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Designing for the New Modern Family



Sublime Interiors from Amy Manor of Red Bank Design Center

written by GWEN DONOVAN photography by VIZZI MEDIA SOLUTIONS



Amy Manor, founder and owner of Red Bank Design Center, designed the interiors of a newly constructed Monmouth County home, a task which essentially involved taking a blank canvas and imbuing it with rich colors, refined accents and unexpected design elements. The result is a spectacular array of living spaces that easily host significant occasions while also providing a welcoming backdrop for everyday life.

Dennis Forde and Bryan Fuerst, homeowners and parents to their son Noah, sought a designer who would push their thinking and encourage them to explore their creative side. “We tend to go for a chic but glamorous look,” noted Dennis. “As a busy family, it is important that we worked with a designer who understood the new modern family. We needed spaces that could be both glamorous and versatile but also sophisticated with masculine touches. When we embarked on this journey with Amy, I said to her you are designing for the new modern family in Monmouth County, let’s make this chic and unique like us!”



The results exceeded the family’s expectations in many ways, Dennis said. “We went into the process knowing that our expectations may evolve as we were exposed to new and exciting brands from America and Europe. We pulled from our love of travel and art to inspire our design, and coincidentally, so did Amy. Amy’s recent trip to Spain inspired our bar room design: the colors, the marble and the wallcoverings resembled her beautiful photographs and time spent in Europe.”

The bar room is a dramatic gathering space filled with high-end style. “We adore our bar room – from the gold snakeskin ceiling, beautiful accents of gold leaf on the doors, cove lighting and fabulous seating areas – happy hour at our home has been elevated,” according to Dennis. “We were able to take our love of wine and cheese into the space with a fabulous wine chiller and wet bar. The room offers great light and we often find ourselves there on Sunday mornings with a cup of coffee and the Sunday morning news programs. If you ask our son Noah, his favorite spot would be the faux fur area rug in the living room; it’s comfy and cozy and a perfect spot to play on his iPad.”

Another space where this family comes together is the dining room. “It has become a place that Bryan and I use on Friday nights to decompress, drink a glass of wine and reconnect with each other. Amy designed an intimate area in the dining room that allows us to feel relaxed from our busy lives and connect again as a couple and family,” Dennis remarked.

Above | Amy Manor, the couple’s son Noah, and the family’s English retriever, Max. *Right* | Homeowners Dennis Forde and Bryan Fuerst.

