

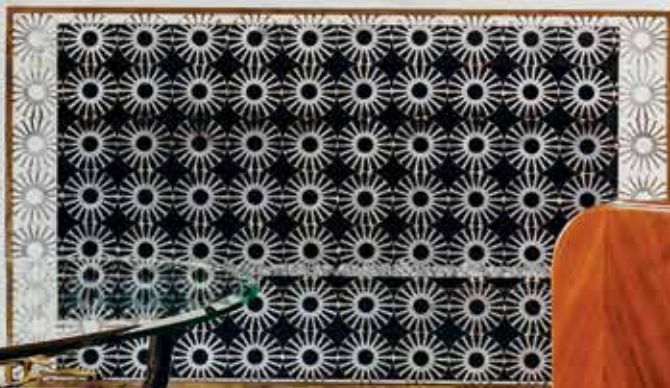
New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building



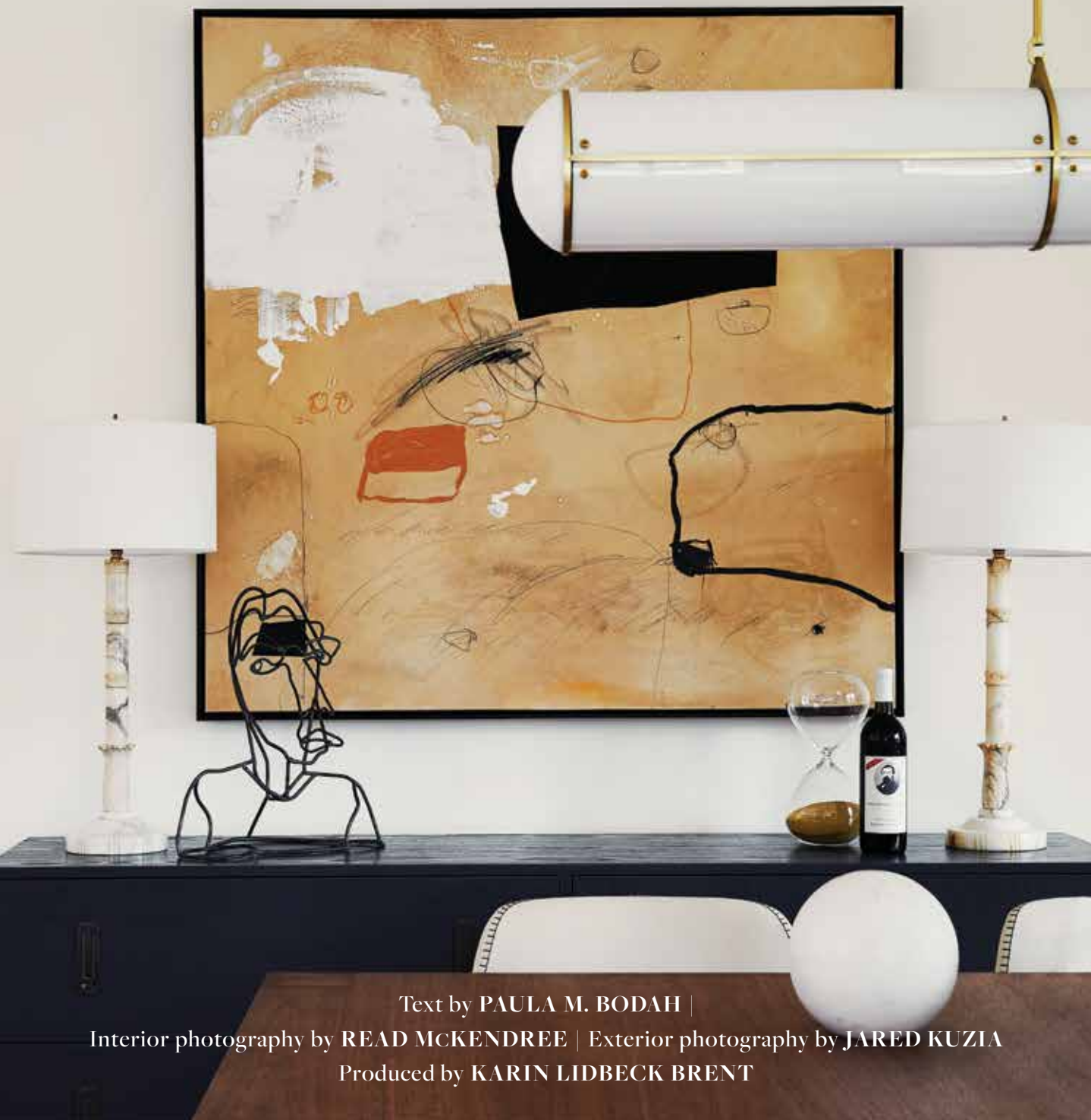
Artful Rest

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Makeover Magic

A team of design pros reveals the beauty inherent in a petite Boston Tudor Revival, much to the delight of the once-skeptical homeowners.



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Produced by KARIN LIDBECK BRENT



Designer Katie Rosenfeld mixed materials and texture to elegant effect in the dining room, pairing luxe white leather B&B Italia chairs with a walnut table designed by Rosenfeld and crafted by Kevin Cradock Builders. A glass-and-brass cylinder light from Roll & Hill strikes a dramatic note. **FACING PAGE:** An abstract painting by Alabama artist William McLure offers a shot of color in the neutral-toned dining room.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The home's transformation will be featured in *Collected by Sarah Richardson: Colour + Neutral* (Simon & Schuster), due out in April. The airy sunroom, once a dark nook wedged behind a brick fireplace in the old living room, now provides a bright sitting area off the dining room. Lickie the pooch feels right at home in the sunny new kitchen. The hallway was the perfect spot for an enormous work of art the homeowner inherited from her father; it's all about texture—a white velvet sofa, tweedy ottomans, and a nubby rug—in the adjacent living room.



Katie Rosenfeld was on her way to an appointment one day when she got a call from a client who asked if she'd come give an honest assessment of the house she and her husband were eyeing. The couple



had their heart set on living in Jamaica Plain, but finding a house for sale in the popular Boston neighborhood was proving difficult. "She asked me to stop everything and go look at it," Rosenfeld recalls.

The designer could see why her client sought a second opinion. The house, a two-story Tudor-style built in the 1930s, didn't present the most inspiring first impression. Its brick facade gave it a foreboding appearance. And on the inside, dated details like the arabesque-arched entries to the living and dining rooms, and the dark wainscoting and ceiling beams in both rooms, made its 2,100 square feet feel cramped rather than cozy. Still, Rosenfeld could see the potential. "It had really cute bones," she says. "I knew it could be spectacular."

The couple bought the house—and then, Rosenfeld says, "[The wife] started sobbing."

Pull up to the house today, and you'll wonder



Rosenfeld persuaded the homeowner to let her add some pattern in the form of the Fortuny fabric pillows that top the primary bedroom's custom Charles H. Beckley bed. **FACING PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** A daughter's bathroom sports a playful Schumacher wallpaper. The Made Goods night table adds a deco touch to a bedroom. Another bedroom gets a handsome mix of subtle patterns in rug and bedding.



how anyone could have doubted. Rosenfeld, builder Kevin Cradock, and Jannell Zarba, owner of Damiana Design + Project Management, pooled their considerable talents to reimagine things both indoors and out. Among the first decisions: painting the old brick exterior white. What Cradock describes as “a smudgy-looking house” took on a new freshness immediately. The front entrance bids welcome with a Dutch door, and the brick steps have been replaced with bluestone stairs flanked with metal railings. Six-over-one windows were swapped out for two-over-two Pella windows with black frames that give the outside a crisp look and usher more light to the interior.

When it came to the inside, Zarba says, “One of the toughest themes we faced was what to keep and what to get rid of.” The fussy arches between rooms had to go, all agreed. Same with the brick fireplace in what had been the living room. Now, the expansive space holds the dining room as well as a sunny sitting area. The wainscoting and ceiling beams were removed here but left intact and painted white in what is now the living room.



Landscape architect Terry Kinsler created a series of patios that flow from the side of the house to the back; the backyard dining patio has a bluestone floor, a black-painted cedar fence, and simple plantings of trees and flowers that attract birds. **FACING PAGE:** Imported hardwood forms the floor of the cozy patio off the kitchen.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN: Jannell Zarba, Damiana Design + Project Management

INTERIOR DESIGN: Katie Rosenfeld, Katie Rosenfeld and Company

BUILDER: Kevin Cradock, Kevin Cradock Builders

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Terry Kinsler, Terry Kinsler Landscape Architecture

In a distinct departure from her signature use of bright color, Rosenfeld kept the palette neutral, painting walls and ceilings white. “When you’re used to working with color, you think neutral is going to be easy,” she says. “But I think it’s harder. I created focal points through texture, movement, and geometry.” In the living room, that translates to a white velvet sofa paired with tweedy ottomans and a ropy rug of wool and sisal. The dining room has so much personality, with its herringbone floor and a walnut table surrounded by white leather chairs, you hardly notice it’s

devoid of color but for the abstract painting over the sideboard.

The quiet palette continues throughout, from the super-efficient kitchen to the second-floor bedrooms.

Builder Cradock confesses he was almost as bowled over by the end result as the grateful homeowners. “I’m not surprised very often by our transformations because we do this a lot,” he says. “But when this particular one was done, I really thought, ‘Wow!’”

As for the once-skeptical homeowner, the only tears now are those of joy.

EDITOR’S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

