

CONTEMPORARY REVISION

FINE ART RE-DESIGNS
A GEORGIAN-STYLE MANSE



TOP SHELF The library houses an antique book collection and doubles as a dining room. The drapery is by Ridgfielder Michele Fugazy, woodwork by master carpenter Didier Fonseca, and painting by Rachel Volpone.



IF THERE'S ONE PIECE OF ART that stands out for Amanda Dranow, it's *White Wings* by local artist Rachel Volpone. "I thought this piece would be a great start," says Dranow, an interior designer and long-time Ridgfield art supporter. "It was classically contemporary, not too far out there, and textural. The minute I put that painting in the main room I was all jazzed up."

For Dranow, the addition of contemporary art in a classic space was an experiment—much like the rest of the Dranows' \$172,000 renovation, which began in 2011, four years after she and her family moved in. In assembling her team—builder Nick Hicks of Hicks Construction, craftsman Didier Fonseca of DLF, and architect Peter Coffin of Doyle Coffin Architecture—and embarking on the project, Dranow says: "Really this was an experimental project for me because, at the time, I was a full-time mom. I knew I wanted to get back into interior design again, so I wanted to put my feelers out and see who I could attract to help

BY MARGARET MAY // PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM LENZ



ARTISTIC TOUCH Amanda Dranow (with beloved friend Millie) styled a large bookcase in the family room featuring her collection of blue and white pottery. Matching Pottery Barn white sofas flank a fireplace with a large abstract painting by Rachel Volpone. Drapery by Calico. A corner of the family room (below) features a painting by Volpone and photographs of the Hamptons by Ridgefield graphic designer/artist Cynthia DiGiacomo.



me pull this house together. It kind of just happened that way—that we used all Ridgefield talent, but I made it a point to start my search locally.” Moving from façade to interior, Dranow and Coffin chose to maintain the original layout and integrity of the home. Coffin underscored the initially flat and underwhelming Georgian-style lines by adding lattice detail for texture and the chance to grow flowing vines. Other additions were the Palladian window, dental moldering, and historic lanterns.

Although large, the manse’s interior composes itself in surprisingly cozy proportions. The entry is compact with an unimposing circular staircase; the once-cold porcelain tile and outdated light fixture were warmed up by a carpeted entry-way and new lighting. On the walls, local artists’ works, family heirlooms, silhouettes, painted portraits, and architectural prints hang together in a salon-style arrangement. “I had all these wonderful boxes of items that I didn’t know what to do with,” says Dranow. “So, I thought, ‘Let’s just put them all together and try to make sense of them.’”

Overcoming the lacked natural light in the tea room, Dranow chose to paint both the walls and window trim in a light, rosy red to backdrop each element in the room—like the gold drapery, designed by Michele Fugazy of Michele



because the room is multipurposed, it's trafficked more frequently than any designated dining room would be.

With all this done, however, there's still more to come. In the grand-master plan, Dranow aims to tackle the bathrooms. The flat backyard may soon include a pool, and the front driveway may be reconfigured into a parking court to make the grounds more English in their affect.

For now, though, the home is a space where local artists claim wall space and fine art can travel and take up residence—even if just temporary. In Dranow's mind, fine art is how you make your design mark. "It lasts. it doesn't wear. Everyone can get a sisal rug or gray couches and textures this and that, but the fine art is what brings the house to life." Suddenly, that piece of fine art you love becomes a catalyst for a project larger than itself, transcending its 2D essence to influence a functional, 3D space. ■

Fugazy Designs of the Home, and the intricate gold mirror, clear base lamps, and other accessories discovered at Silver Lining Consignments. In this room, as well as the library and main living room, photographs and a silhouette portrait by Cynthia DiGiacomo—a photographer and owner of C Design CT—inject a crisp, contemporality into the rooms.

In the main sunken living room, where WhiteWings hangs, neutral, understated furnishings allow the art to radiate as the space's primary source of energy. Choosing to put color on the ceiling and reserve the crisp, white paint coats for the outdated brick and wood, instills new life, dimension, and freshness to the already skylight-lit room. Also, added were a custom mantel, bulking up the molding, and including a reconstructed bookcase originally from the tea room. When needed, this space can pose as a traditional living room by bringing the couches in from the kitchen or a dining room by adding chairs around the sleek white tables that double as desks.

Much like the main room, the dining room functions untraditionally. "When I approach projects with clients, I really ask them to think hard about what they do in each room and what they'd like to do that they're not currently doing." After asking herself this question and realizing the space couldn't hold a long table, Dranow made it into a library. Now,

MASTERLY MONOCHROME

The living room boldly features Farrow & Ball Book Room Red and intricate draperies by Michele Fugazy. Trumeau mirror from Silver Lining. Custom silhouette of Peter Dranow by Cynthia DiGiacomo. The master bedroom (top) features a mix of old and new. Guest room is a graphic mix of checks, zebra, and geometrics. Antique pewter plates hang against Farrow & Ball Ciara yellow walls.

