



In Livingston, Asian influence and green design make a collector's home her haven

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**Above:** A shift from stark whites to golden tones dramatically transformed the living room. The gold statue on the end table and the paneled screen are from the homeowner's collection of Chinese art. The wooden piece on the "elephant cabinet" (in the corner) is part of a roof decoration from China. **Opposite:** While retaining certain major design elements, such as the stone fireplace and the beamed ceiling, designer Satomi Yoshida-Katz altered the look and feel of the family room. By replacing the paneling with wallpaper and reupholstering the sofa and loveseat, she converted a bland space into an inviting room.

When interior designer **Satomi Yoshida-Katz** walked into her client's home in Essex County, the first thing she noticed was what *wasn't* part of the décor. "The homeowner had a beautiful collection of art from overseas. It was sitting in one location and never used," Yoshida-Katz says. The designer was determined to change that.

The treasured objects, which the client and her late husband had collected from many parts of Asia, became the basis for the new design. "My goal was to create modern Asian design without using loud patterns, colors, and tex-

tures," says Yoshida-Katz, an allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers and principal of YZDA/Yoshida + Zanon Design Atrium in Montclair.

Formerly stark and severe, the rooms now possess warmth and coziness with a vibrant touch. A neutral palette forms the foundation of the Zen-like atmosphere. Layered over the soft tones of the walls and upholstery are splashes of color inspired by the homeowner's collection.



A lackluster room gains warmth and vitality with the addition of a richly hued carpet and bamboo-filled urns that meet the feng shui principle that corners of a room must be filled.

In the family room, for example, golden fish on parchment swim playfully above a sofa adorned with contrasting pillows. In the dining room, oil paintings of richly clad figures hang over the sideboard, which was purchased in Hong Kong.

The dining area was once part of a long, cavernous expanse that also encompassed the formal living area. The space has been transformed into a pair of distinct, yet complementary rooms, thanks to the addition of two carpet styles and a strategically placed cabinet that help to define each area.

Window treatments in all three spaces are spare to take full advantage of the home's bucolic setting. "Translucent shades, hand-woven in Japan, filter the sunlight while softly preserving the outside views," Yoshida-Katz says.

### Sustainable Style

With the budget in mind, Yoshida-Katz often worked with items the client already owned. She retained the home's hardwood floors, but darkened them to better showcase the softly colored walls. She reshaped or reupholstered much of the existing furniture to coordinate with new pieces chosen specifically for the reimagined rooms. The living room sectional sofa, for instance, was reworked from a dated pastel and white confection to a sleek anchor in the now sophisticated room. In the family room, ceiling

beams, fireplace stones, and a shelf system stayed put, while other furnishings, design accents, and colors changed around them.

Client and designer were also committed to using a green approach to the project, selecting as many natural materials as possible. "I chose natural window shades and wool carpets," Yoshida-Katz says. She also found ways to make the home more energy efficient. All lighting fixtures are now on dimmers, which enables the homeowner to change the mood of the room as well as conserve resources.

By taking a cue from the homeowner's well-loved art pieces, Yoshida-Katz created refined spaces that are peaceful without being boring, stylish without being stuffy. "I wanted my client to feel restful and serene when she is at home," the designer says. **DNJ**

*Marirose Krall, a frequent contributor to Design NJ, is a freelance writer based in Red Bank.*

**SOURCES Overall:** interior design, Satomi Yoshida-Katz of YZDA/Yoshida + Zanon Design Atrium in Montclair; painting contractor, Mark Tirondola Painting Contractors in Bloomfield; ceilings, Benjamin Moore #OC-17 White Dove flat finish; window trim and baseboard paint, White Dove pearl finish; walls in living and dining rooms, Benjamin Moore #1039 Stone House pearl finish.

**Living Room:** sectional sofa reshaped and reupholstered with "Bijou Chenille" in moss agate by Calvin Fabrics, through Angela Brown Ltd. in New York City; sectional sofa pillows reshaped and reupholstered by Mike's Custom Upholstery in Cliffside Park in "Story Stone" by Donghia Fabrics and "Fortune" from Angela Brown Ltd.; coffee table, nineteenth-century Chinese antique made of zhuwood, Tealan in Irvine, California; window shades, "Eclipse" by Conrad Shades through Pollack in New York City; carpet, "Hizzoner in Heathers" by Helios Carpet, installed by Major Mills in Clark; accent pillows, Amenity Home in Los Angeles. **Family Room:** coffee table, nineteenth-century zhuwood with Japanese Urushi black lacquered finish and woven top, Tealan; loveseat, Stewart Furniture in Fries, Virginia, covered with "Meadow" fabric in harvest, through Pollack; sofa fabric, "Bijou Chenille" in red jasper by Calvin Fabrics; "Madison" lounge chairs, Stewart Furniture covered in "Atlas" by Castel Fabrics in New York City; wallcovering, "Marasu" by Design-Tex in New York City; carpet, "Hizzoner in Heathers" by Helios Carpet installed by Major Mills; striped accent pillows on large sofa, Room and Board in New York City; solid accent pillows on the large sofa, www.Crate and Barrel.com; accent pillows on lounge chairs, Amenity Home. **Dining Room:** antique dining chair and table, imported from China by homeowner; custom seat cushions, Pollack fabric; room divider/bookshelf (near right), walnut with espresso finishing, Room and Board; area rug www.Pottery Barn.com; handwoven window shades, Eclipse by Conrad Shades through Pollack; urns with bamboo poles and green stone moss table arrangement, Gold Leaf Design Group arranged by YZDA; custom Portofino pendant with silk shade, Stonegate Designs in St. Joseph, Michigan; refinished white oak floors with Dura Seal's X-Terra Royal Mahogany and Dark Mesquite Red finishes, Walsh Flooring in Ridgefield.

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