

Transforming Tradition: A Dover Home Renovation Story

BY RESIDENT KATHERINE DALLOW

What's your name and who are the members of your family?

Katherine Dallow, Jeff Knott, Connor Knott (13), Taylor Knott (11), Joey (1yo dog)

How long have you lived in Dover? What do you like most about living here?

We moved to Dover in January, 2011 from Brookline, MA when our son was 3 months old. Like many young families moving out of the city, we prioritized the strength of the school system in our suburban search for a family home. We were particularly drawn to Dover for its simplicity, its natural beauty, access to conservation land and hiking trails.

Can you tell us a bit about the history of your home and how long you've lived here?

Our house was built in 1989 and we are the third owners. We are situated at the end of a cul de sac which is the de facto area for most kids in the neighborhood to ride bikes and sled, and has a pass through to Centre St/Knollwood area that is

frequently used by dog walkers and neighbors to access town via sidewalks.

How would you describe your home's overall style or vibe?

The house has a traditional colonial exterior. Inside, the house is divided between a very traditional side and a transitional side. The traditional side has a front foyer, formal dining room, living room, office, and a second floor with 4 bedrooms and 3 baths while the transitional side includes the kitchen, a large great room and sunroom/playroom with vaulted ceilings, laundry room with adjacent powder room and a deck to the back yard.

We know you engaged one of our *Stroll Dover* clients (Interiology Design Co.) to assist with your renovation project. Can you please describe your project - what were your goals for the project and were they achieved?

The kitchen had not been updated since its original build and the layout didn't work for our family. For example,

the arrangement of appliances and pantries was very cramped and clustered at one end of the kitchen, exactly where the main door to the rest of the house is located, always creating a bit of a 'traffic jam.'

We wanted a complete redo of the space because the kitchen is the main 'thoroughfare' of the house, connecting the more traditional side with the transitional side. In addition, we are passionate about cooking and socializing in our kitchen and great room. We wanted to take more advantage of the kitchen's usable size, both in length and in height, and bring far more natural light into the space as one of the major kitchen walls abuts our deck and faces southwest. The laundry area and kitchen bathroom were obvious extensions of the project as that area suffered from the same 1980's design and we had a 'hallway of doors' for all three elements that were constantly in the way of the space and each other.

What did you like about working with Interiology? Is there anything that really stands out about your experience?

Interiology Design Co. has a unique ability to make you feel like you are virtually their only client for the duration of your project. They take time to get to know you and your family, and have that inform every element of the design of your space. They are also extremely patient and skilled at teaching the client about why certain ideas or thoughts may not be the best idea in the circumstance, but also embracing ideas the client (or contractor) may have that enhance the design or function of the space. The balance of appointments in your home and in their Studio or at supplier sites such as appliance or plumbing and tile showrooms or stone warehouses is perfect, and all are seamlessly scheduled. The preparation for each meeting is meticulous and no moment is wasted. The business model works very well and removes a lot of the logistical stress from the client so you can continue your life and work and not have the project itself cause you headaches. The Interiology team is also very collaborative internally and takes full advantage of the talent on the team to solve everything from a tricky architectural challenge to giving feedback on placement of a piece of artwork.

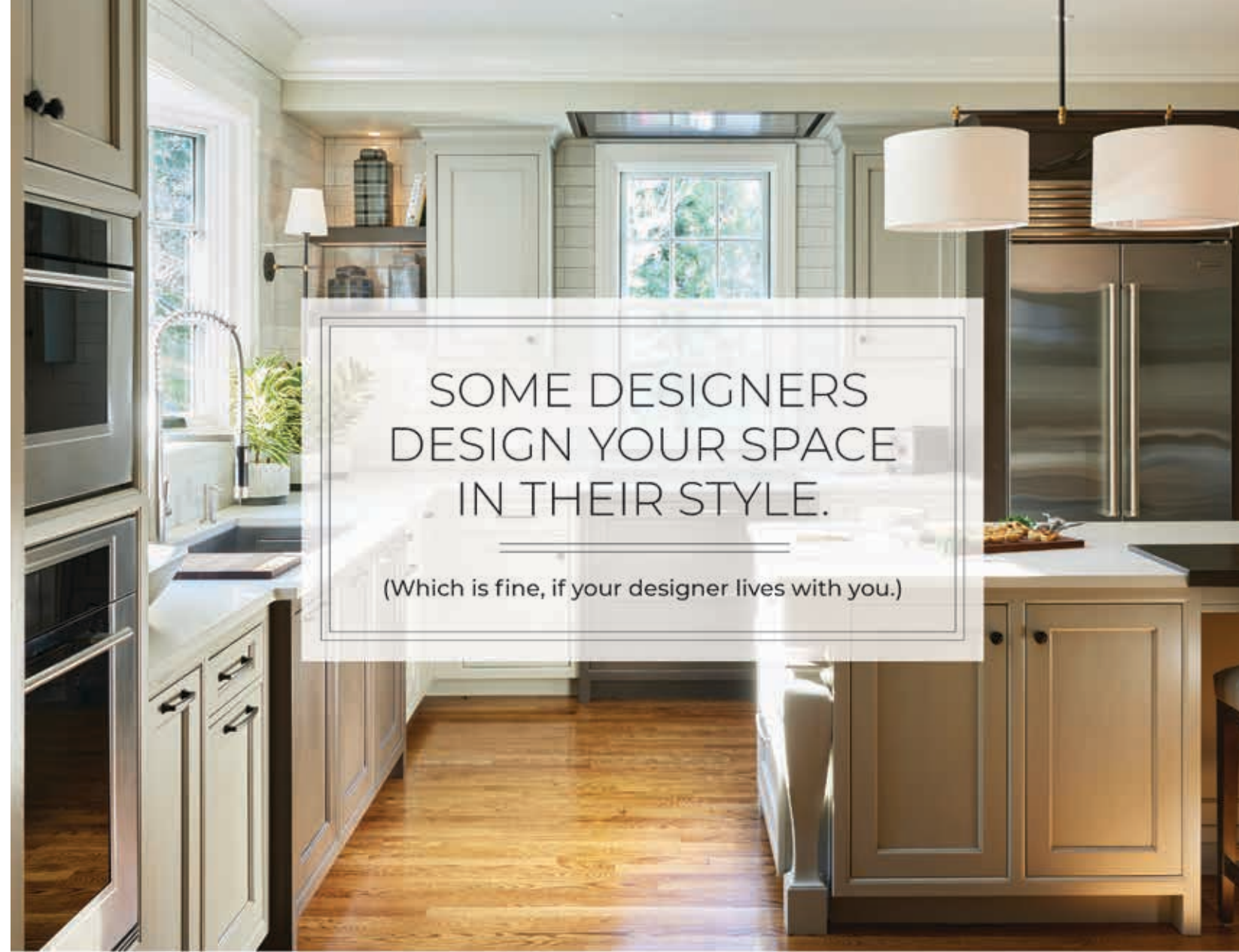
Are there any unique architectural features or standout design elements you love? What is your favorite feature of your completed renovation?

In no particular order: the 5 foot Galley work station sink with versatile culinary tools, the 2 large picture windows looking out onto the deck and backyard, the enormous Quartz island with inset cherry dining surface. Long gone are the days of jockeying for island space or outlets or sink space - ever! It is really hard to choose our favorite features actually, since the whole space works as one. We also love that both our stovetop and our sink each look out through one of the two large picture windows. Pocket doors in key areas have been space savers and traffic jam eliminators. We would be



Would you like to have your home featured in a future issue of *Stroll Dover*? To nominate your home (or the home of your neighbor) email Mark at Mark.Walter@n2co.com





SOME DESIGNERS
DESIGN YOUR SPACE
IN THEIR STYLE.

(Which is fine, if your designer lives with you.)

remiss to not mention the new hearth and mantle in the great room and how it pulls the design together from both rooms.

Tell us about any memorable events or gatherings you've hosted in your home.

We always host Thanksgiving and the first one with the new space was phenomenal. Plenty of work space, plenty of light, plenty of storage, and seamless socialization between the kitchen and great room. We can accommodate a spontaneous dinner get-together or cookout and flex the space easily. It's also been simply wonderful to be able to have all the daylight stream through the giant windows, and be able to see what is going on out on the deck and at the grill without having to open the door.

Are there any future plans for renovations or additions?

We have made smaller scale improvements to the home since we bought it, such as rebuilding our deck, and we would like to eventually redo our master bathroom, but we have decided for the time being to focus on family travel instead of large home improvements. When we do tackle the master bath, however, we will be working with Interiology.

Questions about this project? You can contact Katherine by email at Katherine.dallow@gmail.com. For more on the services available from Interiology Design Co, visit their website at www.interiology.com or call them at 617-741-3131.

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