



## 68 CHARLES STREET

MEREDITH AND BEN JENKINS

When Meredith and Ben Jenkins began looking for a home to raise their growing family thirteen years ago, they were drawn to the historic charm of Greenwich Village. After a three-year search, they found this brick Italianate townhouse nestled amongst a group of four all built in 1861 by Albro Howell, a local builder. Their home's façade is one of two in the row that features an original stoop ornamented with cast-iron railings and full-length parlor floor windows.

Inside, the couple worked with architect Anne Fairfax of Fairfax & Sammons to return the home to a single-family residence. They moved in just over a year ago. The firm's traditional aesthetic appealed to the family, who had first seen their work on a prior year's GVSHP house tour. Plans for the renovations began in 2010 while the family had been relocated to Hong Kong; many pieces in the house, such as the four red Chinese panels representing the four seasons in the parlor floor hall, were collected during their time there.

A late 1980s contemporary renovation was cleared to create the sophisticated yet family-friendly space. In the front parlor,

classical details such as the gorgeous organic-motifed door surrounds and marble mantel work in tandem with dark wood furniture and red art pieces from Hong Kong. The dark paneled walls of the rear study balance the airy feel of the gray and yellow-accented parlor.

On the garden floor, the Jenkins enjoy a traditional kitchen that connects the dining area to the family room. The warm mahogany counters in the kitchen, along with the bright colors, enliven this floor; the gray and yellow floral wallpaper at the entry visually transitions the similar tones of the parlor floor to the vibrant yellow in the dining room. To help open up the space, a geometric-patterned stained wood floor was used instead of an area rug under the dining table. A geometric metal sculpture is also from Hong Kong.

The master bedroom features a grass cloth canopy bed bought during their travels and later tweaked by Anne. Paddles from a dragon boat race in Hong Kong are displayed in the children's bedrooms, and built-in wood-paneled beds provide a cozy hideaway.