

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN HOMES CULTURE & LIFESTYLE DECORATING HOTELS BY DESIGN VIDEO

AD100

THE 2025 LIST

AD100 HUB

THE HALL OF FAME

THE DEBUTS

SUBSCRIBE TO THE AD NEWSLETTER

HOMES

This Tudor Revival Renovation Shows How To Make a Historic Home Feel Modern yet True to Character

The recipe is simple: streamlined architectural details and a nature-inspired colour palette that is all about textures

By Amy Bradford

March 25, 2025



Photo: DJDS - Dorothee Junkin Design Studio

Sometimes, buying a neglected home is a blessing in disguise. That was certainly the case for the owners of this 1920s Tudor Revival house in Westchester County, north of New York. Suffering from water damage and a general lack of maintenance, the house had lost much of its original character thanks to an ill-advised earlier renovation.



Photo: DJDS - Dorothee Junkin Design Studio

But that meant an opportunity to reimagine it in an unusual way. “I always enjoy the unique challenges and opportunities that come with working on older buildings,” says New York-based interior designer Dorothee Junkin, who was commissioned to renovate the home. “They can be capricious and stubborn, but they also have a lot of character and a way to guide you towards unexpected and beautiful spaces. This was no exception. While it was unfortunate that most of the original interior detail had been lost, collaborating with the clients to revive the house was a delightful experience.”



Photo: DJDS - Dorothee Junkin Design Studio

With a new roof, windows and utilities in place, Junkin needed to address the layout of the rooms, which were oddly configured and not suited to the needs of the owners, an empty-nester couple. This was to be their escape from the city – they had swapped their large Manhattan residence for a small urban pied-à-terre and this country home – and they had a wish list of design features for their new lifestyle. Top of this list was a spacious kitchen – which they had never had before – with a breakfast area and lots of natural light. Other goals included a sun room, a boutique hotel-style bedroom and an all-marble bathroom.



Photo: DJDS - Dorothee Junkin Design Studio

Rather than expand the building's footprint, Junkin elected to work with the home's existing size, cleverly rearranging and opening up the cramped rooms. She describes the process as "a game of shuffle": to achieve the large kitchen, she expanded the existing one by transforming an adjacent mud room into a breakfast nook, and converting a storage room into a pantry. This freed up space for a large central island, which incorporates more informal seating. In its entirety, the space is now used for everyday dining, while a separate formal dining room is kept for special occasions.



Photo: DJDS - Dorothee Junkin Design Studio



The room's rustic exposed wood ceiling beams hark back to its Tudor Revival heritage, while a wide, open archway allows sunlight to flood the space. "The clients were hesitant to introduce a newer version of the interior ornament the house may have had originally," explains Junkin. Therefore, instead of bringing back ornate doors, trims, and wood panelling, we opted for an understated soft plaster detail that follows the shape of many of the previous Tudor arches."



Photo: DJDS - Dorothee Junkin Design Studio

A warm, earth-toned palette was used throughout the house, matching the house's wooden beams and window frames and imparting the bright yet calm feeling the owners craved. The idea, says Junkin, was to draw the gaze towards the home's lush gardens and the surrounding rolling hills. With this in mind, the designer used natural materials wherever possible – wicker, jute and textured fabrics in creamy hues, as well as brushed-brass fixtures and a Calacatta Borghini marble that adorn the kitchen splashbacks.



Photo: DJDS - Dorothee Junkin Design Studio



Photo: DJDS - Dorothee Junkin Design Studio

The latter was the most challenging to create: an existing upper-floor bedroom with cosy sloping eaves had been designated as the new principal suite, but the owners' love of marble posed a problem: the ceilings could only take so much weight. Junkin got around this by cladding the en suite bathroom walls in thinly milled Calacatta Viola marble, adding a custom marble vanity unit for luxury without the need for floor reinforcements. Then, the only area that did require reinforcing was an alcove in the bedroom, converted from an old walk-in closet, where a sculptural marble bathtub now lends that longed-for boutique hotel atmosphere.



Photo: DJDS - Dorothee Junkin Design Studio

Finally there's the sunroom – once the dining room in the old house. It welcomes the outdoors in with a colour palette that contrasts with the rest of the décor: fresh green tones, lots of plants and expansive French windows that open it up to the garden. This is where the couple start their day, read on lazy afternoons and gather with friends. "This is a liveable home that blends aged and contemporary elements with a comfortable flow and deeply enjoyable spaces," Junkin concludes.



Photo: DJDS - Dorothee Junkin Design Studio