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A single mom and her three boys make a fresh start in an elegantly modern,



brand-new
view

casual home in Summit



WRITER: LIZ SMUTKO
PHOTOGRAPHER: ANN STRATTON
DESIGNER: DIANE PAPARO ASSOCIATES LTD.



Newly divorced and with three young sons, Kerry King needed a fresh start in a new environment.

A spec house under construction in a new neighborhood in Summit looked right.

“I was moving from an old house and wanted something a little more low-maintenance,” she says. The basic construction was done on the 7,500-square-foot, four-story house set on a hilltop, but King was able to choose the finishing materials. “I was moving from a dark Tudor, and I love clean lines; I love color,” she says. “As a newly single person, this house gave me an opportunity to make a space reflect who I am without boundaries. In your forties, you come into your own.” She has an extensive art collection, loves fashion, and developed a passion for auto racing after taking a three-day

Left: A soothing palette, a mix of geometric and organic shapes, and mismatched table lamps take the formality out of the living room. The ottomans are on casters and provide extra seating here and throughout the house, homeowner Kerry King says. **Above:** Diane Paparo designed the table in the entry and gave homeowner King the bowl that sits on it. “She said she decided it really belongs here,” King says.



Above: Soft greens and peachy oranges in the family room complement the blues and golds of the living room (visible through the French doors). The sofas were upholstered in outdoor fabrics for durability. Built-in cabinets provide storage for the whole-house stereo system components.

Right: A solid walnut table in the breakfast room has a sturdy base to withstand a lifetime of use. The room flows into the kitchen through a 16-foot-wide entrance, allowing the spaces to be distinct yet connected.





Designer Diane Paparo chose different tones of granite for the perimeter and island countertops for contrast. The island feels more like an old-fashioned table, she says.

Skip Barber Racing course. “Racing is my yoga,” she says.

The builder thought King would hit it off with Diane Paparo of Diane Paparo Associates Ltd., New York City, a designer he had worked with before. He was right — they shared a sensibility about how the house should look and work. “Sometimes, a client will ask for things where the inside of the house has nothing to do with the outside,” Paparo says. “Kerry wanted the inside of the house to reflect the exterior, for the architecture to transfer into the inside.”

Inside, King wanted the more permanent aspects of the

design — the kitchen, baths, and fireplaces — to be classic. While it has all the bells and whistles of any modern kitchen, this has a traditional look in the cabinetry, a furniture-like island, and a neutral palette.

Personal Style

Though King was willing and ready to start over from scratch, a tour of her previous house convinced Paparo there were things they should keep. An enormous dining table an artist friend made for King topped the list, and



the dining chairs, some beautiful rugs, and other furnishings made the move also. For the rest, Paparo took her client's tastes into account. "She loves Manolo Blahnik shoes, so a houseful of Pottery Barn wasn't going to work for her," Paparo says. King's main goal in the design was to emphasize the clean, modern lines she loves and keep clutter to a minimum.

A simple, elegant palette unites the spaces on the main floor. Paparo took the subtle tones of gold and blue from the rugs King kept from her old house. In the entry, a blue and gold rug anchors the Venetian plaster striped walls. The blue from the rug ties into the blue of the living room sofa, also from the previous house. Two chairs that made the move were reupholstered in cream. The mix of geometric and organic shapes, along with the rich colors, creates a relaxed yet elegant space.

Practical Aspects

With three boys under the age of 10 at the time of the move, the house was sure to be used. "There are kids and lizards and sports equipment, so I had to stay sensitive to the practical aspects of the design — which I like to do anyway," Paparo says. That meant using out-





door fabrics for the upholstered bench and pillows in the breakfast room and the family room sofa as well as vinyl wall coverings in the boys' bedrooms. The table in the breakfast room has a two-inch-thick top so any disasters can be sanded out and the table can be refinished.

Private Spaces

King has set up sanctuaries for herself. Libraries often look masculine with dark paneled walls and coffered ceilings, however, King's version is light-filled, tweaking the formula in a decidedly feminine fashion. The juxtaposition is exemplified by two pale yellow side chairs — the

seating surfaces are upholstered in sturdy horsehair, the back of the chairs are done in silk weave.

Near the boys' bedrooms, King has a study where she can work at night while they sleep. On the floor plan, that space was designed as a bedroom, but King and Paparo turned it into a study and transformed the closet into a walk-in bookcase.

Her bedroom "makes your shoulders relax as soon as you walk in," Paparo says. Low furnishings and a limestone-faced fireplace balance muted, smoky tones.

When contemplating her move to her new house and new life, King says she knew she has an emotional reac-

Opposite top: The library is homeowner Kerry King's sanctuary and a favorite place for her kids to engage her in private discussions.

Opposite bottom: The floor plan showed the study as a bedroom, but King wanted a space on the same floor as her sons' bedrooms where she could work in the evenings. The closet was transformed into a walk-in bookcase. **Above:** A 16-foot-long table King moved from her old house informed the dining room's design. She says she loves the warm, smoky quality of the tones in the room.



This page: The soothing master bedroom has hidden practical elements. Shelves on the side tables slide out. “People prop up in bed with so many pillows that you have to twist and reach back to put your tea or laptop on the table,” designer Diane Paparo says. “This way, the shelf is right next to you. She also hid lights behind the dresser that reflect off the ceiling so there’s no glare when watching TV from the bed. **Opposite top:** Each of the three boys has his own room (one is shown). Generally, the furnishings are the same, but the boys picked out the color schemes, rugs, and wallpaper according to their own tastes and interests. **Opposite bottom:** The fourth-floor guest suite is connected to the rest of the house yet offers privacy.





tion to space. “The new house had to feel like me; it had to be a happy space,” she says. “This place welcomes my girlfriends, my family, and the kids’ friends. This house is filled with life.” **DNJ**

Liz Smutko writes from a Bucks County farmhouse filled with life and a little dog hair.

SOURCES Overall: design, Diane Paparo Associates Ltd. in New York City. **Living Room:** Barbara Barry coffee table, Baker Furniture in Chicago; ottomans, Diane Paparo Studio; lamps, Adam Aaronson Collection by Holly Hunt in New York City and Greenbaum Interiors in Paterson. **Entry:** table, Diane Paparo Studio; chair, Fabrizi Custom Furniture in Brooklyn; stair runner, J&S Designer Flooring in Morristown; Venetian plaster striped walls, Spec Fin in Mahwah; mirror, Wendell Castle Collection in Leroy, New York. **Family Room:** table and sofa in foreground, Ted Boerner Inc. in New York City; sofa and club chair, Todd Hase Furniture Inc. in New York City; cabinetry, Eppley Building & Design in Hawthorne. **Breakfast Room:** table chairs, Clodagh Collection in New York City, fabric and window seat upholstery, Sina Pearson Textiles in New York City; dining table, Dumonds Custom Furniture in Corvallis, Montana; lighting, Lites on West Soho in New York City; rug, J&S Designer Flooring. **Kitchen:** counter stools, Donghia in New York City with fabric by Sina Parson Textiles. **Library:** sofa, Fabrizi Custom Furniture. **Study:** writing table, Maxine Snyder Inc. in Chicago; chair, Diane Paparo Studio; rug, Marc Phillips in New York City; lamp, Les Migrateurs in New York City; walk-in book closet, Fabrizi Custom Furniture; silk on walls, Creation Baumann in Rockville Centre, New York. **Dining Room:** light fixture, Foundry in New York City; mirror, Holly Hunt; Venetian plaster wall, Spec Fin. **Master Bedroom:** bed, Fabrizi Custom Furniture; Powell & Bonnell nightstands, Dennis Miller in New York City; bench, Maxine Snyder Inc; carpet, Tai Ping Carpets in New York City; floor lamp, Niedermaier Furniture in New York City; table, Lorin Marsh in New York City; cabinetry, Eppley Building & Design. **Boy’s Room:** bunk bed, Maine Cottage in Yarmouth, Maine; linens, PBTeen.com and The Company Store; bench box, MoMA Design Store in New York City; area rug, Angela Adams in Portland, Maine. **Guest Suite:** sofa, Donghia; ottoman, Lorin Marsh; area rug, Marc Phillips.

For contact information, page 125

