

MODERN LUXURY

By ABBY BIELAGUS
Photography by MATT KISIDAY

THE CALM WITHIN THE STORM

Designer Lindsey Crowley fashioned her home
into a respite full of personality and love.



The dining room painting, *Four Hands*, is by an unknown artist, originally purchased in the 1990s on Newbury Street by Crowley's mother-in-law. It is one of the most cherished pieces in the home, bringing in layers of color and a reminder of how to create a beautiful, soulful home.

This home is the story of family. Of the one before and the one who remains. Designer Lindsey Crowley (lindseycrowley.com) and her husband bought this home in Wellesley, the town in which they were both born and raised, from a couple of empty nesters who built it in 2019 for their growing family in collaboration with Jan Gleysteen Architects (jangleysteeninc.com). Coming back to Wellesley to raise their four children, aged 2 to 9, was a full-circle moment for Crowley and the perfect story for the sellers. “After we closed, the sellers left us a note that I still keep tucked in my bedside table—it’s something I deeply cherish. Even though my work often involves reimagining spaces entirely, I felt strongly that there was an energy within the home that deserved to be preserved. There was so much warmth already built into the walls. It became a balance of honoring what was already there while thoughtfully making it our own,” says Crowley.

The relatively new home didn’t require any big renovations. “We focused on personalizing it to better reflect our own aesthetic and lifestyle with four young kids,” says Crowley. Perhaps the biggest update she made was reworking the stairwell to thread all three floors together with a nearly continuous railing. She updated the lighting, wallpaper and hardware throughout, incorporating finishes like Roman Clay and limewash to add depth and movement to the walls.

While she was intentional about layering in texture, shape, art and pieces that carry a sense of soul, she also wanted her family to be a part of the design process. “I asked my oldest daughter what her dream childhood home would look like, and she said, ‘Bright white with really light floors and lots of sunlight.’ That visual stayed with me and ultimately shaped so many of the early decisions. I sanded the floors back to a natural oak, which immediately softened the interiors, and painted the entire home in Decorator’s White, the brightest, crispest white I have ever used. I also chose not to line any of the window treatments, allowing as much natural light to filter through as possible,” says Crowley.

Although originally drawn to the house’s natural

The art is the soul of the home, infusing each space with color and pattern. The large black and white painting in the living room is Moritz Berg via Gallery Rath, and the maroon marble mixed-media is Jeroen Broux.



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From top: To contrast with the home's linear architecture, Crowley introduced curves within the furniture and lighting; double-layered drapery provides privacy while still allowing natural light in.

light, Crowley eventually realized that both the dining room and living room open directly to the front of the house. "I quickly learned that I didn't love the lack of privacy. I worked with Makkas Workroom (makkasdrapery.com) to develop a solution using double-layered drapery. It provides just the right amount of privacy while still allowing the rooms to maintain that bright, airy feeling," says Crowley.

The kids' bedrooms were the first spaces she designed—each one decorated around their favorite color. Although still young, Crowley kept their teenage years in mind, incorporating desks and prints that didn't feel too childish. "I specifically chose rugs for my girls' bedrooms that look like an eye shadow palette, in anticipation of the inevitable mess young girls make," she says.

Crowley and her husband weren't able to bring much furniture from their previous home because the new home's layout was so different. Even the window treatments didn't translate due to the higher ceilings. "We chose to carry forward only the pieces that felt meaningful and sentimental, like art, antique rugs and objects that held value. I was very intentional about where to be resourceful and where to invest. I leaned heavily on what was readily available while reserving custom pieces for areas that really called for it and were worth the wait," says Crowley. She avoided furniture that felt overly linear. The home's architecture features coffered ceilings and moments of shiplap, and to add contrast, she wanted to introduce curves, like the custom-designed tub sofa in the family room, a focal point in the space. She also custom-designed the dining table after the one from the previous home proved too small. She preserved the original legs and reimagined the piece to feel more appropriate for the space. Liberty Woodworking (libertywoodworking.com) matched the existing finish and crafted a new, gently curved top.

Altogether, the furnishings and decor strike a balance between comfort and durability, with a sense of quiet sophistication. Crowley built her design business for her family, to show her kids that one can have it all, with boundaries redrawn. At 3 p.m., work stops, and school pickups and soccer practice begin. Because life is a little bit crazy, it's essential that her home feels like a great big hug and a reprieve from the noise. The overall vibe is calm, but it's also eclectic, not hemmed in by any one style or era. At first glance, this home doesn't look like it houses sticky fingers, piles of homework, uncleared snack plates and other debris from kids who can't help but be messy. But step within its walls and feel the balance between that which is thoughtfully tailored and serene, and the wonderful, beautiful cacophony that comes with lives fully lived.

Opposite page: In the kitchen, an antique rug, sourced at the Brimfield antique flea market, lies near Community Manufacturing counter stools with Kravet faux leather cushions.



Design Details

Type

Single-family home

Interior Designer

Lindsey Crowley

lindseycrowley.com

Carpenter

The Chelsea Company

thechelseacompany.com

RESOURCES

CB2

Family room, console

cb2.com

Community Manufacturing

Living room, custom sofa

Family room, sofa

Kitchen, counter stools

communitymfg.com

Esmaili

Living room, rug

esmailirugs.com

Eternity Modern

Family room, coffee table

eternitymodern.com

Fiberworks

Family room, rug

fibeworks.com

Interior Icons

Family room, chair

interioricons.com

Lostine

Kitchen, pendants

lostine.com

Lulu + Georgia

Dining room, rug

luluandgeorgia.com

Olivyas Stone

Dining room, chairs

olivystone.com

Paul Matter

Dining room, chandelier

paulmatter.com

RH

Living room, armchairs

Dining room, console

Family room, sofa

rh.com

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