

# Artistry in Allendale

Four-room addition makes for an exhilarating design challenge

BY AMELIA DUGGAN  
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ARCHITECT: Raymond V. Paulius, AIA, Allendale  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Tom Walsh, Walsh Builders and Remodelers, Allendale  
INTERIOR DESIGNER: Karen Widener, ASID, Karen Widener Design, Allendale  
KITCHEN DESIGNER: Rozita Gilsenan, Warwick, N.Y.

When Diane Bischoff, the owner of this Allendale home, decided to bump out the back of the house to gain more comfortable living space for her family, she embraced the challenge of making the railroad car-like addition flow smoothly. Right down the line, you can see from one room to the next. A new kitchen, with adjoining family rooms, allows for plenty of space for her four children.

Bischoff desired a touch of formality in her family rooms, but wanted them to be comfortable at the same time. She worked with local interior designer Karen Widener, ASID, who helped her create the eclectic décor that suited her tastes and lifestyle.

Bischoff likes to mix up the aesthetics throughout the year, changing pillows and accessories seasonally. She was pleased to be able to retire the oversized florals that were popular a decade ago, and loves the calm colors she selected for the current interior spaces.



## NOT-SO-FORMAL FAMILY

This portion of the family room was originally a sunroom-breakfast room that was converted into a family room during the expansion of the home. Interior designer Karen Widener, ASID, maintained a significant number of original furnishings, including the sofa and the tray-style coffee table with X base, both of which complement the new pieces, Bausman French country chairs with matching ottomans. The sofa was re-upholstered to give it a fresh look. A paddle fan and some topiaries and potted trees add to the relaxed formality of the room. ▶







### COZY ELEGANCE

General contractor Tom Walsh added a number of architectural details like a coffered ceiling in the twin family rooms, knee walls and archways, and extensive trim work to lend the rooms warmth. Traditional textures and soft colors gave the balance of formality and comfort desired for the room. A glass and mahogany coffee table with a pinnacle frame brings a touch of elegance to the space.

### DINNER FOR EIGHT

The dining room is used primarily for formal family occasions. An 18th-century, double-pedestal mahogany table is surrounded by Regency side chairs and re-upholstered wingback end chairs. A Baker federal-style sideboard

The gilded mirror, oil painting and crystal chandelier were part of Bischoff's original collection of home furnishings. Widener added some botanical prints, table lamps and urns to accessorize the room. "This room connects with the others in the house because of the tone-on-tone shades used throughout," Widener says. "The space flows smoothly, because the color palette and textures work well together."







## GRAND ENTRANCE

The Story & Clark grand piano can be glimpsed from the main foyer of the home. A focal point of the living room, the piano is actively played by all four children in the house. Bischoff says that it also functions as a player piano, and that she and her family can enjoy a concert without plunking a single ivory. An antique bronze chandelier, custom-made by New York Lighting, provides a golden glow to the space. Like other parts of the house, trimmed archways and deep moldings add architectural interest. ➤





### CORNER OF THE SKY

The multi-faceted skylight in the new kitchen gives a whole new meaning to the words “cooking light.” This unusual interpretation of the traditional skylight provides a cheerful and visually interesting architectural detail. Kitchen designer Rozita Gilsean worked with Quality Cabinetry to create functional working spaces in dark woods that provide the perfect contrast to the space above. ■