

Newburyport

MAGAZINE

SPLASH OF SPRING



PLUS

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- VIEW FROM THE NEW CLIPPER CITY RAIL TRAIL
- PORT NATIVE'S MAJOR-LEAGUE SUCCESS IN THE MINORS

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Inside this issue: Welcome the new season indoors





Byfield interior designer Mindi Poston Gay keeps things comfortable and relaxed in her lower-level family room. She uses bright pops of color and antiques mixed with consignment and flea market finds to add interest to the room, which gets a lot of use by her and her husband and their two boys.

An easy transition

Mindi Poston Gay of MPG Home Design in Byfield believes interior decor should be affordable, beautiful and functional – which is why when the mother of two young sons gets her family room ready for spring, she keeps it simple.

Spring means awakening the senses and creating emotion in your home, Poston Gay says. But you don't have to lose practicality in order to make the space chic.

Her lower-level, multi-use room, with an adjoining gym and full spa bathroom, is a place where adults and children can play, craft and relax, she says.

"I cluster my books in rainbows, paint pictures, hang my kids' art up, use poetry," Poston Gay says.

Using clothespins and twine to display children's pictures is just one of her fresh, yet fun, tricks.

After 15 years working for well-known architectural firms, Poston Gay opened her design firm out of her home two years ago. She says people are craving interiors that incorporate who they are and what they need from life, without breaking the bank.

"I love good design, and I work to bring it out of people," she says. "I ask people lots of questions and find things out about them to make design personal. If the room is not your vibe or your essence, then it could just be anyone's home."

Poston Gay's family room was converted out of her former office, which is being relocated to a new room over her garage. She hopes the makeover is the start



Mindi Poston Gay's craft area is decorated with her sons' artwork, simply hung on a clothesline with clothespins. She says it's an unexpected and inexpensive way to dress up a wall. The perk: no framing or nails required.

of reclaiming her home and keeping her work and family lives separate.

Almost everything in the family room was purchased locally, with Comina, Red Bird Trading and Lively Kids, all in Newburyport, among Poston Gay's favorite shops.

But the furnishings and accents also include castoffs discovered by Poston Gay. The designer's drives around the area have certainly proven successful, resulting in pieces that include everything from an antique dresser to a mid-century Danish credenza.

"Some of the best pieces I found have been on the side of the road," she says. "I like finding things and dressing them up a bit. I reupholster or paint and put my touch on it."

Poston Gay will soon take her treasure hunting to the next level. Look for Vintage Mashups – an offshoot of MPG Home Design – to be launched soon online, featuring some of her favorite chairs for sale.

Fresh and inviting

The sweeping views of the Merrimack River that runs along their property add to the beauty inside Stephen and Kathleen "KC" Swallow's home on River Road in West Newbury.

What was once a small cottage with tiny vantage points from which to view the river was remodeled in 2003 to feature large picture windows, two patios and a light-filled entryway.

West Newbury interior designer Laura Langworthy worked with the Swallows over several years to orchestrate the transformation, which involved adding an office and an expansive master bathroom and downscaling from three to two bedrooms to better suit the empty nesters'

Expect more from a Realtor.

JEFF AND MARY, NEWBURYPORT: "Kevin made the whole experience less stressful. I'm very 'picky' and Kevin was able to find us exactly what we wanted and definitely within our price range. Kevin never just said things to us to make a sale; he is honest and was invested in helping us find our home."

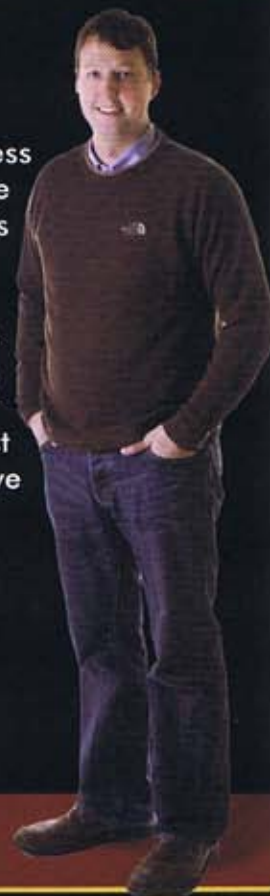
MATT AND LINDSAY, IPSWICH: "Both Kevin and I 'tell it like it is', and that's how my husband and I prefer our professional relationships to be. Direct, honest and to the point. Working with Kevin made both buying and selling our home an enjoyable experience. Kevin is reliable, knowledgeable and most importantly, he fought for what we wanted, in the end, getting exactly what we wanted from both transactions."

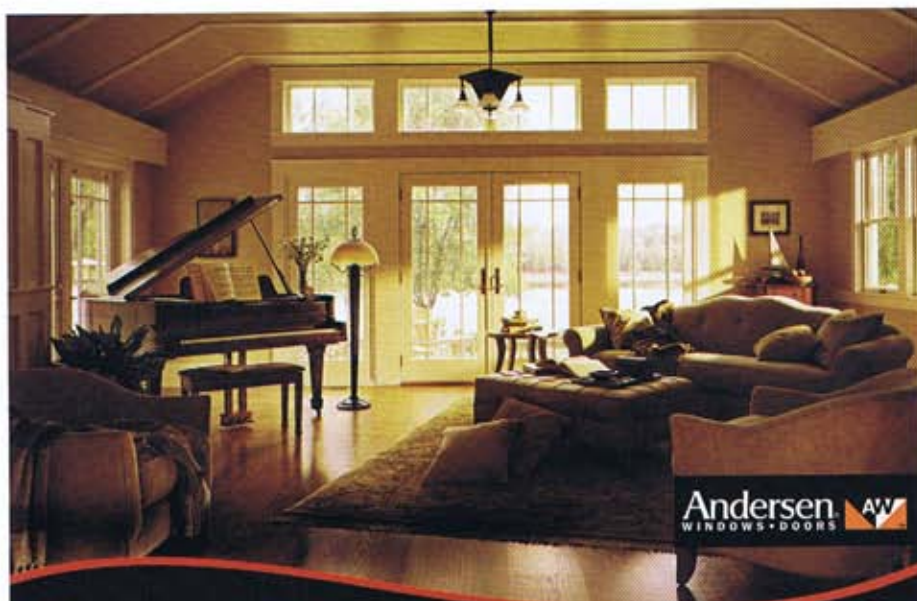
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Interior designer Laura Langworthy's decorating philosophy is classic and timeless.

SPRUNGING UP FOR SPRING

Here are some tips from the experts for greeting the new season:

Laura Langworthy

Laura Langworthy Interiors,
West Newbury

- ▶ Use family antiques to incorporate sentiment into design.
- ▶ Classic lines and colors never go out of style. Don't fall victim to trends.
- ▶ To shake things up, try adding throw pillows in a luxurious fabric rather than reupholstering a whole piece.

Michael Cebula

Cebula Design Fine Interiors,
Newburyport

- ▶ Introduce light colors to the decor.
- ▶ Fill your space with great flowers.
- ▶ Change the look of furniture with slip covers, which are easy and relatively inexpensive to incorporate.
- ▶ Bring in throw pillows in spring hues or silkier fabrics.
- ▶ Free up a room of heavy furniture pieces and de-clutter.

Mindi Poston Gay

MPG Home Design, Byfield

- ▶ Introduce elements that shimmer in sunlight.
- ▶ Remove logs from your fireplace and replace them with candles on top of chopped wood blocks.
- ▶ Paint your own paintings.
- ▶ Add a bright vase.
- ▶ Organize books on shelves in an ombre sequence of graduating colors like a rainbow.
- ▶ Resist shopping catalogues in favor of antique stores, flea markets and consignment shops in search of new finds with color or texture.