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SAN JUAN ISLAND + TUMBLE CREEK RETREATS CLASSIC REMODELS

AFTER THE STORM

After a natural disaster, Jessica Lane Interiors and Brian Stevenson Construction, LLC renovate a 1940s traditional house with personalized details to make it feel like home again.



In the rebuilt breakfast room, Jessica Lane Interiors paired a custom sofa in Josef Frank's "Exotic Butterfly" fabric with a Saarinen-style table and retro rattan chairs with custom cushions. The vintage chandelier is from Hippo Hardware with a shade painted by Lonesome Pictopia.

WRITTEN BY MELISSA DALTON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID PAPAZIAN

IN JANUARY OF 2024, Jessica Shevde was on vacation with her family when an ice storm hit Portland. Shevde reached out to a neighbor to ask if they could run the water in her SW Hills home so the pipes wouldn't freeze. "The neighbor was like, 'You have bigger problems than that,'" says Shevde.

Several mature Douglas fir trees had fallen on the property, and one on the house, destroying a breakfast room and landscaping, and damaging the roof, windows, and surrounding deck. The kitchen had also suffered structural damage, and there were cracked ceilings in many rooms. "When we came back from our trip, there was no

returning to the house," says Shevde. While she and her husband had been doing small updates since they bought the home in 2017, they were now confronted with an entirely different prospect. "This wasn't going to be a series of small projects like we had done before," says Shevde. "This was going to be a big project."

But first, the interior designer and founder of Jessica Lane Interiors needed a contractor, and quickly. "My first call was to Brian of Brian Stevenson Construction," says Shevde. "We had worked together before and I knew he had the skilled subcontractors to do the level of detail that I wanted. It was a relief to get him on board." Stevenson



The French glass doors and second floor windows are by Marvin, sourced through Portland Millwork. The house siding was painted Sherwin Williams "White Duck."



In the kitchen, finely crafted custom cabinetry painted in Benjamin Moore's "Artichoke" sets a rich, grounding tone. A suite of appliances—including a Liebherr refrigerator, Miele dishwasher, BlueStar range, and Vent-A-Hood integrated within the plaster hood—was sourced from Eastbank Contractor Appliances, while the Kohler sink was selected through Keller Supply, completing the space with both function and polish.



Looking for finishes that would evolve gracefully over time, Shevde selected Bianco Aurora (Calacatta marble) for the countertops, fabricated by Artistic Stone Design, Inc. The custom backsplash tile emerged from a creative collaboration between Lonesome Pictopia and Tempest Tileworks, adding a distinctive, artisanal layer. White oak flooring was seamlessly integrated to match the existing floors throughout the space.

was happy to jump on the project. "Jessica is detail oriented and super organized, probably more organized than the majority of the design people I've worked with over my 35-plus-year career," says Stevenson. "As well as having a great sense of design, she's a good communicator and solution oriented."

Once the structural updates were addressed, including a new roof, windows, plumbing, and shoring up those cracked ceilings, Shevde turned her attention to redesigning the damaged rooms. "The big question was, how do we want this house to feel? Because to me, it is an old house and we liked that about it, but we also wanted it to be young and fresh," says Shevde. The rebuild process offered an opportunity to improve on the existing spaces, whether that was warming up the breakfast room, tweaking the kitchen layout, or opening up

a wall between it and the dining room for better flow. "We had lived in the house for several years, so we knew the parts that just didn't function," says Shevde.

To start, the breakfast room was taken down to the foundation and rebuilt with symmetry in mind. Shevde gave it key design details to sync with the house's 1940s traditional roots, while Stevenson shored up the supports. Now, two sets of French doors sit opposite one another, with an additional large window at the back wall, to bring in plenty of air and natural light. On the exterior, Shevde added custom molding to flank the doors, and a standing seam metal roof.

Inside, she covered walls and ceiling with V-groove paneling, clad a structural beam, and tucked in a custom sofa in a bright print behind a Saarinen-style table. "Before, it had been a cold and not

very inspiring space,” says Shevde; whereas now, thanks to the natural light and cozy factor, the family hangs out there most days. “Now it’s where we eat most of our meals. The kids play Legos, and it’s where I read.”

In the adjacent kitchen, the previous aesthetic veered early-2000s, sticking out like a “sore thumb” amidst the home’s traditional bones. Shevde rectified that by removing the wall between it and the dining room, and adding a cased opening for visibility and natural light. A small, cantilevered addition provided an extra fifteen square feet. “It really wasn’t a big expansion, but it was all that was needed to square up the kitchen, so it didn’t have angled walls with jogs,” says Shevde, who was then able to insert an L-shaped layout with a sizable island, and more practical storage and counter space.

“I wanted the kitchen to feel like it had always been there,” says Shevde. “I didn’t want it to look obviously new.” To that end, the palette pairs custom cabinetry in a soft green, with lacquered brass, plaster stove hood and walls, marble counters, and tailored woodwork. “Jessica really came up with some beautiful millwork,” says Stevenson. “Most of the moldings were

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The wall treatment is frequently mistaken for wallpaper, but is a custom crosshatch paint pattern created in collaboration with Robert McAnulty, and finished in “Sombrero” and “Linen White” by Benjamin Moore. The wainscoting and trim carpentry throughout is by Iron Ridge Construction.



UPPER LEFT The restive guest suite has custom Roman shades in Claremont fabric by Cindy’s Window Fashions. UPPER RIGHT The entry has a custom copper door with rivet details, variegated bluestone, and select boxwood topiary. LOWER LEFT The Delft-style kitchen tile includes custom decorative centers, and was handmade in Portland. LOWER RIGHT In the guest bathroom the lively wallcovering is from Christopher Farr “Fathom in Cobalt” from The Dixon Group, Seattle Design Center.



custom milled to match the existing moldings in the house, or to match what she envisioned,” including things like the corbels in the arches, dining room wainscot, and a scalloped detail on the faux ceiling beams.

Bespoke touches make it feel personal. First, there’s the kitchen backsplash tile, which is a modern take on traditional Delft tile, produced by local artisans. On it, hand-painted animals represent the family’s shared history, such as a crab from Shevde’s home state of Maryland. In the dining room, decorative painter Robert McNulty added a custom crosshatch pattern that contrasts nicely with the curtains that were passed down to Shevde from her grandparents. The dining room table, which sustained damage from a firefighter’s ax as they stood on it to rip down the ceiling during a building fire, was brought from New York and refinished.

Despite having to start the project in crisis, these days the home “brings us a lot of joy, and it’s definitely a happy home,” says Shevde. “It’s really the only house that we’ve lived in as a family. It’s nice to see how it’s grown with us.” ■

PROJECT SOURCES

INTERIOR DESIGN

Jessica Lane Interiors
jessicalaneinteriors.com

CONTRACTOR

Brian Stevenson Construction, LLC

APPLIANCES

Eastbank Contractor Appliances
eastbankappliance.com

WINDOW COVERINGS

Cindy’s Window Fashions
cindyswindowfashions.com

WINDOWS & DOORS

Portland Millwork Inc.
portlandmillwork.com



The vintage desk and chair in Shevde’s son’s room is painted in “Parisian Green” by Sherwin Williams, and topped with framed sections of hand-painted Fromental silk wallpaper.