

A kitchen by Fernando R. Guerra of Spogue Kitchens & Bath gets the personal touch via a quartet of walnut and ash counter stools designed by homeowner Christopher Lindsay, a woodworker. In the foreground, the dining room table is also of his own design.

WELL-CRAFTED CONTEMPORARY

AFTER LAURA AND CHRISTOPHER LINDSAY MOVED FROM A TRADITIONAL CHESTER COUNTY HOME OVERLOOKING A POND AND ACRES OF MEADOW TO A NEW-BUILD FISHTOWN TOWNHOUSE, THEY FACED THE DAUNTING TASK OF EDITING THEIR VAST ART AND ANTIQUES COLLECTION. ACQUIRED OVER DECADES, THE MYRIAD PAINTINGS, CERAMICS, SCULPTURES AND FURNITURE REFLECT THE COUPLE'S LOVE OF TRAVEL AND ARTISANSHIP.

*By Alev Aktar
Photography by Kate Raines*

“The goal was to get from country to contemporary,” explains Christopher Lindsay, a bespoke furniture designer and maker who owns Combray Furniture Studio (combrayfurniturestudio.com) in Nicetown. “We wanted an easier, cleaner aesthetic.”

The couple tapped Shila Griffith of SG23 Design (sg23design.com) to guide them through the dizzying array of interior options for the 3,000-square-foot, four-story residence. “I developed scaled furniture plans and helped them decide what to bring from the old house and where to fill in gaps,” says the chic tastemaker, who serves as adjunct professor at Moore College of Art & Design.

From the outside, the unit is part of a sleek, brick-front development on a peaceful street. Inside, it's a textured, diversely styled retreat, full of mixed woods and both modern and time-tested pieces. The heart of the home is a dramatic living room, kitchen and dining area that opens to a well-outfitted deck. Griffith ordered a few upholstered items—a dove-gray aniline leather wing chair from Bernhardt, a CB2 saddle leather daybed for the living room—but the rest is courtesy of Christopher. He purpose-built two matching walnut veneer bookcases with individually lit, ash-lined shadowboxes. The cubbyholes showcase the hollow forms he turns on a lathe, along with eye-catching *objets* like several ornate ceramic vessels by Nicaraguan artist Luis Enrique Gutierrez.

The woodworker also crafted the quartet of tall walnut and ash counter stools in the adjacent kitchen, the coffee table topped with a slab of book-matched live-edge English walnut, and a walnut sideboard, circular occasional table and a low-slung credenza. Laura Lindsay, an avid knitter, pitched in on the latter, weaving seagrass panels for the sliding doors at the bottom of the large walnut bookcase. When their



The pretty silvery powder room near the entry uses a Hygge & West wallpaper that offers a cool contrast to the warm woods elsewhere in the home.

Chippendale table—won at a British auction—proved too imposing for the dining room, Christopher broke out the chisels and mallets again. “He was a busy man!” says Laura, pointing to the new walnut table “stitched” together with X-shaped ash inserts. It’s paired with pierced-back Chippendale chairs from England, where the family lived for four years.

Griffith’s masterstroke—a two-story Shou Sugi Ban accent wall in charred cypress—anchors the common rooms. Hanging artworks on it is a snap, thanks to the horizontal slats and a cleat system fabricated and installed by locally-based David Wing Design.

Upstairs, the master bedroom is painted in the evocative shade of Benjamin Moore’s Wisp of Mauve and furnished with an Arhaus Addison set. “We upgraded to bigger nightstands with bookshelves on the bottom,” says Laura, who always has a stack of novels on hand.

Above it all, Christopher is teaming up with a neighbor to install twin green roofs, a way of bringing a little country back to the city. Foliage aside, the Lindsays love their new urban address, right around the corner from the buzzy East Girard corridor and hot spots like Frankford Hall and Johnny Brenda’s. “We wanted to be able to walk to dinner,” says Christopher. “There are so many great restaurants right here that we have to push ourselves to leave Fishtown.” ■



In the living room, a storage unit and coffee table, both designed by the homeowner, take pride of place, while a Shou Sugi Ban installation of charred wood planks along the staircase makes for an intriguing feature wall and a resourceful way to display art.



In the master bedroom, the soft purple of Benjamin Moore’s Wisp of Mauve is designer Griffith’s nod to the couple’s love of England’s Cotswolds region. The furniture is from Arhaus’ Addison line.

DESIGN DETAILS

TYPE

Single-family townhouse

LOCATION

Philadelphia

BUILDER

Onion Flats
onionflats.com

INTERIOR DESIGN

SG23 Design
sg23design.com

VENDORS

ARHAUS

Master bedroom furniture
arhaus.com

DAVID WING DESIGN

Accent wall fabrication and installation
davidwingdesign.com

HYGGE & WEST

Powder room wallpaper
hyggeandwest.com

JAIPUR LIVING

Living room, master bedroom and lower level rugs
jaipurliving.com

RESAWN TIMBER

Accent-wall cladding
resawntimberco.com