of 'I want to curl up here,'" Marinello says. Two Holly Hunt sofas from the Jennifer West Showroom and a pair of A. Rudin 802 lounge chairs from Trammell-Gagné bracket the original fireplace. The encaustic painting is by Betsy Eby from Winston Wächter; the Ethan Murrow drawing nods to the homeowners' love of travel. The Michael Folks console table is from Ironies, and the sisal rug is from Curran Floor.

Novelist George Moore once said, "A man travels the world in search of what he needs and returns home to find it." In the case of one travel-loving Seattle family, the renovation of their 1920s English Arts and Crafts–style home became a journey in itself. With help from Susan Marinello Interiors and Stuart Silk Architects, they traveled through both space (the home clocks in at 11,000 square feet) and time (it is nearly a century old) to reconcile decades of earlier remodels and design decisions. "The original home had been set up with designated areas for servants and a formal side for residents," says principal Aaron Mollick of Stuart Silk. "We no longer live that way, so the renovation was about elevating everything into a contemporary language."

The architects opened up the main-floor plan by removing walls and doors separating the kitchen and living and dining rooms. Next they transformed the kitchen—formerly parceled off from adjacent common spaces by an elevator core from a previous remodel—to suit modern life and family entertaining. A 4-foot, 6-inch by 10-foot Parson-style island of Calacatta marble, sourced from Pental Surfaces, allows for both casual family meals and larger events, and most of the new Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances are strategically concealed for a streamlined look. "You can't hide a range," acknowledges Marinello. "But you can minimize kitchen equipment so the space feels clean and decluttered, as if you'd just walked into another room in the house instead of into a workspace."

The 600-square-foot library, also on the main floor, is a bold departure from the home's white-on-white color scheme. Here the marigold spines of more than 8,700 issues of *National Geographic*, dating back to 1913, cast a glow from honey-hued wooden shelves that stretch from the parquet floor to the double-height ceiling. Marinello's team sourced the magazines over the course of nine months from collectors across the country. "Travel and exploring the world are important parts of who the clients are as a family," Marinello says. »

By removing the home's service stairwell, originally located where the kitchen's range wall is now set, the architects shifted all traffic to the formal staircase and main foyer, now the home's central hub. Marinello painted all the walls in Silver Satin by Benjamin Moore "to honor the classic elements of each space while giving the house a refreshed feeling. When you paint ceilings and trim and walls all white, they become modern and appealing."

Madigan backless counter stools from Designer Furniture Galleries tuck under a streamlined island from Pental Surfaces, juxtaposed against traditional perimeter cabinetry by Woodway Woodworks & Cabinets. The range hood is by Twisted Metalworks. **OPPOSITE:** Marinello retained the powder room's original mirrored panels and ornate mosaic tile. Dramatizing the space are a new black Venetian plaster wall treatment and the ceiling's aluminum finish, both created by Seattle artist Cathy Conner, along with Metropolitan Lighting N9182 sconces. »

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: Added to the house in the early '90s, the library features double-height floor-to-ceiling windows and parquet oak floors. Marinello and her team scoured eBay and antique shops all over the country for the thousands of *National Geographic* issues that fill the shelves. "Mixed books would have felt too traditional, and the magazines lend a modern, organized feeling to the large space," Marinello explains. "With a strong color, the more you use, the less intense it becomes." »

"The magazines were a way to shape a space that is both personal and contemporary."

At the start of the renovation, the attic yielded hidden treasures secreted there by previous owners. "We found original drawings for the home archived in a concealed storage space," says Stuart Silk associate Lisa Sidlauskas. "They indicated the early homeowner was a man named J. Thatcher Hodge, Esq. Part of the attic was labeled the 'Architect's Room,' and there was a layout for an 'emergency room' in the basement."

In its current incarnation, the attic holds a 2,000-square-foot play space for the homeowners' two school-age daughters. The old emergency room is now a comprehensive finished basement for the grownups, complete with a billiards room, wet bar, media room, private gym, and wine cellar. "When they moved here, the clients wondered, 'Are we really going to use all this space?'" says Mollick. "But they do use the whole house. It's a great testament to the renovation's success."

Echoes Marinello, "No matter how big the project is, creating and honoring a sense of home are among the most important things we do as designers. The best thing about this house is that two little girls live here—that's a lot of bare feet running around. Even though each space is bright and elegant, nothing is too fancy." ❋

The sunroom off the library features a custom mohair sofa, a six-legged table by John Dickinson from Susan Mills Showroom, and a Barrel chair by Formations. **OPPOSITE FROM TOP:** A Restoration Hardware Maxwell sleeper sofa, leather chairs from ABC Carpet & Home, and a reading nook upholstered in Holly Hunt Great Outdoors fabric make the children's play space a cozy hangout. A Visual Comfort & Co. pendant light hangs above a chalkboard wall, Anthropologie chairs, and a Made Goods table where the clients' daughters spend hours drawing.