

SPRING LAKE KITCHEN TOUR 2011

507 Essex Avenue



Year Built/Renovated: *New in 2010*

Architectural/Design Heritage: *Neocolonial, with Federal and Shingle influences*

Why it's fabulous: *This home has rich historical detail, but is actually a custom modular, courtesy of a unique collaboration between the homeowners, their designer, and Atlantic Modular Builders.*

Lifestyle considerations were paramount when this couple planned their new house, because they both work from home and also lead busy family lives. They wanted a truly open, integrated layout, where every space would be used, and timeless style befitting their collection of antiques and reproduction furnishings. They needed a finished home as quickly as possible, but weren't willing to sacrifice style or functionality, so although efficient, modular construction didn't seem like a good fit for their project. Enter Jay Jenkins, of Jenkins Baer Associates in Baltimore, who assessed their needs to design the perfect house, then worked with the builders to "translate" his plans into the language of modular. Construction was completed in just three-and-a-half months, and the results are truly fabulous.

The façade is cross-gabled and dormered, with an elliptical window in the eaves and sculptured lintels and sills framing the tall windows on

the first floor. A stone walkway leads to an entryway which is slightly recessed from the front porch and topped by a pediment, creating the illusion of a freestanding portico. A door featuring sidelights and glass insets opens to the foyer, where simple iron light fixtures, luxurious trim, and a reproduction sideboard that once served as a TV cabinet all herald impeccable style. The oak floors gleam in a custom finish created with three different stains, while tall entryways, painted brown doors and oiled bronze hardware make quiet statements.

Bright sunlight streams through the many windows in the family room on the left, where burnt sienna walls provide a warm backdrop for lush brown, red, and blue furnishings. A paneled fireplace serves as the room's focal point, distinguishing it from the open dining room beyond. In the center hall, deep moldings create a tray ceiling effect, while fabulous "bee hive" pendants add rich ambience. A powder room, where an antique chest repurposed as a vanity, is tucked under the stairs on the left next to a stately office boasting deep red decor and French doors.

The hall gives way to the luxurious kitchen where white cararra marble, dark gray-blue cabinetry with fantastic oversize pewter hardware, and sparkling stainless steel accents create a striking ensemble. Bright light spilling through large windows over the sink creates an airy atmosphere despite the dramatic color palette. The full array of professional grade appliances is 21st century in nature, while the rectangular bronze and seeded glass light fixture over the island keeps history close at hand. Beautiful bronze mirrored sconces flank the broad entrance to the dining room across the hall, where dramatic drapes and the large candelabra are formal but a pine-plank table is perfect for everyday. A second office and the mudroom are ideally placed between the family entrance and the kitchen, keeping organizational tools at the family's fingertips. In this house that has everything, the rear garden is no exception – a hand-built wooden garden obelisk presides there, a family keepsake that has moved with them over the years, bringing charm and memories to each new location it graces.

Sponsor: **Atlantic Modular Builders**

Tasting by: **Spring Lake Manor**

Tabletop Design: **Jenkins Baer Associates**