Front To Back The house retains much of its original streetside appearance (has not), though renovation architects Susan Allisberg and Ed Perry fashioned a new portico, extend- ed the garage and attached a new mudroom. At the rear (unseen here), an existing porch was significantly expanded. See Resources.
TRADITIONAL ON THE OUTSIDE, THIS HOME BREAKS ALL RULES ON THE INSIDE

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JANE BEILES

AT HEART

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GIVEN THE ELEVATED POSITION that this neo-Colonial house occupies on its site in Riverside, renovating architects Susan Alisberg and Ed Parker of Alisberg Parker Architects & Interior Design and homeowner Sara Allard wanted the residence to embrace the surrounding landscape. "When deciding to go ahead with a plan to redo their existing home, Sara and her family wanted it to feel brighter, airier, loftier, and to have a direct, ongoing relationship between the inside and the outside," says Alisberg.

Allard wanted the renovation to include an abundance of windows and access to newly configured outdoor spaces. "I grew up in New York City," Allard says, "and I have never appreciated the countryside and the nature that surrounds me here. I wanted lots more glass in the house so that I could keep seeing it! And as a graphic designer who spends every day with lots of colors and prints and brand identities, I love the idea of coming home to neutral palettes."

Although Alisberg and Parker gutted the house, they were intent on preserving its traditional presence in the neighborhood. The street facade remains virtually unchanged, save for a new portico designed by the architects. Wherever they could, Alisberg and Parker fostered a sense of height and a melding of inside and out. They designed a folding glass wall in the dining room, so that the room's table assumes the identity of a buffer surface when the family of five hosts people on the deck. In keeping with this design ethos, they fashioned a raised deck off the master bedroom, edging it with a minimally articulated steel railing. "We created that railing to be simple, so that from the bed, no views would be blocked by supports," says Alisberg.
A pair of Circa Lighting pendants illuminate the kitchen island, which accommodates a trio ofika bar stools. The dining room table and chairs are from RH; Bubble chandelier is through Pelle. Herman Miller nesting chairs define the sunporch as a casual space in which to linger. A view into the breakfast room reveals the Concept table and side chairs; a sectional through Soho Concept; and a Mongolian lamb’s wool stool from West Elm. See Resources.
Among the more ingenious architectural tricks is one that involves using a mirrored, faux transom between the master bedroom and an adjacent cozy sitting area defined by a fireplace. "The ceiling in that area is lower than in the bedroom, so we created the effect of it being just as tall by announcing the space, in effect, with what appears to be a transom," explains Alsberg. And as for the fireplace in that new space, it, too, was raised so that its flames could be viewed from the bed. Another intriguing trick was played in the dining room. One of the beams on the ceiling is structural, while the others are decorative. "We mimicked that angle supporting one to create a visual order to the room," says Alsberg.

Everything throughout the reconfigured home was lightened, both with the use of natural light and with appropriate materials. Oak flooring was laid throughout, and a new kitchen island, designed by the architects, appears to float in the space.

For Allard, who served as her own interior designer, a favorite space in the home is the mudroom. At a mere 12 feet by 12 feet, it functions as a kind of home within a home, with a refrigerator, built-in desk and closets, and drawers for shoes. "It's super near, and that space stays super near because of the way it's designed," notes Allard.

Given the fact she and her husband have three young children and a labradoodle, Annie, Allard's goal was to create comfort everywhere. "None of the furnishings I chose were custom," she stresses, "everything is meant to be comfortable, usable and not fancy. When people are here, I never want to have to worry about anything happening. This is a lived in house." What was once a traditional home within a traditional neighborhood, is now one with interiors that feel decidedly contemporary and young.
"Sara and her family wanted it to feel brighter, airier, loftier, and to have a direct, ongoing relationship between the inside and the outside."

Serene Masterpiece (opposite page, top to bottom) The master bedroom occupies a corner of the home’s second floor. The deck is slightly raised, a result of the architects having raised the roof on a first-floor sunporch, situated just below. The railing was minimized to preserve views from the bed. A seating area off the master bedroom is furnished with a pair of RH swivel chairs and side table. See Resources.

Completing The Suite (below and right) In the master bathroom, tall windows were added over a soaking tub, made possible after removing an attic area to create a vaulted ceiling. Although the streetside window was small, the architects preserved it rather than alter the appearance and symmetry of the house from the outside. The shower is positioned opposite the tub. Fixtures and fittings are Kallista. See Resources.

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