

Spacious and inviting, this colonial home's entrance is a focal point visually to adjoining rooms. Striking white-detailed trim work and walls set the tone for the entire home.

→ Curb appeal is impressive! A sidewalk with brick steps curves to this welcoming and picturesque colonial farmhouse. The carriage house is connected on the right by an adjoining breezeway addition and screened porch.



A Grand Distinction of Old and New

A classic colonial home lends historic appeal with modern design.

BY WANDA PERKINS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAREN MELVIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Who can forget the grand architectural design of Scarlet's home in *Gone with the Wind*? Rich in historic character and exquisite style, colonial homes were first built by early Dutch and English settlers and most prevalent from 1880–1945. Homeowners continue their fascination of this style of home design by merging historic character with modern-day charm and amenities.

Finding an ideal elevated lot in the heart of Edina, Minnesota, was the first step in designing an extraordinary colonial-style farmhouse that would provide a sense of instant history for two homeowners. They especially loved the idea of creating a home with history, and the large site with picturesque hilltop views was the perfect setting.

Beyond the entryway, the formal living room features a gas fireplace and comfortable seating in soft green and rich chocolate hues.



The home's staircase location provides a grand backdrop for the family room. Similar to historic colonial homes, beautiful trim work complements the ceiling, fireplace and room divisions. Color accents and a warm fireplace glow create interest and warmth.



A pair of white bookshelves and cabinetry serve as both functional and visual division of rooms—perfect for displaying family photos, books and treasures.



“The interior utilizes a mix of historic architectural detailing with a modern vibe, especially with lighting, hardware and certain furnishings.”

~ Jeff Murphy, Owner and Lead Designer at Murphy & Co. Design

↓ Large, paned windows, depictive of era-style colonial homes, filter in natural light from outdoors. Dark wood flooring offsets earth-tone furnishings, unique textures, fabrics and color accents.



Before the building began in 2013, contractor Streeter and Associates Inc. in Wayzata introduced the homeowners to Jeff Murphy, owner and lead designer at Murphy & Co. Design in Minneapolis. The floorplan included an original central structure with connecting wings. This is similar to the design of how old farmhouses evolved to accommodate a family's growth and a future generation's preferences and spatial requirements.

“Following the historical architectural details of colonial homes was of utmost importance,” explains Murphy. “We incorporated many historical elements to the exterior, including a flat-roofed

columned entry with entablature, working shutters made in Pennsylvania, a pent roof over the garage service door, tin roofs on the connection, brick chimneys, and cedar-shingled and clapboard siding.”

A screened porch and breezeway addition connects to a private carriage house with a separate staircase to attic-level rooms. The nearly 1-acre lot beautifully balances the stately 8,000-square-foot home with four bedrooms and six baths.

“The interior also utilizes a mix of historic architectural detailing with a modern vibe, especially with lighting, hardware and certain furnishings,” Murphy adds. “A detailed paneled entry gallery welcomes

guests and displays the owner's collection of artwork and personal photography. Doorways have over-door detailing with a pulvinated frieze. Shiplap siding adorns the mud room walls, giving it a more casual feel with protection from everyday life.”

Dark wood flooring that offsets white trim work is featured throughout the home's entry, living room, great room, kitchen and master bedroom. Spacious 10-foot ceilings on the main floor, with 9-foot ceilings on the



A spacious and functional kitchen showcases floor-to-ceiling white cabinetry, a large island designed in gray with modern black and chrome bar stools, and three faucets for cooking and entertainment ease.



← Gray cabinetry was also chosen for the generous butler's pantry space. Under-cabinet mirrors reflect lighting and accent pieces.

↓ Architectural pillars and shelving visually create division of space, while gorgeous glass globe candle lights and a circular light fixture create contemporary interest.



second floor and lower level, lend an update to historical colonial farmhouses of the past.

The homeowners disliked the idea of a traditional colonial, where the staircase is designed near the entry. Instead, they preferred to reposition the staircase in the family room, where everyone gathers. This better combines the two levels, while creating an interesting backdrop to the room. The room's pale green and chocolate hues are anchored by white architectural columns, shelving, trim and doors.

An additional owner's entry was designed with a built-in dog kennel, cubical shelving, and baskets that help organize personal items. Maintenance-free steel-gray slate flooring withstands daily traffic.

Throughout the home's exterior and interior, the homeowners requested the use of white. "The simple white siding and windows with dark shutters is a timeless, classic look that will never lose its appeal," Murphy notes. "To keep the interior fresh and bright, the owners selected white as the main color. Splashes of colors were

introduced for interest."

One example of this is the classic white kitchen cabinetry accented with gray for the island and butler's pantry. The colors complement modern hardware, marble countertops, and stainless steel appliances. A mirrored backsplash in the pantry reflects color and light. Three gorgeous glass globe pendants encase candle lighting above the island, while contemporary black barstools offer additional seating. A nearby breakfast nook invites wonderful views of the backyard landscaping. The dining room depicts elegance with chocolate drapery, soft green walls, and a stunning chandelier.

"Everything progressed smoothly while designing and building this modern and updated colonial farmhouse, which I cannot say about every project!" Murphy concludes. "I have no doubt that their home will provide treasured memories and historic stories for generations to come." *



↑ Serene and relaxing, the master bath combines a pedestal tub, elegant sconce and chandelier lighting, and white cabinetry with colorful artwork and shades of pale blue.

↓ A private owner's entrance was designed to house daily items and provide a clutter-free environment that withstands traffic flow. Slate flooring is a great room choice for a cherished canine.

