

# BOSTONIAN OF THE YEAR

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MAGAZINE

## CARMEN ORTIZ

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BY SCOTT HELMAN

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## Revamping a Childhood Home

Moving back into the house she grew up in, a homeowner updates its furnishings to suit her young family. **By JACI CONRY**



**THRILLED TO BE MOVING** her own family into the Weston Colonial where she'd grown up, a young mother of two also knew she needed to make some changes. "While she loved the house," says West Newton designer Jill Litner Kaplan, "she didn't want to recall her teenage years every time she sat at the dinner table."

Throughout the owner's childhood, the home's decor had been traditional—period antiques, chintz, toile, and pastels. She "wanted to make the house her own by creating a younger, more transitional aesthetic that was suitable for a growing family," says Kaplan, who was called in to revivify the interiors.

Thinking of the kids, "the homeowner wanted furnishings to be fairly indestructible," Kaplan says. The family room now sports a coffee table sheathed in grass cloth and coated with polyurethane. The table, created by Icon Group, a Boston Design Center showroom, "is utterly impervious to stains, and has soft corners so little ones can't impale themselves," says Kaplan.

Like most of the home, the family room is bathed in neutral tones, but two stools reupholstered in leopard-print chenille add some pop. They were among several furnishings from the owner's previous home that Kaplan updated for the Weston house. Other pieces include the living room's bergere chairs, which Kaplan had reupholstered in Schumacher's Chiang Mai Dragon fabric. She also replaced the glass top on the living room coffee table with one made of sleek and sturdy limestone.

In another family-friendly move, Kaplan transformed a hallway connecting the kitchen and garage into a functional mudroom with built-in drawers and shelving. The mudroom floor was tiled with slate in a lovely herringbone pattern, and a new window seat provides a comfortable place to perch when taking off wet shoes.

The dining room walls were painted a deep chocolate brown to showcase a collection of blue-and-white china. The table, a French antique given to the homeowner by her parents, is one of the only relics in the home from her teenage years—though it's unlikely she's thinking about high school when she dines there now, says Kaplan. "It's a completely different house than it was then, in every which way."



**NEXT GENERATION**  
In the family room (top), a polyurethane-coated coffee table repels stains; the dining room table (above) is one of the only holdovers from the owner's childhood; the new slate-floored mudroom (right) has a place to sit when removing boots.

