



HOME BASE

IN MARIN COUNTY'S IDYLIC HILLS, ONE DESIGN TEAM DOVETAILS PAST AND PRESENT TO TURN THIS 1925 HOME INTO A PLACE OF INSPIRATION FOR A BUSY FAMILY OF FOUR.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY LISA TORNELLO AND CHELSEA AYRES, MILLROAD STUDIO
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN BY BRAD HUBBELL AND ALESSANDRO LAI, HUBBELL DAILY
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CONTRACTOR: HTH CONSTRUCTION

IN

1986, this Kentfield, California home went through an inspired renovation that left the bones nearly perfect. But for one young family, a few changes still needed to happen for it to be *their* perfect home. “The husband is a Chief Product Officer at a major technology company; his wife is a talented writer,” says interior designer Lisa Tornello. “They are both inspired by nature and adventure—they ski, mountain bike, hike, and play soccer. They have two boys, ages 12 and 15, and a brown lab named Lily.”

The family called on Lisa’s Millroad Studio and architectural firm Hubbell Daily to bring the residence up to speed. Their punch list included extending the footprint to add a second floor, building out a dedicated workspace and home office, and ensuring the boys would each have their own bedroom. “We wished to preserve the unique look and feel of the home while adding new form and function to the spaces,” architect Brad Hubbell explains.

“Our challenge was to create a much more functional, roomy, and light-filled bedroom wing incorporating two separate rooms for the boys with a shared bath, along with a primary suite containing a light-filled and spacious bedroom, a more efficient, clean bath, and a more generous, spacious closet,” architect Brad Hubbell says. Interior designer Lisa Tornello outfitted one bedroom with a rug from Revival, a side table from Blu Dot, and Parachute linens. The lamp is from Ferm Living.

For the interiors, Lisa says that finishes of the home were an intentional mix. “We brought in planked interior doors that match the original doors of the home,” she recalls. “We then mixed it with a more modern detail of recessed baseboards and window and door casings. We enveloped the rooms in crisp whites like Benjamin Moore’s Simply White and Chantilly Lace.” Additional features include the Ashley Norton interior door sets with rugged, worn details, finished in a dark bronze that reads both modern and historical, and gridded windows which add a historical nod.

To connect the original first level with the addition, Brad painstakingly designed and built—and rebuilt—a gorgeous stairwell with recessed wall string, a simple handrail, and cantilevered treads. “Though we had fine and thorough details, the contractor did not follow our instructions or share our vision for the space,” he admits. “In the end, after much persistence, and at nearly the final hour, the contractor rebuilt the stairs to our specifications, resulting in a fantastic result.”

From finishes to furniture, the interior aesthetic encapsulates the family’s personal style, their Danish roots, and the architecture of the home. “And it’s all done with a modern twist and through our signature style of a muted color palette, natural materials, and textural moments,” Lisa admits. “The family wanted their home to blend historical and contemporary elements. And they wanted it to be a place they could sink into and find inspiration.”

It was a three-year project, and all parties say well worth the wait. Brad reports, “The family’s latest words to us were: ‘First off, thank you. Thank you. Thank you. We absolutely love the house. You really understood our house, our style, and incorporated it into a wonderful vision.’”

Through the use of a light-filled stairway, the design team connected the main level bedroom wing to an upper level that has an open, loft-like office, a guest room and upper guest bath.





(Clockwise from left) The boys' shower features dark Bedrosian tile. The floor tile from Tilebar was specified to easily transition from a curbless shower to the shower pan. In the primary, mouth-blown pendants were made by Danish lighting designer Nuura. "They're designed to be reminiscent of a peaceful, snow-covered winter landscape," Lisa says. A fluted travertine tile from Tile Fever is used on vertical surfaces behind the vanity and on the bathtub apron. The upstairs bath features stand-out marble (accentuated even further with an larger-than-normal edge detail) and Brendan Ravenhill wall sconces.

This nook, located in the primary bedroom, features a vintage table with a Notary Ceramics lamp and woven chair. "We imagined our clients could write letters here," Lisa shares. The artwork is vintage.





The home office needed to be multi-functional. “They both have careers where they create,” Lisa says. “The space accommodates laptops and Zoom calls. It also holds the homeowner’s electric keyboard and mixing equipment for when he wants to create music. The file cabinets are on rollers with the drawers of the built-in bench designed to be ottomans. This way, the room can morph from an office to a place of relaxation and ideating.”



The primary bedroom’s soft, layered bedding from Parachute and RH sits alongside masculine nightstands. The lamps are by Shoppe Amber Interiors, and an ottoman from Westpark Home sits at the foot of the bed.



The living room features an heirloom Steinway & Sons piano (not pictured), passed down through the family. “The homeowner’s grandmother was best friends with an accomplished opera singer,” Lisa says. “Steinway crafted the piano specifically for her accompanist who she, allegedly, had an affair with and later married. A picture of her accompanist sits on the fireplace mantel.”

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AND TAKE IN LIFE’S SIMPLE PLEASURES.”**
—LISA TORNELLO