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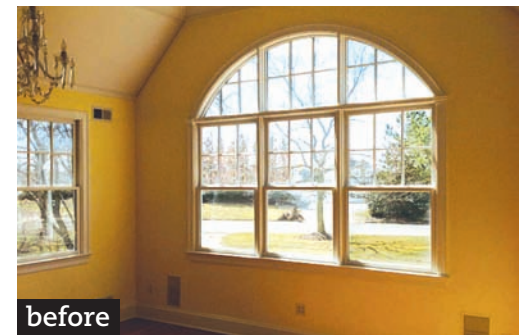
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# Sassy Sophisticate

A Rumson remodel features dashes of color in all the right places



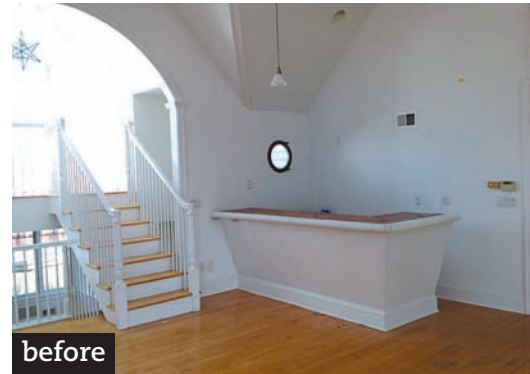
**Opposite:** An influx of light from the arched-top window works well with the new, dark-stained cabinetry in the library.  
**Above:** Colorful accessories punctuate the soft tones of the great room furniture. The room's vaulted ceiling rises to more than 20 feet.



New paint revived the exterior of this seashore colonial-style home in Rumson.



before



before

## When designer Rina Carrolli describes the state of Neil and Sharon Book's Rumson home

prior to purchase, she doesn't mince words. "The house was in dire straits. It was a scary nightmare," says Carrolli, owner of Rina Carrolli Interior Design in Red Bank.

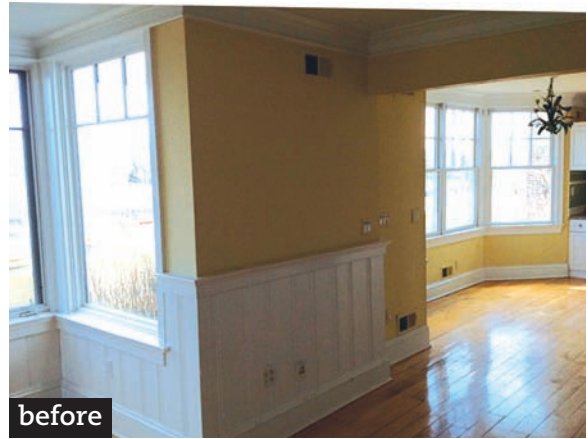
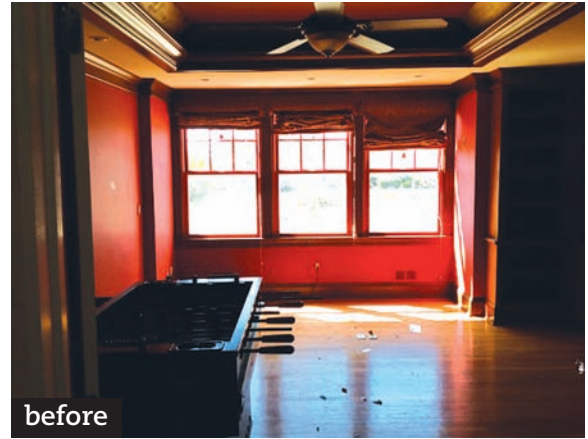
Throughout a yearlong redesign, Carrolli worked with the owners to turn the seashore colonial-style home into a dream house for the young family. "They wanted a fresh look: not really traditional, but a timeless look."

### CONTROLLED COLOR

Sharon Book wanted her home to be vivid and lively, but notes she had to fight her own instincts when it came to brightening the rooms. "I tend



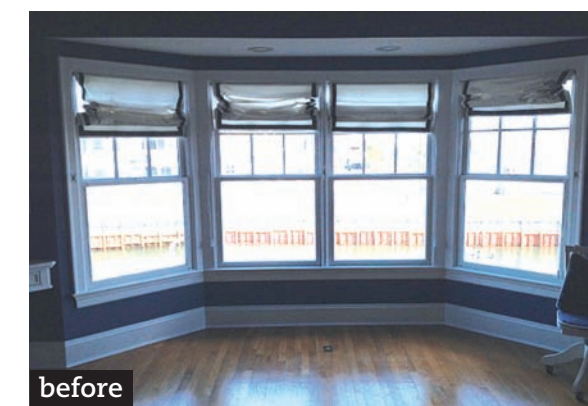
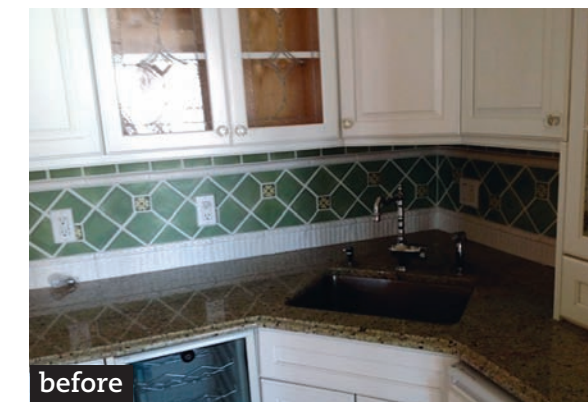
The great room bar features orange boa stools and green beaded wallpaper behind the built-in shelving. "A lot of people would be afraid to do that," Carrolli says. "But it's beautiful." Meanwhile, dark-stained banisters draw focus to the staircase.



**Opposite top:** The paneled study features bold strokes of red and a variety of patterns to add visual interest to the newly stained cabinetry.

**Opposite bottom:** The dining room is "masculine and sexy," Carroli, says, with sturdy furniture, minimal accessories and bold purple velvet on the chairs.

**Above:** Even rainy days are cheerful in the family room thanks to a colorful print on the sofa and sunny yellow throw pillows. Wainscoting was removed in favor of a wide baseboard for a clean look that deflects focus to the furniture.

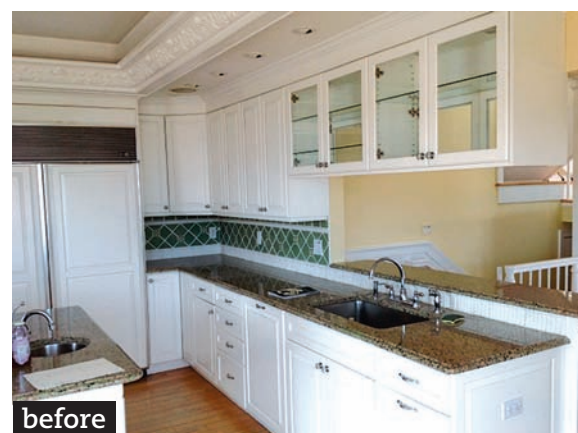


toward very muted designs,” she says. Here, though, “I wanted there to be some color.”

Carrolli understands that many people hesitate when choosing hues for their homes, but she worked with her clients to make color a pleasing—not overwhelming—presence. “We wanted it to be fun, youthful and different—something you don’t see in every home.”

A nuanced use of color is apparent in the dining room, where the subtle silver and gold background gets a pop of purple velvet on the chair fronts. The effect is one of refined exuberance. “I think purple is really chic,” Carrolli says.

Also chic are bursts of color in the otherwise



The kitchen’s footprint remained the same, but Carrolli removed some upper cabinets to create a more open, spacious look. Blue stools provide a hit of color in an otherwise neutral space.



**Above:** New countertops, tile and cabinetry upgrade the pantry, which like the kitchen was showing its age.

**Left:** To maximize seating in the breakfast area, Carrolli added a window seat. The blue and light green palette reflects the view of the trees and river outside.



**Top:** "Everywhere we've lived in the past, the master bedroom was an afterthought," owner Sharon Book says. Not this time. The designer and homeowners fashioned a soothing space that's stunning in its simplicity.

**Above:** Pocket doors open to his-and-her sections of the master bathroom.

**Above:** In the master bathroom, the designer replaced a tub with a window seat to open up the space (but kept the plumbing intact in case the owners change their minds). The gray in the master bedroom is repeated here.

**Far left:** Tinted glass tiles dress up the master bathroom shower.

**Left:** Carrolli found space for the master closets—which she designed—by commandeering a small adjacent bedroom.



**Above:** There's room for the Books' young son to grow in his room, which features bright colors set against dark wood furniture.

**Left:** Evergreens and flowerbeds border the view of the river.



low-key great room. Carrolli began with a foundation of beiges and off-whites then boosted the mood with bright orange bar stools and throw pillows, along with green glass-beaded wallpaper behind the bar.

The family room, where the Books spend much

of their time, centers on a brightly patterned sofa with gloriously sunny yellow throw pillows. "This was the first room we did," Book says. "I fell in love with the couch fabric. I knew we were going to spend a lot of time in there, and I wanted it to be a bright, happy place."

### ELEGANT ENTERTAINING

A sense of joy and hospitality was important because the Books frequently host get-togethers. In this approximately 7,000-square-foot house, Carrolli says, "there are so many entertaining spaces. I love it."

One of those spaces is the library. With a combination of paneled and painted walls and a color scheme of white and taupe, it's an elegant room for a cocktail party. The Books infused it with a sense of fun by adding a quirky two-sided sofa. "We just love that sofa," Book says. "That room is the first thing you see when you walk into the house so I wanted it to have some interest. The sofa also lends itself to two seating areas, which is great for entertaining."

The great room is outfitted for social gatherings as well. Along with a bar, the space features a game table and two televisions. Book still wanted an element of sophistication in this room, so Carrolli chose a nail-head-studded game table, stylish pendant lights over the bar and hip, low-slung barstools. "It's lighthearted and fun, like a lounge," Book says.

The dining room is open and spacious with seating for 12. Its rich hues and textures set an elegant tone; minimal accessories help keep the atmosphere relaxed. "We didn't go with a carpet," Carrolli says. "It's a beach house. Adding a carpet would have changed that feeling."

The family room and kitchen are used for smaller gatherings. As is often the case, "no matter what's going on, people always congregate in the kitchen," Book says. That's not a problem because the room features a center island for easy circular traffic flow. The adjacent butler's pantry with coordinating tile and cabinetry offers extra space for party prep.

### STYLISH SOLITUDE

While there are plenty of parties at the

Book home, some days call for peace, quiet and relaxation. That double-sided sofa in the library so suited to multiple conversations? It's also a great place for cozy solitary reading. The kitchen with the guest-friendly center island? It's also the spot where the Books gather for dinner each evening and enjoy the gorgeous panorama outside the bay windows.

The cheerful, plush sofa in the family room beckons the family to congregate and watch favorite television programs. "We wanted comforts," Carrolli says. "We wanted the whole family to be able to snuggle up on that sofa."

The private rooms are also designed for style as well as substance. The study, where Neil Book often retreats to work, has a masculine feel—all leathers and tweeds and dark cabinetry. Red accessories animate the space.

The master bedroom is at once soothing and interesting, incorporating restful white curtains and gray walls along with burnt orange throw pillows for a bit of verve. French doors on both sides of the fireplace lead to a balcony overlooking the nearby river. The view also plays a major role in the master bathroom, where Carrolli replaced a bathtub with a large window seat.

Carrolli credits Sharon Book for facilitating the home's transformation. "She has a really great attitude. She knew what she wanted and she has great style." That style and attitude helped the designer turn her clients' dreams into a beautiful reality. ■

*Marirose Krall, a regular contributor to Design NJ, is a Red Bank-based writer.*

**SOURCES Overall:** interior design, Rina Carrolli Interior Design LLC in Red Bank; custom window treatments, the drapery workroom of Rina Carrolli Interior Design. **Library:** furniture, Council in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Christopher Guy, in High Point, North Carolina; lighting, De Majo in Mirano, Italy; window treatment fabric, Romo Inc. in Cha-

grin Falls, Ohio, with hardware from Kravet Inc. in Bethpage, New York; rug, Saddlemans in Costa Mesa, California; custom throw, Rina Carrolli Interior Design. **Great room:** tables, Christopher Guy; sofas, Henredon in Morganton, North Carolina; sofa tables, Hickory Chair in Hickory, North Carolina; chairs, Kravet Furniture Inc.; cocktail table, Swaim Inc. in High Point, North Carolina; window treatment fabric, Kravet with hardware from J.F. Fabrics Inc. in Tonawanda, New York; wall color, Silver Satin by Benjamin Moore; throw and throw pillows, Rina Carrolli Interior Design. **Great Room Bar:** game table and chairs, Kravet Furniture; bar stools, Jessica Charles in Hickory, North Carolina; lighting, De Majo; window treatment fabric, Kravet; wall covering behind bar, Glass Bead Collection from Concertex LLC in Northvale. **Study:** desk, chairs and table, Council with fabrics from Ralph Lauren in New York City; window treatment fabric, Kravet; carpet, Saddlemans; lighting, Fine Art Lamps in Miami Lakes, Florida; wall covering, Phillip Jeffries Ltd. in Fairfield (T). **Dining room:** table, Bausman & Co. in Ontario, California; chairs, TCS Designs Inc. in Hickory, North Carolina with Couture fabric from Kravet Inc.; lighting, Visual Comfort & Co. in Houston; window treatment fabric, Beacon Hill through Robert Allen Design in New York City with hardware from J.F. Fabrics. **Family room:** sofa, end table and chairs, Hickory Chair; table, Old Biscayne Designs in Americus, Georgia; pillows, Hickory Chair and ABC Carpet & Home in New York City. **Kitchen:** seating, Jessica Charles; countertops, PMI International Stone Importers in Marlboro; custom cabinetry, Rina Carrolli Interior Design; lighting, Hubbardton Forge in Castleton, Vermont; appliances, Better Housekeeping Shop in Red Bank; faucets and sink, Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery in Red Bank; backsplash tile, Tiled Interiors in Red Bank. **Pantry:** countertops, PMI International Stone Importers; cabinetry, Rina Carrolli Interior Design; appliances, Better Housekeeping Shop. **Breakfast area:** custom table, Old Biscayne Designs; chairs, Jessica Charles; upholstery fabric, Kravet; lighting, Hubbardton Forge; custom pillows, Rina Carrolli Interior Design. **Master bedroom:** bed and dresser, Swaim Inc.; chaise, Henredon; bedding, throw and throw pillows, Ann Gish in New York City; custom window treatment, fabric from Romo Inc. and hardware from J.F. Fabrics Inc. **Master bathroom:** custom cabinetry, Rina Carrolli Interior Design; vanity top, PMI International Stone Importers; faucets and sinks, Ferguson Bath, Kitchen, & Lighting Gallery; window treatment fabric, Romo; lighting, De Majo; window seat cushion fabric, Romo; flooring and shower tile, Tiled Interiors. **Master closet:** custom cabinetry, Rina Carrolli Interior Design; window treatment fabric, Romo. **Son's room:** bed and side tables, Stanley Furniture in High Point, North Carolina; ottomans, Bernhardt Interiors in Hickory, North Carolina; lighting, Visual Comfort & Co.; window treatment fabric, Romo; carpet, Delos Rugs Inc. in Calhoun, Georgia. T = To the trade.

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