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Head of School Residence Emma Willard School

Troy, New York



The Emma Willard School has owned the Wellington Lay House for decades and has operated a host of programs from this historic building. In 2007, the school decided to make a significant investment and restore the second floor as a 3,000 square foot residence for the Head of School. The large, open study, living room, dining room, and family rooms required a facelift and new lighting fixtures. We selected warm neutral tones for the walls to contrast with the ornate, high-gloss wood trim throughout. These neutral rooms are a perfect back drop for period furnishings as well as new transitional pieces.

The interior construction at the far ends of the house was removed to provide a brand new master bathroom and kitchen. The master bath is enveloped in white carrerra marble with pale green tumbled marble accent tiles. An extra-deep and long tub is set into a marble platform adjacent to an existing low window. A five foot wide double sink vanity offers ample counter space and storage below. The subtle green in the marble is repeated in the pearl finish paint above the marble tile wainscot. A delicate Holophane glass pendant adds a touch of 1920s elegance to the room.

The kitchen adds a functional and informal balance to the house. We selected simple maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances, and dark green granite counter tops as unassuming elements that allow the radiant glass tile backsplash to shine. New oak floors almost perfectly match the original floors which have survived for nearly 90 years.