

Gerald C. Tolomeo creates a modern stage
for English classics in Upper Saddle River

NJ COLONIAL

THE NOTION THAT A HOUSE is never "finished" rings true for the owners of this Dutch Colonial in Upper Saddle River, who have spent 18 years fine-tuning their four-bedroom home with the help of designer Gerald C. Tolomeo. Collectors of portraits and equestrian paintings, English furniture, silver, and Chinese porcelain, the empty-nesters look to Tolomeo to help them create a streamlined setting for their discoveries. The designer's first step was to create a clean backdrop for old things, using Benjamin Moore's White Dove on the walls and walnut stain on the wood floors. He swapped existing upholstery for rich velvets, cottons, and linens from Hinson & Company; jacquards from Old World Weavers; and some splashes of whimsy from Grey Watkins and Brunschwig & Fils. Contemporary pieces, such as the entertainment room's orange-lacquered cocktail table, add balance to 18th-century secretaries and tall-case clocks, and bare windows reveal views of the couple's apple orchard. A sense of history prevails, but life, and change, goes on. — See Resources.

CONTINUED



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Past PRESENT

Opposite: Clubby touches in the living room include a vintage Chesterfield sofa, 1820s console, and ancestral portraiture. This page: A Formica Parsons table gets Brunschwig & Fils Chinese Leopard toile on hosts' chairs and Osborne & Little tweed on the others.



Modern **ROMANCE**

Opposite page: When the homeowners requested color in the master bedroom, Tolomeo selected a large-scale Clarence House Chinese toile, juxtaposed with unfussy white duck from Hinson & Company for the chair and ottoman. Anglo-Indian tables were found at a flea market. This page: An antique gilt-and-ebonized convex mirror reflects the elongated four-poster that Tolomeo designed to play off the room's traditional elements.

