

HUDSON MOD

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LIFE WELL LIVED

EXCLUSIVE

DESIGN STAR

HGTV's **GENEVIEVE GORDER**
talks career, love and style.
Meet Manhattan's girl next door.

BEAUTY SPECIAL:
THE BEST SPAS

+

Kyan Douglas
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Buddy Valastro
Lydia Sarfati

Elegant Shelter

Inside homes in Chelsea, Summit and
Hoboken—interior design gets luxe.

FOR JENNIFER MARSH, Hoboken is heaven. The principal of Mowery Marsh Architect, Marsh lives and works in a historical townhouse that she transformed last year with her husband, Brian, for their family.

When Marsh was consulting with new client Joanne Laurie on the renovation of a bathroom, the two women decided to scope out another townhouse in the neighborhood that had come on the market. Although it had good bones and some period details, like arched windows and a still-intact curved staircase, the late-19th-century brick structure required a major overhaul. But Joanne was taken by the generous flow of the townhouse's spaces and its place on a charming block (the house sits next door to the childhood home of famed Depression-era photographer Dorothea Lange), so she and her husband, Craig, soon purchased it.

With that purchase, Marsh's would-be bathroom makeover morphed into a full-blown building renovation and interiors assignment for the Lauries and their two children—at a site only a quick stroll from her own sanctuary. In the process, she gained both a client and a neighbor.

“Joanne had studied design and has a great eye in terms of knowing what she wants and what works in a room,” Marsh says. “A great collaborative relationship was born. The fun with working on the Laurie house is that it is 24 feet wide as opposed to the typical 15 feet of most period townhouses in the area. The challenge was getting more light into the center of the home's floor plan.”


Renovating a luxe three-floor structure that's more than 110 years old is a bigger undertaking than a lot of my clients might realize, Marsh says, likening this assignment to building a brand new house within the historical shell. With new plumbing and wiring, new steel windows, and new wood moldings and millwork replacing plaster details, the home has the feel of a townhouse turned out for a new century.

To bring light into the center spaces, an oversized square window in the sleek white kitchen looks out onto the backyard. With the entries of every room opened up and

sightlines rejiggered, one can stand at the back of the house and peer through the kitchen and dining room to the arched windows in the parlor beyond. Likewise on the master-suite floor above, a bathroom outfitted with white stone counters and a faux-croc tile floor opens onto a mirrored vestibule that houses closets; the views line up to the bedroom beyond, with the mirrors reflecting light. Additionally, skylights on the top floor bring in more daylight.

As for furnishings, a mix of contemporary and custom avoids the look of period style: This is not *The Land Where Time Stood Still*, but there is a subtle interplay of old and new at work.

In the dining room, an elegantly coffered ceiling is accented by a metal chandelier that's suspended above curvaceous white chairs and a round, wood pedestal table.

The Laurie house still unfolds with sense memories of the Hoboken homestead it once was, yet it's newly emboldened for today. 

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HEAVEN IN HOBOKEN

A HISTORIC TOWNHOUSE IS TURNED OUT FOR CONTEMPORARY LIVING.

BY WILLIAM WEATHERSBY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELLIOTT KAUFMAN



BIGGIE SMALLS “Renovating a luxe three-floor structure that’s more than 110 years old is a bigger undertaking than many clients might realize,” says designer Jennifer Marsh.

