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A COUPLE'S ECLECTIC AND COLORFUL ART COLLECTION INFORMS THE INTERIOR DESIGN OF THEIR MYERS PARK HOME.

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Designer Natalie Papier of Home Ec. helped select the curved Arhaus sofa and rug for the sunroom. *All Tomorrow's Parties*, the yellow painting hanging above the credenza, is by local artist Holly Keogh.



THE MOST IMPORTANT gift the homeowners got from family was an appreciation for art. The homeowner credits her mother-in-law with inspiring her and her husband to begin a collection. “She was a true art-lover and inspired the same in my husband and me,” she says. The very first piece in the couple’s now-impressive collection was an engagement gift—a painting of the homeowner’s family home in Martha’s Vineyard, where her husband proposed.

Today, that painting, which hangs in the dining room of their home designed (and redesigned) to accommodate a shared passion for art, is only one of dozens of pieces the couple has collected since—a family tradition they’re already trying to pass down to their sons, ages fifteen and thirteen. “Every room is filled with art, including our children’s rooms,” the homeowner says. “We encourage them to pick something out to return with when we travel.”

She and her husband also like to gift each other art on special occasions, and are apt to buy first and figure out where to place later, which has led to some interesting design choices, including an interior renovation of their traditional Georgian home. “We’ve had a good time moving rooms around to fit the art,” she says.

To help, she enlisted interior designer Margaret Fisher and also looked to friend and designer Natalie Papier of Home Ec. In addition, art



ABOVE: Dominating the entryway is a piece by Meghann Riepenhoff, an artist who uses a technique of leaving photo paper out in the elements. This work was created when the paper was laid over the trunk of a tree as it started to rain and snow. The result is a moment in time captured on paper.

OPPOSITE: Transforming the former living room into a formal dining room started with pulling some of the green tones out of the Cole & Son wallpaper and contrasting them with peach-and-white striped draperies the couple had in a previous home. The Heritage dining table and chairs are another family heirloom that once belonged to the homeowner's aunt.

consultant Nelia Verano was integral in helping the couple cultivate some of their most coveted pieces. Beyond the palpable presence of art, though, the house is not remotely museum-like. With two teen boys and a huge hound dog, Duke, who drools a lot, the place had to be livable, says the homeowner. "We like to have everything comfortable. Nothing is too precious because it needs to be a place where we live."

When the couple bought the home, they were primarily concerned with having space for their growing family, but after living there for a while, they realized some changes were in order. "We were never using the living room, except for Christmas," she says, so it made sense to swap it with the then dining room to accommodate dinner parties the couple loves to host. The result is an expanded dining space her husband likes to call "the board room."

The second major change involved converting another unused room into a sunroom. "It was originally a breakfast room," says the homeowner. "We lived with it for several years but we were really never sitting down together







ABOVE: In the sitting room, the homeowner splurged on Lee Jofa's Kelly Wearstler Crescent wallpaper. It's something she had long coveted and feels is a piece of art in its own right. The Victorian-era marble-top side table once graced her grandparents' farmhouse just outside Charlotte, and the burl-wood dresser was passed down from her mother-in-law.

OPPOSITE: When an old walnut tree on her grandparents' farm was struck by lightning, the homeowner's family salvaged the wood and turned it into blanket chests for all of the grandchildren, jewelry boxes for the girls, and this bed. The bedside table is from Worlds Away and the blanket is by Gregory Parkinson from R. Runberg. The art is a piece from local artist Addison Wahler.

at a table and having a meal." The family had a tendency to gather around the kitchen island, which they extended, and they transformed the former breakfast room into a conduit to the backyard and pool. Now, it's a comfortable place where the family can gather to play mahjong or do puzzles or entertain friends. "We spend a ton of time in here now," she says.

The most recent change was converting a nook above the stairs, formerly a nursery, into what the homeowner calls her

"big girl office" with a built-in desk, a window seat, and sunny yellow butterfly wallpaper by Peg Norriss, part of a collaboration with Barrie Benson and Chandra Johnson. "I love wallpaper," she says. "It adds a lot of extra dimension to a room."

"My client comes to the table with a lot of ideas. She's not afraid to try things, and she loves color and texture," says Fisher, who also worked on the interiors of the family's previous home. The designer notes that the family's style has evolved along with





their taste in art. “In their previous house, there were a lot of landscapes and waterscapes and boats, which gave it a slightly more nautical feel,” she says. “As they’ve grown their collection, it’s much more eclectic and spans different genres.” There is a mix of fine art and art by local artists they know and love, like Holly Keogh, who has become a close friend of the couple’s.

“My husband and I started out with very, very different tastes,” says the homeowner. “He was more of a traditional

landscape impressionist type of person, and I’m more into modern abstract, but we both evolved a little.” The decor follows suit with a seamless coupling of contemporary pieces and antiques, some inherited from her mother-in-law, who sadly passed after they moved into their new home. “The juxtaposition of antique and modern is what does it for me,” says the homeowner. “We love incorporating family pieces into the design of our home.”



ABOVE: The nook above the stairs was transformed into a home office, where Fisher added a window seat and a built-in desk with Evans knobs in malachite from Modern Matter. But the room's real showstopper is the Peg Norriss wallpaper, part of a collaboration with Barrie Benson and Chandra Johnson. This pattern was done in collaboration with artist Anne Lemanski and is called Queen's Flight.

LEFT: When the family moved in, the den walls were knotty pine, which they painted in high-gloss Hague Blue by Farrow & Ball. "It makes it feel elegant and special in a cool way," says the homeowner. The large painting over the sofa was commissioned from Georgia artist Caroline Swetenburg specifically for the space. The colorful piece that looks like tree rings is by François du Plessis and is made from books, a theme in their collection since the couple are both avid readers.

The pair trade off on choosing art. The painting of a red sunset in the navy den, for example, was her husband's choice, purchased last spring in New York from a gallery in Scotland. On the other side of the door hangs a piece they got in Miami several years ago.

The house and the art collection are both works in progress, even now. "We're always adding and moving things around," explains the homeowner. Recently, she says they've

both been drawn to alternative photography pieces, which was an unexpected twist in their collection. "It's easy to look at something and say, 'Oh, that's pretty,' but we both like to find things that make you think or give you a different perspective," she says. "And also things that remind us of a trip or good time together, family, things we love, places we love. You can find art anywhere." ♦