

# Brooklyn Brownstone



## Invited by a client with a love for pop art, vivid color, and modern design to remake their Fort Greene brownstone.

Helgeson's office took its inspiration from the patterns and colors common to Peruvian and Turkish rugs and textiles like the kaleidoscopic tiles installed in the master bedroom. In the dining room, the designers created a custom table comprising two long slabs of walnut connected by a series of butterfly joints and surrounded by vintage Paul McCulloch chairs, lacquered in turquoise. Next, they painted a wall of bookshelves four shades of red and balanced these bright colors with the addition of herringbone oak floors and wood, ceramic and glass objects and furnishings. The glazes of a David Weeks chandelier were then echoed by pendant lights installed in the kitchen. The family room is anchored by a built-in

sectional sofa upholstered in 18 vintage Peruvian blankets, and a fir coffee table designed by JHD garnered after the blanket design. The artwork, three yarn-wrapped mirrors, were made by Brooklyn artists. In the master bedroom and guest room, white and gray or violet and red paint slants up the ceiling and down the opposite wall, the pillows on the bed consist of remnants from the blankets used to dress the sofa, while mirrors reflect the geometric forms of terrariums suspended from the ceiling. From one room to another, the designers ensured that this Brooklyn couple will enjoy a colorful domestic life.

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Library House



The plan is defined by bookshelves throughout the house that honor the history of the building.





## Library House

This residential design by Jessica Helgeson involved the reinvention of a Portland public library building that had also served, temporarily, as a church meeting hall. Helgeson's design team kept the large open volume of the former library, locating a kitchen, living room, and dining room there. By closing off the front porch, they created a foyer and powder room and by extending one back of the building were able to add two bedrooms and a bathroom. In the basement, they treated a sauna, laundry room, gym, and recording studio (both clients are voice actors). The plan is defined by bookshelves throughout the house—at the entrance, on both sides of the library's great room, in the guest bedroom—that honor the history of the building.

To reach those in the high-ceilinged great room, library ladders were set at both ends of the room. Although many components of the interior scheme are traditional, like the original architecture, the designers layered contemporary elements over them.

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