



WEB-EXCLUSIVE HOME TOUR

Go Inside a New England Home That's Art-and Kid-Friendly

Boston-based firm Stern McCafferty reinvents a 1905 Georgian Revival house for a young family

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Photography by Chuck Choi

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Blue-chip art and children generally do not mix. But a couple in Cambridge, Massachusetts, needed their new home to showcase their world-class collection of modern and minimalist works and be comfortable—and durable—enough for their four young kids. After outgrowing their 1820s townhouse, they found a seven-bedroom home that offered the space they needed, but its Georgian Revival details clashed with the gallery-like aesthetic they envisioned.

The couple recruited architect David Stern and designer Diane McCafferty of Boston-based firm Stern McCafferty to modernize the interiors while restoring and enhancing the historic beauty of the exterior. “The goal was to make a practical house for a family of six, one that would be simple and modern enough to showcase their art,” says Stern. The rooms were streamlined and brightened with a neutral palette and contemporary architectural details such as glass balustrades. The traditional entryway was transformed into an airy double-height atrium with a sweeping staircase and sculptural art and furnishings on display.

The most dramatic change is the striking two-story addition, which houses the kitchen, breakfast room, and family area on the ground floor, and the master suite on the upper level. Its Cor-Ten steel exterior was inspired by the couple’s collection of Donald Judd works in the same material. The patina of the weathered steel harmonizes with the masonry and slate-and-copper roof of the main house. “It’s a living material,” McCafferty notes. It changes color with the weather and over time.”

While the architecture is sleek, the layout and furnishings put family first. McCafferty chose pieces with contemporary lines and soft fabrics, and the home offers plenty of spaces for play or tackling homework. “Aesthetics didn’t trump practicality and vice versa,” says Stern. “There was a balance. The house really functions as a house. It’s not a museum.” Indeed, the artful yet livable end result may prove that fans of Donald Duck and Donald Judd can peacefully coexist in one home after all.



Architect David Stern and designer Diane McCafferty of Boston firm Stern McCafferty turned a Georgian Revival house in Cambridge, Massachusetts, into an art-filled, family-friendly home for a couple and their four children. The Cor-Ten-clad addition brings a contemporary contrast to the existing structure, which was restored and enhanced with a stately stone portico.