

MUST-HAVE

The homeowners wanted a stylish but family friendly home for themselves and their four children. To achieve this request, Richards used fabrics that would withstand "spills and wear."



home

SHADES OF GRAY

Short Hills designer works her magic on a Saddle River residence

COMPILED BY **LAURA ADAMS STIANSEN**
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF **ROBERT GRANOFF**
INTERIOR DESIGN BY **RUTH RICHARDS**,
INTERIORS AT WOODSIDE, SHORT HILLS

NAMED
BEST OF HOUZZ
IN SERVICE AND
DESIGN THE LAST
THREE YEARS
IN A ROW

INSPIRATION: CHALON ESTATE, BRENTWOOD, CALIF.

"The homeowners loved the feel of the interior at this estate, but didn't want quite so much of a strong Mediterranean style," Richards says.

MASTER BEDROOM

"The master suite was much more challenging than the rest of the home," Richards says. "The clients already owned a buttery colored yellow leather bed so the palette had to have this yellow in it. In addition, the room was vastly huge, so we needed to make it cozier." ➤



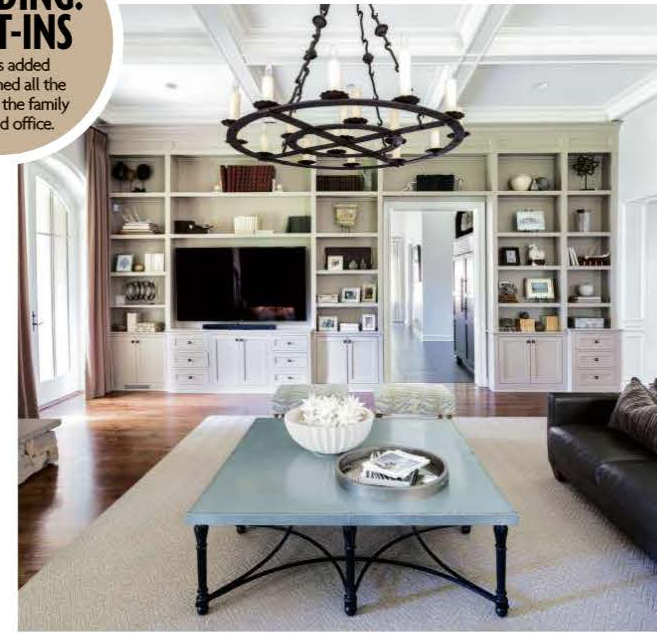
Sherwin-Williams Gray Matters
(SW 7066, hallway and bedroom walls)



Benjamin Moore Templeton Gray
(HC-161, ceiling)

**TRENDING:
BUILT-INS**

Richards added and designed all the built-ins in the family room and office.

**FAMILY ROOM**

"We decided to go to a slightly warmer gray tone, more of a mushroom gray, on the rest of the first floor, since the existing sectional was in a soft metallic burgundy leather, and a mushroom gray would work better with that piece," says Richards. She designed a custom wall unit for the TV, which provided a sleek secondary focal point in the room, with the fireplace being the primary. "The dramatic velvet drapery reminds us that it's an important room, yet the chandelier, zinc table and sisal rug allow us to feel that you can cozy up in front of the fire and relax." >



Sherwin-Williams
Modern Gray
(SW 7632)

COLOR SCHEME

Since the kitchen and baths were completed prior to Richards starting the project, the charcoal gray floor and dark wood with warm brick ceiling in the kitchen strongly influenced the palettes.



KITCHEN

"The enormous kitchen and butler's pantry have wonderful brick vaulted and dark beamed ceilings and mantle, two fabulous charcoal gray, modern sleek islands and gray stone floors," Richards says of the space designed by Anthony Passanante of Anthony Albert Studios in Waldwick. "When I walked into the kitchen and felt the edgy mix of the new and old, I knew it was perfect for this style home." Richards added some accessories and artwork to the kitchen and pulled it into the rest of the first-floor design. ➤



DINING ROOM

"This room, along with foyer and family room, were designed in a transitional Mediterranean style, using a warm soothing neutral palette of mushroom gray, taupe and cream, with accents of soft burgundy and black wrought iron," Richards says. "This combination creates a unique, cozy, refined and modernized twist to a Mediterranean style decor." Hints of neutral colors make the white dishes and accessories stand out in the room cabinets that were updated by Michael O'Brien of Painttek in Dunellen. "The Kathy Kuo Home cabinets were highly distressed," Richards says. "Michael worked with me to strip them, paint a base coat, then lightly antique them. We got a great look, saving our client thousands of dollars." Transitional variations on old-world patterns in the drapery, chandelier style, and curvy cabinets all create the backdrop for the custom dining chairs. ➤