

# Boston home

Ceramic tile adds texture to a Brighton kitchen. See page 109.

## KITCHENS WITH CHARACTER

LUXE MATERIALS, CREATIVE STORAGE, AND A HEARTY SPLASH OF COLOR

A FRESH START  
IN NEWTON

REINVENTING BOSTON  
CITY HALL PLAZA

MODERN LIVING  
IN GLOUCESTER



# MAKING A MARK

*Interior designer Tiffany LeBlanc creates a home worthy of the owner's playful aesthetic.*

BY ALENE BOURANOVA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL J. LEE



**THIS PAGE** Walter Lane Cabinetmaker created the custom banquette where the family dog likes to perch. "He loves [sitting on] the bench to look out the window," the homeowner says.

**OPPOSITE** The sitting room's quirky furnishings include Kelly Wearstler's "Alta" table lamp.

**THERE'S NOTHING LIKE WORK-**ing on a house with excellent bones. Especially when those bones include 19th-century millwork, five first-floor fireplaces, sky-high ceilings, and boatloads of crown molding—as was the case with the circa-1890, 7,000-square-foot Tudor Tiffany LeBlanc tackled in Newton. “[When I first] walked through, I was like, ‘I want this house!’” says the LeBlanc Design principal, who signed on to redesign the home in 2016. “It’s gorgeous. And you could tell that there was so much history in [the space].”

The only problem was the décor, which for a long time had felt a little too stuffy to the homeowner. She’d done work here and there in the 12 years she’d owned the house—painting; restoring the wood floors; renovating the carriage house—but in 2016 she realized the overall look wasn’t working for her, or her impending empty-nester lifestyle, anymore. “The house had a bit of a masculine tinge, with darker colors, antiques, and a more traditional look,” she says. “[I wanted it] warmer, lighter, and a little more reflective of who I am as a person.” Plus, she needed better functionality in the kitchen, where she and her Italian water dog, Hunter, like to hang out when her two sons are away at college.

So she and LeBlanc came

up with a game plan to renovate the first floor, deciding to revamp the main rooms and save the heavy lifting for the kitchen. The existing historical features meant there wasn’t much need for structural change; instead, LeBlanc relied on modern textures, colors, and furnishings to brighten the space and offset the woodwork. “Part of our solution was to [make the space] more feminine by bringing in metallics and blush tones to soften all that heavy wood,” LeBlanc says.

Working with the homeowner’s requirements of personality, livability, and approachability for her *and* her two sons, LeBlanc designed distinct but coordinating palettes for each of the downstairs rooms. “We didn’t want one-off rooms that were fantastic,” LeBlanc explains. “We wanted good continuity throughout the first floor so that the rooms





**THIS PAGE** From the sitting room's Merida flatweave carpet to the Palecek tripod table, each furnishing had to earn its spot in the home. "To equal the beauty of the architecture, we looked for things that had merit, like the house," LeBlanc says.

**OPPOSITE, FROM TOP** Blues and pinks in the library link the palettes found throughout the first floor. The library is the homeowner's favorite room in the house, thanks to its cozy feel and displays of personal knick-knacks. It also holds LeBlanc's favorite design detail, the metallic Holland & Sherry wallcovering. "I love, love, love it," she says.

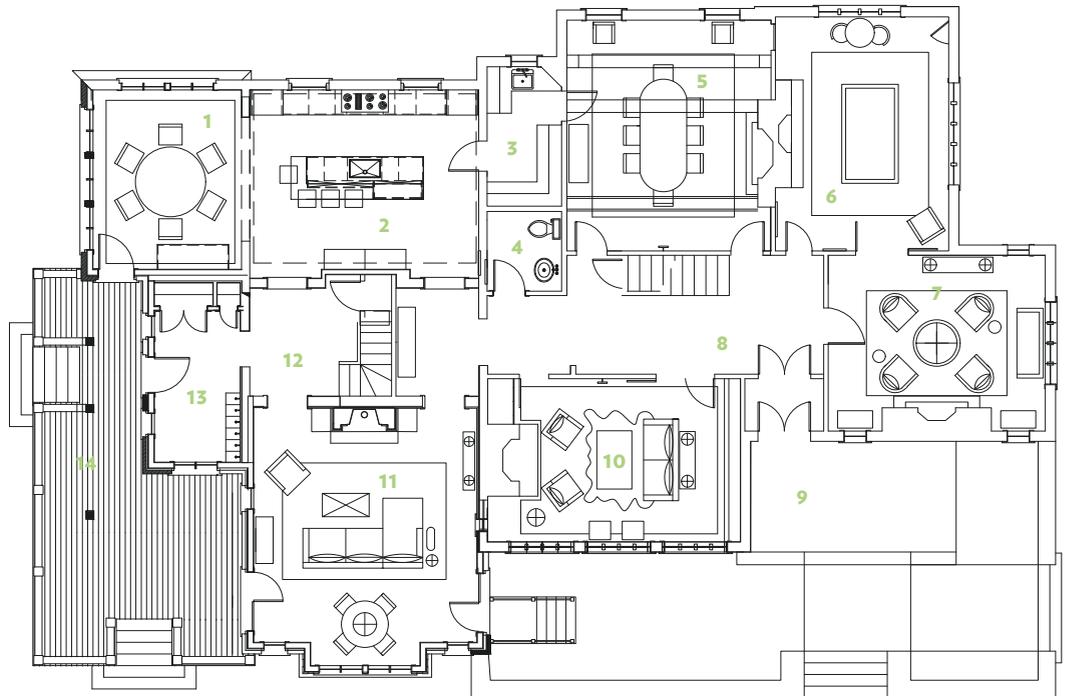


**THIS PAGE** The revamped kitchen makes a perfect gathering space for family and friends: “I host a lot of big holidays, and it’s just really nice to have people in this clean, beautiful, kitchen,” the homeowner says.

**OPPOSITE, FROM TOP** Colorful fabrics add intrigue to the formal dining space. LeBlanc chose Brunswick & Fil’s “Samarkand” textile for the drapes, and reupholstered the dining chairs in Carleton V’s “Dardanelles” and Osborne & Little’s “Guimard” textiles.

Wood cabinets in the butler’s pantry are reminiscent of the home’s millwork.

An Arteriors “Hathoway” chandelier, which echoes the custom brass Francois & Co. range hood, ties together the kitchen and the breakfast room.



- FIRST FLOOR**
- 1 BREAKFAST ROOM
  - 2 KITCHEN
  - 3 PANTRY
  - 4 POWDER ROOM
  - 5 DINING ROOM
  - 6 BILLIARDS ROOM
  - 7 SITTING ROOM
  - 8 FRONT FOYER
  - 9 FRONT PORCH
  - 10 LIBRARY
  - 11 FAMILY ROOM
  - 12 FOYER
  - 13 MUDROOM
  - 14 DECK



felt connected and individual at the same time.” She used pieces from the homeowner’s contemporary-art collection as inspiration, such as *Untitled #16* from Vee Speers’s photography series “The Birthday Party,” which hangs in the dining room. LeBlanc chose complementary pinks and reds to anchor the formal space, which features crown molding and newly vibrant dining chairs, reupholstered in metallic leather and crimson Carleton V and Osborne & Little textiles. A quartz crystal-studded Christopher Boots chandelier overhead, meanwhile, adds a raw element to the luxe quarters. “With [the homeowner], there’s always a twist,” LeBlanc says. “A lot of what we did has a little bit of that ‘Oh that’s different; I wouldn’t expect that’ kind of feeling.”

Next door in the billiards room, LeBlanc curbed an old-school, gentlemen-only club vibe with delicate touches. She installed mirror-backed Urban Electric Co. sconces above the fireplace, and placed Corbin Bronze’s *Renaissance Woman* statue alongside it. She covered the hardwood floors—which LeBlanc calls

a “big value,” but also dark and heavy—with a plush Jonathan Adler carpet that matches the midnight-blue felt of the pool table, which is inlaid with mother-of-pearl.

The elegance continues into the sitting room. Here, LeBlanc balanced cool tones with warm accents, such as the gray Emerson Bentley swivel chairs that sit around a taupe brindle-and-suede Verellen ottoman. She livened up the crown molding by adding textures: A soft-blue Japanese rice cloth covers the walls, and black stone surrounds the fireplace and hearth. “The architecture is such a player that it set the tone [for the décor],” LeBlanc explains. “And for me, the interiors started to





**THIS PAGE** LeBlanc also worked her magic in the property's carriage house, populating it with clean-lined furniture to create the casual and contemporary vibe the homeowner requested.

**OPPOSITE, FROM TOP** "[The carriage house] was largely designed with [my sons] in mind," the homeowner says. "When they're in town, that's their go-to spot for hanging out with friends."

Sleek light fixtures from the Urban Electric Co.—the "Garrison" sconces above the fireplace and the "Double Arm" pendant light above the pool table—modernize the wood-paneled billiards room.

**CONTRACTOR**  
MOUGHAN CONTRACTING

**INTERIOR DESIGNER**  
LEBLANC DESIGN

**MILLWORK**  
WALTER LANE CABINETMAKER



wave, and range and a Sub-Zero refrigerator—to the same wall, in front of the quartzite-topped island. “The kitchen’s organization didn’t make much sense before,” the homeowner says. “It’s so much more central now.”

In the adjacent breakfast room, a custom banquette below a row of windows pulls triple duty as seating, storage, and a bed for Hunter. For a less-formal—but still polished—look than the dining room, LeBlanc chose a low-key yet luxe walnut dining table, which she paired with plush wool chairs and a brass-and-glass chandelier that echoes the kitchen’s hood.

With the redesign complete, the homeowner says, the house finally feels like it’s *hers*. Sure, there’s ample space for hosting family and friends, but more important, she and Hunter have plenty of spots to curl up and read. And she’s content with her cozy lifestyle: “It’s a big house for me; I think eventually at some point, I’ll make a change and move into the city or something,” she says. “But while the kids are still around, I’m here. And I love it. I mean, it’s home.” ●

layer in the same way you should feel when you’re in the home: comfortable, playful, and a little colorful.”

The heart of the renovation, however, was the kitchen. “I really wanted to lighten it up and streamline it, and make it more modern with simple lines,” the homeowner says. To accomplish that, LeBlanc stuck to a neutral palette, using a mix of metallic accents for drama, such as a shimmering Ann Sacks tile backsplash and a custom brass hood from Francois & Co. Newly installed beams add depth to the room, while also mimicking the woodwork in the rest of the house. For functionality’s sake, LeBlanc moved the appliances—a Wolf double oven, micro-