

Eastern tranquillity meets contemporary energy in a newly constructed home in Franklin Lakes

NEWcontext



INTERIOR DESIGN GERALD C. TOLOMED TEXT SALLIE BRADY
PRODUCED BY BETSY MARX PHOTOGRAPHY WOUTER VANDERTOL



opposite In the living room Tolomeo designed the three-legged limestone and iron coffee table that sits in front of a high-backed sofa. All upholstery and drapery fabrics from Rogers & Goffigon. **this page** In another view of the living room, a pair of faux antique mirrors from Artique Glass flank the stone fireplace. An antique Korean writing table becomes a cocktail table. Louis XV chairs from ARK Antiques. Oriental rugs from Antiquarius.

contemporary twists

This page: Two paintings by the homeowner's brother, Inkie Whang, a noted Korean abstract painter, bring energy to the dining room. Rogers & Goffigon linen-cotton covers the custom chairs. The chandelier and pearwood dining table are both from Holly Hunt. Opposite: In the study, Tolomeo exaggerated the height of the classical fireplace to match the scale of the house. Sunburst mirror from Oriental Lamp & Shade.



WHEN A NEW JERSEY COUPLE DECIDED TO CONSTRUCT A DREAM HOUSE IN Franklin Lakes, they knew exactly what they wanted: a traditional English-country-style exterior with modern, slightly urban interiors designed for family and entertaining.

New York designer Gerald C. Tolomeo was on the project "from the dirt," researching architectural elements for the exterior and, indoors, laying out a spatial plan that met the family's needs. Among the priorities were a highly functional kitchen; a first-floor master suite; and, for the comfortable accommodation of extended-family visits, five upstairs bedrooms, each with its own bath.

For the look of the rooms, the owners wanted a personal mix of "old and new, Western and Asian," to reflect their family heritage, but also their personal style. Tolomeo accomplished that by creating clean, Zen-like spaces that place the homeowners' collection of Asian antiques in a serene context of white walls and dark floors. "I don't like watery looking floors," Tolomeo explains. "Dark wood floors achieve a kind of warmth that a large house needs."

Knowing that his clients wanted a "slight edge" to the interior, Tolomeo included visual surprises, like a zebra-skin rug in the study and a cowhide rug in the master bedroom. And wherever possible, the designer integrated natural materials that contribute organic beauty. A commanding floor-to-ceiling hearth made of local stone dominates the living room; lava rock floors and wenge wood surfaces define the master bath. Nature also inspired the home's quiet palette of creams, taupes, khakis, and greens. Tolomeo layers them in opulent upholsteries of quilted sateen, mohair, and linen velvet.

"The whole idea of the house is to juxtapose the unexpected with tradition," says Tolomeo. "It's urban, but it's suburban. It's modern, but it's traditional. It's generously proportioned, but easy to live in." It is a home in which a family can build new traditions. — See Resources.

CONTINUED

unpredictable patterns

Opposite page: The master bedroom's elongated take on a four-poster is a full 102 inches tall. "I like four-posters to be exaggeratedly high," Tolomeo says. "Otherwise, men tend to feel claustrophobic in them." The footboard conceals a hydraulic-lift flatscreen television. The cotton-stripe headboard and footboard fabric is from Brunschwig & Fils; the colorful linens are part of the homeowners' large collection. Cowhide rug from Edelman Leather.



sublime lines

Traditional architectural details give the new home a sense of permanence. The alcove in the spa-like master bath holds a Jacuzzi tub encased in espresso-colored wenge wood. The wenge wood appears again in custom vanities from Dana Robes. Lava-rock tiled floors are radiant heated. The conical pendant lights are from The Conran Shop; the primitive chair came from a garden center.

THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE, **white walls** AND **natural materials**
PLAY UP SENSUOUS TEXTURES AND SURPRISING PATTERNS

