

# (201) HOME

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## ALL IN THE DETAILS

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DESIGNER  
JULIE  
KANTROWITZ'S  
STYLISH  
RIDGWOOD  
HOME

THE  
DESIGNER  
SHOWHOUSE  
OF HEROES  
2017

BEAUTIFUL  
BERGEN  
BACKYARDS

RELAXING  
BATHROOM  
RETREATS

# Livable Elegance

Interior designer shares her welcoming Ridgewood home

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PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **JANE BEILES PHOTOGRAPHY**

**L**ivable elegance is the motto that Julie Kantrowitz and her family live by in their gorgeous Ridgewood home. In fact, Kantrowitz believes in stylish functionality so much, that it is the focus of both her home and work lives. When she isn't designing and decorating her own home, this mom of three stays busy running her New Jersey-based design firm, JK Interior Living. Maintaining personal style while focusing on durability and practicality can definitely be done, and Kantrowitz and her team prove it.



## Entryway and Dining Room

Kantrowitz and her husband bought this Ridgewood center hall colonial in 2013, immediately falling in love with its old world charm. Walking through the front entryway, dark wood floors, white walls and metallic accents join together to create a perfectly transitional space. The gold Grand Lotus chandelier from Currey & Company draws the eye upward, while the soft neutral patchwork hide rug feels welcoming underfoot. The lustered taupe and white wallpapered wall leads to a neutral dining room filled with bold furniture and accents. Six custom-designed navy blue chairs have wood components that match the seared oak-top dining table purchased from DwellStudio. Kantrowitz designed two end chairs that boast a purple, mauve, gray and white ikat Kelly Wearstler fabric. Two Visual Comfort chandeliers hang above the sizable table, which sits on a Serena and Lily herringbone weaved hide rug. Phillip Jeffries raw silk wallpaper with an understated glimmer adds a bit of dimension to the white walls. As the room already boasted chair rail molding that Kantrowitz loved, she successfully juxtaposed traditional elements with contemporary accents. >





## Kitchen

While the previous homeowner designed the neutral kitchen to be clean and bright, Kantrowitz added many special touches to tie understated black components into the predominantly white room. Black Windsor counter stools contrast with the all-white island, and the Hudson Valley Burdett polished nickel fixtures boast a subtle black trim detail. Large uncovered windows allow an abundance of natural light into the kitchen; it was a purposeful decision by Kantrowitz not to add window treatments. The whitewashed kitchen table is surrounded by square back Serena and Lily Carson chairs, made with a hand-wrapped natural fiber and strips of black and bleached natural abaca. The sharp edges of the chairs complement the square Hudson Valley Gresham Park polished nickel chandelier that hangs above the kitchen table, also complete with black trim. >





### Music/ Living Room

The Steinway piano Kantrowitz grew up playing now sits in her very own music and living room. She had it completely restored so she, and now her children, can practice playing the piano together. The piano rests on a gray and white silk blend rug, which is accented by two custom off-white cream-colored chairs with wood and hammered-nail detail. While in this media-free room, the family of five can also lounge on the Anthropologie navy blue tufted sofa while being warmed up by the white marble-faced fireplace. An oversized piece of sculptural art lends itself perfectly as a fireplace screen. It has a circular pattern detail that appears in many rooms throughout the home. The homeowners added the chair rail height molding with old-fashioned rosette detail to bring in more traditional elements to the transitional space. Under the chair rail molding is textured wallpaper that was painted the same color as the walls, adding the subtle dimensional enhancement for which Kantrowitz has become known.



### Office

Kantrowitz's chic and bright office sits opposite the dining room on the first floor of the home. She added numerous built-ins to this room, and brought the raw silk wallpaper from the dining room serve as the backsplash for the bookshelves. A hide rug, layered on top of a larger neutral-toned area rug, adds to the casual yet sophisticated ambiance. Both rugs sit on top of radiant heat marble flooring. With all of the design brainstorming Kantrowitz does in her own home, she knew she needed a substantial desk that could also serve as a focal point of the room. The white lacquer and brass Worlds Away desk was a perfect fit. More metallic tones can be found in the Arteriors Zanadoo antique brass starburst chandelier, the Kelly Wearstler sconces planking the antique piece of black and white art, and the Visual Comfort sconces over the window seat. The seat itself was an addition by Kantrowitz, as she needed more storage for samples and other design work. The fabric choice for the custom pillows that rest on the window seat was deliberate. Not only is it another element that highlights the metallic accents in the office, but the outdoors are brought inside with the fabric's floral and leafy pattern. >





## Family Room

Comfort and class come together in one of the most utilized spaces in the home, the family room. A coffered ceiling adds character to the room, which also features recessed lighting and built-in speakers. A deep, oversized gray sectional is not only visually inviting, but serves as a great spot for the homeowners and their kids to cozy up together. Custom navy blue, cream and yellow ikat pillows sit on the couch and navy blue accent chair. A taupe leather tufted ottoman rests on a neutral braided wool area rug. Kantrowitz created a gallery wall of mixed frames that feature artwork with blues, creams and pops of yellow. Durable white indoor-outdoor window treatments hang next to the limestone wood-burning fireplace, which features red brick from the original build. Throughout the entire home, Kantrowitz stresses not to be afraid of light colors, fine fabrics and unique décor. No room in the house goes untouched or unloved in. "This is where I'm raising my family, and my kids are allowed to utilize every single space," she explains. "You should be able to live in your dwelling while still enjoying the finer things."

## Master Bedroom

The wallpaper featured on the ceiling of the homeowners' master bedroom inspired the design choices for the entire room. Because the ceiling is quite high, Kantrowitz knew she wanted to include a darker color on the ceiling. She found a winner in the cheeky and fun "Party Animal" wallpaper with vibrant colors that pop off the black background. She then had her carpenter install millwork to frame the wallpaper as if it is its own piece of art. The Aiden Gray antique gold chandelier emulates and enhances the whimsical details of the ceiling. Custom dyed white to dark gray ombre drapes were Kantrowitz's genius way of carrying the darker tones from the ceiling to the floor. She was still able to benefit from the fresh feel and look of white drapes, while giving them a bit of edginess at the bottom. The inviting Vanguard cotton blend bed is complemented with sophisticated yet playful bedding, including mixed media pillows in animal prints, leather, metallic and fur. Two distressed Redford House leather stools sit at the end of the bed, on top of a multi-tonal area rug with hints of pink, gray and white. >





## Back Porch

This quaint patio with a welcoming wooden porch swing sits at the back of the house, off of the kitchen. A gray and blue runner with yellow ikat pattern brings the indoors outside, reflecting off of the pale blue painted ceiling. The white ceramic side table was the very first purchase Kantrowitz made for the house. The house's overall theme of livable elegance is carried to the exterior, as traditional fixtures and details continue to be executed in an updated manner. ■