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BALANCING ACT

McInturff Architects revives a Woodley Park colonial with a bold, modern addition

Text by DEBORAH K. DIETSCH | Photography by JULIA HEINE





“I was looking for an architect who designs clean lines and maximizes light.” —TIM DAVIS



McInturff says the challenge of the design was “transitioning from the traditional rooms at the front to the contemporary space at the back.” He points to the center hallway, where a new wall bumps out to accommodate the ends of the crown molding and baseboards extending from the older part of the house.

Both the formal dining and living rooms at the front of the house were left intact and updated with the removal of some molding and the addition of new finishes and furnishings. Located next to the dining room, the former kitchen now encompasses a bathroom, bar and pantry.

A hall leads into the new kitchen from the older part of the house; the floors throughout the residence are unified by ebony-stained oak planks, which were also applied to the hallway ceiling. “They create a ribbon that drops in and connects old and new,” McInturff explains.

The architects reconfigured the original staircase—leading from the foyer to the second-floor bedrooms—to accommodate a new flight of stairs in the addition that connects the second level to a screened porch overlooking the pool. Visible in the kitchen ceiling, the sculptural underside of the new staircase is also covered in stained-oak planks to match the floors.

“In choosing materials, we tried to reference the older parts of the house,” says Healey. Kitchen cabinets, custom furnishings, window frames and staircase handrails are crafted of mahogany to add rich color and texture. On the outside, new copper siding complements patinated metal paneling that was applied to the outside of the second-floor master bedroom during a 1990s renovation to unify both sides of the house.

Interior designer Susie Zohlman worked with the architects and Davis to ensure that the furnishings, rugs and color schemes “blended the old with the new,” she says. “Contemporary design can be cold, so we warmed it up with textures and colors.”

Davis recently added a pull-down projection screen to the terrace, where he often hosts parties and events, including political and charitable fundraisers. “Friends watch movies outside, swim when the weather allows, come and cook in the kitchen and just hang,” he says. “I love having a house that is a gathering place.” ■

SOURCES OF NOTE

Outdoor Lighting: outdoorillumination.com. Pool Installation: alpinepool.com. Chairs & Pillows by Pool: janusetcie.com. Dining Table, Chairs, Counter Stools, Sofa & Coffee Table: calligaris.com. Rug: abchome.com. For a full list of resources, see homeanddesign.com.