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OUT WITH THE NEW, IN WITH THE OLD

That's one way to summarize the story of this recently constructed Jack Arnold home situated in Gwynedd Valley, PA.

By Teresa Akersten

After living in a contemporary home on this sprawling property for two decades, the owners found themselves empty nesters. It became clear their "glass" house was too big and too energy consuming to take them into their golden years. They needed to downsize. They needed something cozier. Plus, this was a chance to create a space that would perfectly suit her passion for Swedish design.

Enter Jack Arnold. The owners fell in love with a particular house plan from the world-renowned architect's Country French Classics portfolio. They purchased the plans and hired Cherokee Construction of Wyndmoor, PA. to build the 5,000-plus square foot home with a first floor master bedroom suite. It took more than two years to work out all the details necessary to make the space as special as you see here in these photographs.





SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight On...

Sanjay Kamat, DO BUCKS EYE SPECIALISTS

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Dr. Sanjay Kamat has been a resident of Bucks County since he moved here with his family while he was in the first grade, over 30 years ago. He graduated at the top of his class from Pennsbury High School and then went on to Pennsylvania State University, where he received a BS in pre-medicine and served as the president of the Premedical Honor Society. He also received his M.S. in Physiology at Penn State. He taught Anatomy and Physiology at the collegiate level at Penn State University, Widener University, the Community College of Philadelphia, and even more locally at Bucks County Community College. Dr. Kamat then attended medical school in Kansas City, Missouri, at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. He then came back home to Philadelphia to complete his internship and ophthalmology residency at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he served as chief resident.

Dr. Kamat worked at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia for nearly seven years, gaining invaluable experience in complicated cataract, oculoplastic trauma, and anterior segment surgery. He served as one of the ophthalmologists for Moss Rehabilitation Hospital.

Dr. Kamat has spoken on different subjects on the local and national level. He has chaired and co-chaired a number of national meetings for the American

can Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Kamat is board-certified and a fellow of the American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology. He is a clinical instructor at the prestigious Wills Eye Institute in Philadelphia and is also the ophthalmologist for the Cancer Treatment Centers of America's Northeast Regional Center in Philadelphia. He is also on staff at St. Mary's Medical Center in Langhorne, PA, the Aria Bucks County Campus in Langhorne, and the Campus Eye Group in Hamilton, NJ.

Dr. Kamat is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons, the Pennsylvania and Bucks County Medical Societies, as well as many other professional groups.

Dr. Kamat took over the former office of his family's longtime ophthalmologist, Dr. Barry Kutner, in Yardley. He welcomes the opportunity to now serve the community he has considered home for so many years with his extensive experience. He currently resides in Washington Crossing within Lower Makefield Township with his wife and two children.



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Although new, the home feels as though it was built 100 years ago. The palette consists mostly of neutrals, from the paint colors chosen for the walls to the wood-beamed ceilings to the white-washed rococo Swedish furnishings picked up at Dawn Hill Swedish Antiques in New Preston, CT. Yet modern conveniences and energy-efficient technology were incorporated throughout.

"It's the right step at the right time of life," the homeowner says.

Particular attention was paid to the kitchen, designed by Lisa Tobias of Tobias Design. Based in Hopewell, NJ, Tobias is a dealer of Bentwood Luxury Kitchens, which has a cabinetry line designed by Jack Arnold himself. Tobias says she worked from photographs of Arnold's own home to create this look of simple elegance.

Alder wood with a midnight finish was selected for the cabinetry on the island, which seats three comfortably. The black paint has considerable distressing, including chips, wormholes, cracks and rub-throughs which mimic furniture that has been painted numerous time over many decades. The center panels on the island have a raised pyramid design. Wrought iron legs support the countertop where a replica of an old wine bottle opener is perched.

Perimeter cabinets, as well as those used on the butler's pantry, are also alder wood with a blanc-painted finish with distressing.

Provence glass doors were used on the wall of the butler's pantry and Avignon doors with a diamond design were used for the base, which includes a paneled dishwasher and storage for linens. "All of this cabinetry was designed to be in keeping with the style of French Country architecture," says Tobias.

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Tan travertine stone was used for the flooring as well as the dramatic hood, which spans from floor to ceiling. The countertops and backsplash are carrera marble and were fabricated by Marble Crafters out of Philadelphia. Details include niches constructed into the backsplash on either side of the range, as well as a built-in butcher block on the island. "I love the white marble. That was a big decision," says the homeowner. "I love living with these exquisite materials."

The Bouvet hardware comes from France and was purchased at Home Hardware Design in West Trenton, NJ. The island features polished brass knobs; the perimeter and butler's pantry were done in a bronze patina.

Appliances include a 48-inch Wolf range and a 36-inch SubZero refrigerator/freezer. The forged iron pot rack holder is from Jack





Arnold's French Country line.

Above the island hangs an antique French lead crystal chandelier from Dawn Hill. "The chandelier is a really pretty juxtaposition over the island, because it's unexpected," says Tobias.

This will be the homeowners' first spring in their new house. They look forward to enjoying views of the pond and the gardens, sipping wine while sitting on their veranda and welcoming family and friends whenever possible.

To sum up what she has learned in the process of building a new home and downsizing, the owner recommends loving the things you have.

She says she made sure to bring over her favorite pieces, including French antiques, paintings and other art. "The things that I really loved I really wanted to hold onto. I really wanted to keep seeing."



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