CALM *and* COLLECTED

ANTIQUES AND AUCTION FINDS LEND A
CULTIVATED FEEL TO A REDESIGN IN NEW JERSEY.

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Opposite: After designer Jeffrey B. Haines completed a gorgeous overhaul of his clients' vacation condo in Florida, they were compelled to bring their main residence in Bernardsville, New Jersey, up to speed. A soft blue-gray hue—Farrow & Ball's Pigeon—wraps the foyer, setting a serene tone for the home at the threshold.

Below: Visible from both the foyer and breakfast room, the indigo- and cream-toned study is grounded by a wool rug from French Accents. Classic details include a tufted Hickory Chair sofa upholstered in a Thibaut fabric and valance window treatments in a Scalamandré fabric. The angular cane chair from Baker Furniture adds clean-lined contrast.

R aymond and Sherry Milchovich originally only intended to update a few key rooms in their West Palm Beach vacation condo. But when designer Jeffrey B. Haines executed their vision flawlessly—"Every detail was perfect right down to the fresh-cut flowers and plants," says Sherry—they knew a second project was in order: their primary residence in Bernardsville, New Jersey.

Compared to their breezy beach condo, the New Jersey home's Venetian plaster walls and creamy yellow palette seemed heavy and tired. So, when the couple headed back to Florida for the winter months, Haines was entrusted once more—this time with a full redesign of their beloved family home.

Since purchasing the residence, the Milchoviches had made extensive exterior updates to the property, including the addition of a pool and pool house surrounded by verdant gardens. This gave Haines an impetus to rethink the

indoor-outdoor dialogue. A refreshing palette of white, blue and green was introduced to brighten the space and draw in the grounds, while excess doors and dated trim were cleared away to create airiness and better flow. Injecting new energy into the layout, Haines flipped the master suite's sitting and sleeping room arrangement so that the bedroom would enjoy the grand fireplace. He also converted a rarely used bar into an elegant conservatory with views of the landscape. Notes Sherry, "So many people have said, 'It looks younger!'"

Haines, who describes his own design approach as along the lines of "less is best," aimed to keep the integrity of his clients' classic aesthetic. "I think they gravitate toward a much more mature, gathered, clean look," he muses. As a starting point, Haines inventoried the couple's sizable collection of paintings, mostly 19th- and 20th-century English and French oils, arranging them in fresh configurations and interspersing modern-framed prints for an updated feel.

Once he placed the artworks throughout the residence, the rest of the narrative, as he describes it—as told in fabric choices and furniture lines—fell into place. "It's like a book with chapters," Haines says. "Some are quiet, and then in others, a whole story unfolds."

Next, the designer combed the couple's own antiques collection to select pieces like a 19th-century writing desk and a Tudor Jacobean chest to live on in the living room. "If the scale is right, there's no need to change it," Haines says. "I have a conscience about that. If scale is good, I like to keep it and rework it because that's what lends a gathered feeling rather than the clean slate when you bring in everything new." From there, the designer layered in a mix of complementary European antiques, like the Gustavian settee and armchair in the entry and living rooms, respectively, which lend warmth and informal appeal.

Haines' goal of a collected feel dictated the bulk of the selection process. After presenting Raymond and Sherry

with his vision, the couple gave him leave to shop carte blanche. It would be better, he assured them, if he could source from auctions. "That's where the trusting comes in," Haines says. "If something comes up that's perfect, I slide it in. That's what makes a home mature." One example is the tall English cabinet he found for the living room, with its beautiful wood patina and original glass, which became an ideal display for the couple's treasured sculptures and objets.

Raymond and Sherry are so pleased with the results that they confess to picking a different room each night to read in or sip a cocktail. While the couple savors their home, Haines has been in Florida renovating the rest of the condo that started it all, and when he returns to New Jersey, he'll begin updates on the pool house just in time for summer visits from family. It seems they can't help themselves with the ongoing collaborations. "He did a fabulous job," notes Raymond. "There's no place we'd rather be." L

The cool palette continues in the formal dining room, where the clients' existing walnut table and dining chairs, freshly reupholstered in Jasper fabric, sit atop a Serapi area rug. Haines found the 1920's Baguès-style chandelier at Avery & Dash Collections in Stamford, Connecticut.

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Celebrating the grand scale of the master bedroom, a 19th-century Swedish neoclassical giltwood mirror from Haines' showroom, Butler's of Far Hills, hangs above the fireplace. Cozy details like custom Zoffany fabric window treatments, Stark carpeting and a cream Century Furniture chaise add softness and texture.

Prior exterior updates inspired Haines to choose a fresh, nature-informed palette for the home's redesign. The lush gardens were a years-long project involving two local landscaping firms, Deborah Cerbone Associates and Wicklow and Laurano, and the pool, pool house and carriage house were completed by Brandes Maselli Architects, the home's architect of record, in 2008.