

Queen for Today





could stay true to the character and integrity of the house while still fulfilling the family's needs.

Step one was to establish the flow of the rooms, upgrade the electrical and plumbing systems, install a new radiant-heating system, bring the bathrooms into modern-day function, and install new windows. Once the basic structure gelled, Scheiber was ready to focus on the interiors. Above all, his clients wanted the house to look and feel lived in, to be a comfortable space for everyday family life, and welcoming when entertaining guests.

"We set out to create a house that felt

like it had evolved naturally over the years," Scheiber explains. "The homeowners showed me a picture of a faded country house that appealed to them, as did a photo of Jacqueline Onassis' home in Manhattan. They liked the way all of her things, her treasured pieces from different periods in her life, blended together and resulted in a wonderful style."

To help accomplish this, Scheiber retained original details, such as heavy walnut moldings, in some areas while altering them in others. His fabric choices were "a series of near misses on purpose," as he puts it, with most of the

LEFT: Kitchen designer Sandra Bird drew much of her inspiration for the major kitchen remodel from archival photos. Comprising two tables with one wood top, the large iron-and-wood island has a rollout unit tucked into the center. This unit holds the recycling bins and has a butcher-block top for heavy-duty jobs. Bird designed the cherry cabinets in the Victorian style, and incorporated other touches that recall that period, including the green marble countertops, beaded board, and a pine plate rack. The French range resembles the one in Claude Monet's Giverny home. **ABOVE:** Installed during the remodeling, the picture window allows light to flood the breakfast area with its custom-made table and chairs. Scheiber added the curtains and bamboo shades. Though it is a period piece, the chandelier has not been authenticated to the house.