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DESIGN BY THE JONATHANS

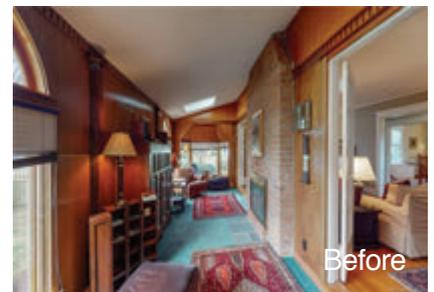
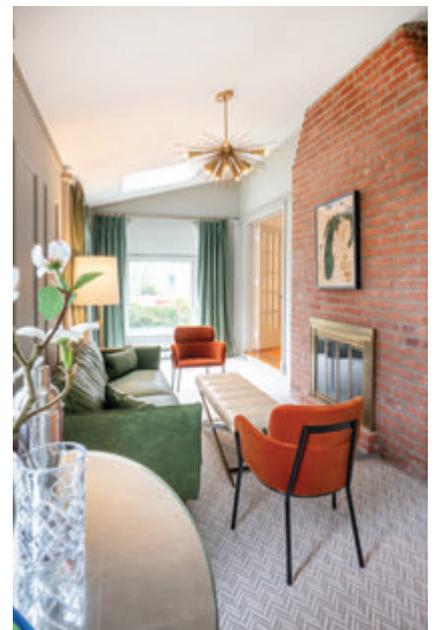
PHOTOS BY ROBERT NORMAN



A young couple from Michigan recently relocated to New Haven, CT, with their two toddlers. They moved close to the downtown area so they could take advantage of the amenities and maintain their city lifestyle, even though they are now parents. The Westville-area home had good bones, but was outdated and did not reflect the young family's sense of style or function. Michelle Raiti of Design by the Jonathans helped them recreate

the house into their new home.

During the first phase of the remodel, Michelle tackled the living room and den. For the living area, the homeowners wanted a comfortable family room where they could hang out and watch TV. They wanted this to be the main gathering area for the family, and not be a formal space for guests. The relatively large home gave them the opportunity to designate a separate play space for



the children, so there was no need to incorporate toys or games into the room. It was also important to make the space light and bright. Michelle kept everything simple and casual for the busy family. She stuck to a bright color palette of blues and creams and lightened the walls with a warm, neutral color. All the furniture is covered in performance fabrics that clean well.

In the family room, double sets of French doors flank either side

of the fireplace, and lead to the den. The previous owners had the room styled as a library, but Michelle's clients wanted an adult space where they could relax by themselves or with friends. They needed a "no kids zone" where they could wind down. Some adults get lost in a child-centric lifestyle, but Michelle understands it is important for parents to have a designated spot in the home specifically for adult relaxing. Her clients enjoy listening to music and having casual drinks and conversations with guests,



so Michelle was inspired to create an in-home lounge. First she lightened the room by laying down a beige chevron carpet, a smaller-scale version of the rug in the family room. Then she upped the “wow” factor by adding velvet- and leather-upholstered furniture and a bar cart. The French doors that connect the two rooms can close off the area if necessary. Michelle used complementary jewel tones of green and orange in the den, so the room won’t clash with the blue and cream living area when the doors are open. The brick wall and molding of the den were lost in the previous design; Michelle’s bright makeover highlights these details and creates two feature walls. Mid-century modern furniture and decor items lend

themselves to the lounge atmosphere, and the Sputnik chandelier adds ambience in the evening.

Resource

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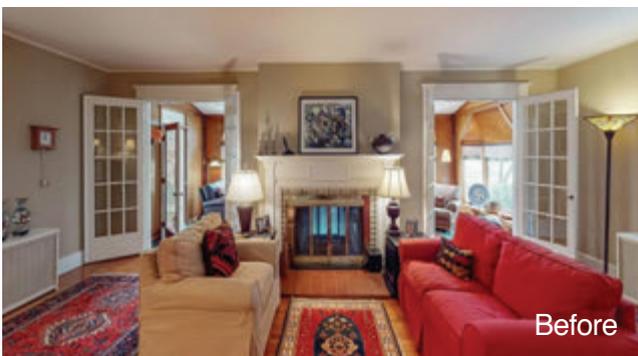


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