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SAN FRANCISCO-based interior designer Palmer Weiss achieves the aesthetic IMPOSSIBLE: pleasing the STYLE-CONSCIOUS parents of young children



ACCESS

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Photography by MATTHEW MILLMAN

An unrepentant wallpaper fan, Palmer Weiss amplifies the mostly white office with treatments by Cole & Son. *Opposite:* Homeowner Kirsten Green with her young son.





Op-art inspired Trove wallpaper enlivens the home's powder room.



Clockwise from top: Books and blooms, artfully arranged atop a coffee table in the living room. A photograph by Nick Brandt hangs above a Vanguard chest with Moore & Giles leather. The residence's stately facade. Weiss and architect Charlie Barnett transformed the formerly cramped kitchen into a light-filled great room.

➤ The creations of San Francisco-based interior designer Palmer Weiss, who expertly applies a neo-traditional aesthetic and reverence for antiques to luxurious yet livable family spaces, are in high demand. That's because most of her clients are just like her: financial-VC types who are mid-aged marrieds with young children.

Following art and architecture studies at Brown University, Weiss dove into business school at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. "Before design, I had, like, 14 other

careers: investment banker, Internet consultant, retail merchandiser," laughs Weiss as she ticks them off. Voraciously curious and delightfully opinionated, the Charleston, S.C.-reared Weiss had an early introduction to her current field as the daughter of acclaimed interiors expert Kathleen Rivers. "My training is more an osmosis from my mom," she admits. "I'm not one of those designers who's been rearranging her room since age 6. But I can easily identify an Oushak rug." In 2002, Weiss finally acknowledged how

Michael Green sits with his young children on DWR chartreuse kitchen table chairs. The now-open kitchen glows with natural light reflecting off the walls painted in Farrow & Ball's Strong White.



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Weiss adds her signature pops of color to the master bedroom, including art by Natasha Law and a bright lemon-yellow Belmar & Co. custom-made settee, rendered in Dedar fabric.



Above: The once dark and dingy dining room now utilizes light from the home's original arched windows. Below: The backsplash framing the great room's wet bar is crafted from Waterworks glass tile.

much she loathed her final business-sector job and took the terrifying leap to establish her own firm.

For this Presidio Heights project, homeowners Kirsten Green, founder of the firm Forerunner Ventures, and her husband, Virtú Investments co-founder Michael, were thrilled that Weiss understood the need for the space to cater to both adult soirées and pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey parties for their two young children. The initial focus was a major build-out: brightening the dark, dingy dining room and transforming the cramped kitchen into the oft-requested

great room. The rest was a fairly blank canvas, and while Weiss leans toward color, her clients favored a palette of muted gray tones. Still, pops of saturated hues sneak in via accents, including floral Art Nouveau-indebted wallpaper in the office and a lively lemon-yellow settee in the master bedroom. "My sort-of-cliché tagline is 'livable luxury,'" she explains of her guiding impulse toward balancing beauty with utility. "I want my clients' homes to be beautiful, of course. But these homes are also for their families. And they don't want to worry about spilling juice on a \$10,000 ottoman." •



From above: The light-filled living/dining room (from two different vantage points) is both stylish and child-friendly.



Weiss and Barnett incorporated some of the home's original details, such as a grillwork banister, which frames a custom-made Modernist credenza in the entry foyer.

