

Pretty As a Pearl

A Penn Valley estate lightens up with an airy makeover by Design Manifest.

When a Rittenhouse family relocated to a historic Main Line home—built in the 1920s by the founders of PECO—they called on sisters Naomi and Megan Stein of Design Manifest, the interior design firm that had brought their Philly apartment to life in 2016. The year-long project, which began in 2019, entailed an eight-room overhaul, including the kitchen, the living room, two bathrooms and a nursery. “Our mantra was soft, soft, soft and pretty,” says Naomi.

Most of the renovation was cosmetic: new cabinetry, counters, fixtures and furniture. The home now radiates pearl-like iridescence, with opalescent colors and large sweeps of mural-like wallpaper that complement the estate’s linear Federal architecture. But the designers also wanted to keep the space livable: “No one wants something that’s so fancy you don’t feel comfortable being a person,” says Naomi. “It’s beautiful but inviting and comfortable—and super-stylish.” —Taylor Carson

① **Kitchen eating area:** A custom dining table surrounded by French modern chairs and an extra-long banquette brings curves into the linear kitchen. But the focal point is the space’s one-of-a-kind mural. “No wallpaper felt right,” Megan says. “So we decided: Let’s take a painting and blow it up to be the entire wall.”

② **Nursery:** In the nursery, a painterly wallpaper mural by Rebel Walls—echoed by stary paper on the ceiling—sets a playful tone without being overly childish.

③ **Living room:** The Steins filled the house with a layered mix of textures. In the living room, a marble side table and teak and brass chair share space with a custom ottoman upholstered in a vintage rug.

④ **Kitchen:** A sweeping kitchen island swathed in Benjamin Moore’s Backwoods green sets off “light and bright” cabinets; the designers developed a custom white maple stain for the base cabinets and finished things off with brass hardware.



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“We love the challenge of creating spaces that are a little bit odd or clashing but that flow and create a dynamic that feels more collected.”

—Megan Stein, co-designer