

Home Tour: A Newlywed Nest in Duxbury

By Teri Borseti



Photographs by Michael J. Lee

Muted linens from Bloomingdale's and French doors overlooking the bay create a fresh look in the master bedroom.

Frank Wisneski and Lynn Dale said “I do” to each other in February. With children from their previous marriages, visiting grandchildren and elderly moms, the couple—who share three houses between them—have decided to call just one home their familial residence.

Though Wisneski has lived in his Duxbury house since the 1970s, both agreed it was time to redesign it in a way that would reflect a blend of their personalities, in light of their new life partnership. What started as a foyer and den renovation blossomed into a 12-room structural and cosmetic redesign project that took a year and a half. “We hired Gerald Pomeroy for phase one, and it just snowballed from there. We developed an instant rapport and became friends during the project,” says Dale.

Built in 1812, the Federal-style, brick-end waterfront house on Powder Point needed updating, and as he got to know the couple, the designer learned to balance Wisneski's apprecia-

tion of classic décor and fine art with Dale's sophisticated, whimsical style. The result is a fresh, timeless look that delights both. “We never planned to take down walls or rip up floors, but it was a fun and productive project. Redecorating an entire house is a process that can be very stressful, but in our case it brought us closer together,” says Wisneski.

Today the residence, framed by roses, hydrangeas and lilacs, is anything but a beach house. In the living room, subtle custom-mixed maize-beige and cream tones combine with some of Wisneski's 18th-century American seascapes to create an elegant atmosphere. Animal-print throw pillows add spice. The sitting room is white with blue tones. The cotton stripe, solid linen and printed fabrics by Lee Jofa and Schumacher add texture to a large patterned chair (reupholstered by Connors Design of Marlborough), accent pillows and stationary valances designed to look like Roman shades. A custom-designed area rug adds subtle stripes, and a blue and white elephant imported from India serves as a small end table.

The blue and white theme continues in the breakfast alcove, where glassfront white cabinets showcase Chinese porcelain pieces. On the table a vase of big blue hydrangeas, cut from bushes on the property, brings the outside in. Dale says they love to cozy up with coffee at the table. On chilly mornings Wisneski builds a fire in the original 1812 kitchen fireplace, and they enjoy views of the water from a big bay window. Dale's favorite room is the dining room, which she refers to as the heart of the house. The pumpkin color is a custom blend that's bold yet very warm.

Rooms on the first level flow gracefully and share hints of blue and green to tie the space together. The fresh, inviting design carried throughout the house is definitely a reflection of the lighthearted pair, who wanted to set down permanent roots under the same roof.

The master bedroom, which was expanded from a guest room in the '90s, was designed in muted blue and beige hues with linens from Bloomingdale's and a cashmere pillow from B.Hive at the Boston Design Center. French doors overlook the bay. "In warm weather the room we use most is the enclosed porch," says Dale. "It's where we sit and read the paper together," and where the two brainstorm ideas for the many boards they sit on, including the Boston Lyric Opera and The Emerald Necklace Conservancy. Pomeroy painted the porch a soft avocado Benjamin Moore shade that highlights the white bead-board ceiling. The adjacent wisteria-covered pergola affords the perfect romantic setting for the couple. "Now our plan is to live happily ever after," says Wisneski.



Lynn Dale and Frank Wisneski

Wicker furniture and live plants are the perfect addition to the romantic porch.





The living room is decorated with classic fabrics by Lee Jofa and Schumacher.

The home is framed by roses, hydrangeas and wisteria.



Blue hydrangeas and Chinese import pieces tie the sunny breakfast nook together.