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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

\$3.95US



SeattleHomesMag.com

THE BURNETT HOME EXUDES TRADITION IN EVERY NOOK AND SWIRL OF FABRIC. ARCHITECT STUART SILK AND PROJECT ARCHITECT ANNE ADAMS EMBRACED CLASSIC LINES. LEAVE IT PURE, WITHOUT DILUTING AND CONVOLUTING STYLES, SILK RECOMMENDS. "THIS IS QUIET, NOT RAMBUNCTIOUS, AND TIMELESS," HE SAYS.

SIMPLY TIMELESS

A Clyde Hill family surrounds itself with history and roots

WRITTEN BY KATHRYN RENNER PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL SKOTT





above a marble-topped antique buffet in David and Tricia Burnett's entryway hangs a dramatic oil painting of the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. That vignette says a lot about this family. The buffet was placed there with care and pride because it was handed down from David's grandmother. And the painting speaks to an interest in American history, rekindled when the couple lived in Virginia while David attended law school. Living and working on Thomas Jefferson's turf went straight to their hearts—as did homes with Federal and Georgian bones.

Still, there was no question they would eventually return to the Northwest. Roots run deep here. A fourth-generation Seattleite, David met Tricia when they both attended Seattle Pacific University. But after returning in 1998, they learned that a DC-style home in this Washington was hard to find.

The couple soon realized if they wanted this dream house, they'd have to build it. In 2002, they bought a dated Clyde Hill rambler on nearly an acre and rented it for two years before they demolished the old place and launched construction.

Through referrals and word-of-mouth, the perfect design team evolved. Explaining their vision to Seattle architect Stuart Silk was effortless, David recalls. "We were rambling on, trying to describe our ideas when he reached for a book."

Silk had opened *Creating a New Old House* by Russell Versaci that features a residence he designed. "Something like this?" he asked the couple, paging through the photos in the book.

Exactly.

So Silk and project architect Anne Adams began to render a home for David, Tricia and their three (now four) young children.

"We didn't want anything trendy that would date the home," David says. They had no interest in loft-like "great rooms," or spiral staircases open two floors high. There's no Zen water feature outside, but there is a swing on a rope hanging from an old tree.

Home is tradition. This house, completed in 2006, is airy, fresh and *au courant* based on timeless forms and principles. Silk and Adams share a proclivity for beautiful pediments, moldings and the stately



above: THE BURNETTS CONGREGATE AROUND THE LARGE, HICKORY-TOPPED KITCHEN ISLAND. COUNTER TOP ARE CHOCOLATE-COLORED HONED MARBLE. THE GRACEFUL HOME, BUILT IN 2005, LOOKS AS IF IT HAS BEEN HERE FOREVER.
left: THE ENTRY PULLS YOU INTO THE HOUSE "WITH COMFORT, CLARITY AND ORGANIZATION," NOTES ARCHITECT ANNE ADAMS.



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symmetry hallowed by traditional style. Elegance trumps pretension. "Formal" is tamed to be livable, even with tots afoot. Spaces flow into each other off a central hallway. "The symmetry of the floor plan orients you," Adams explains. "You intuitively know where to go. The house has clarity, stability."

Interior designer Patricia Schlapp shared the new-old house mindset, using textures and fabrics to give each room an aged patina. When Schlapp came on board, Tricia had already purchased a dining table with tall chairs with a swirl of celery and pink upholstery. The entry looks into this room so that's the first thing you see. The colors weren't the easiest choice to work around, Tricia admits.

"Rather than carrying the pink into other rooms, I tied in soft corals," Schlapp recalls. A rug of coral, pink and neutrals anchors the living room and provides a visual segue.

"Tricia and David wanted warm, comfortable sophistication, but it had to be kid-proof and be able to survive large gatherings," she says. "David has a big family."

Consequently, fabrics aren't too delicate or precious. The custom coffee table has built-in drawers for crayons and books. Ottomans around the table are kid-sized. By virtue of architectural grace and soft English floral drapes and accents, rooms are refined, yet they hardly multitask.

Even though most furnishings are new, they don't look matched. "We wanted it to look like a collection of pieces gathered over time," Tricia says. With antiques and silver inherited from grandparents woven throughout, the home is a gallery of all this family holds dear—traditions old and new. ■

Kathryn Renner writes about homes old and new for local and national publications from her home in Kirkland.

For resource information, see Sources, page 86.

INTERIOR DESIGNER PATRICIA SCHLAPP UNDERScoreD THE HOME'S WARM SOPHISTICATION WITH SUBTLE ENGLISH AND FRENCH FLORAL FABRICS. EVEN NEW FURNISHINGS OFFER AN AGED PANACHE. KID-FRIENDLINESS AND EASY CARE WERE PARAMOUNT CONCERNS. THE HOME BUSTLES WITH FAMILY.