



In the living room Hilliard had the red oak floors stripped, bleached and the wood grain opened before the finish was applied to achieve the soft gray color. Layered on top of this are textiles in quiet shades of ice, ivory, and oyster. The vaulted beamed ceiling gives the formal room a casual twist.

editing very carefully

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SAN FRANCISCO DESIGNER
HEATHER HILLIARD
REJUVENATES THIS
HILLSBOROUGH HOME
WHILE **RESPECTING THE**
FAMILY'S TREASURES

Coco Chanel's classic style advise was, "Before you leave the house, look in the mirror and take one thing off" This became the mantra for San Francisco interior designer Heather Hilliard and her clients as she was re-designing their family's home in Hillsborough. The couple inherited the 1940s home that was built by the husband's grandfather, and it came equipped with several generations of furnishings.







A pair of caned back fauteuils that belonged to the husband's family provide additional seating in the family room. Hilliard utilized local upholsterer Richard Andronaco for all of her custom upholstery. Her drapery was fabricated by Angelique Interiors.





In the living room a second sofa is accompanied by a pair of diminutive antique glass and gilt metal cocktail tables from Coup d'Etat. The sofa is covered in Great Plains' Soft Focus with a trim along the bottom of the skirt by Samuels & Sons. Rose Tarlow's club chairs are upholstered in a glazed linen from Rogers & Goffigon.


One of the challenges the designer faced was to distill seventy pieces of heirloom furniture to an essential few that would complement the lifestyle of a contemporary family. To accomplish this melding of past and present she utilized Chanel's color palette of beige, black and white, adding touches of sky blue and fog gray.

Hilliard placed one of the curated pieces in the entrance: a black and gold Chinoiserie commode which she mixed with a whimsical pair of 20th century metal chairs covered in black and white hair on hide. The living room was dressed in a coat of Benjamin Moore's Linen White. Against this backdrop the designer combined bespoke furnishings, pieces culled from showrooms, and, of course, the heirlooms.

Above the minimal fireplace with its honed black granite hearth is an antique giltwood convex mirror surmounted by an eagle. Flanking the fireplace are monochrome works by San Francisco artist Kim Froshin. In front of this, Hilliard arranged a sofa of her own design with a pair of club chairs from Rose Tarlow. Centering the grouping is a custom glass coffee table that encases a chic pair of parchment covered ottomans.

Adjacent to the living room, the dining room is again a juxtaposition of old and new. Here she selected the clients' Georgian mahogany breakfront bookcase as the focal point. For seating, she found elegant Swedish Grace Period ebonized and elm side chairs, circa 1930, at H. M. Luther in New York. Their gentle modern design inspired the lines of the custom ebonized dining table. A painting by Fresno artist Robert Ogata balances Zen elements with abstract expressionism. Because the room is flooded with morning sunlight, Roman shades were made from vanilla colored gossamer wool casement, from Calvin Fabrics in San Francisco, to protect the wood surfaces from fading.

The family room features another antique: a French paint and parcel gilt trumeau mirror. Its blue gray color is reflected in the Colefax & Fowler Marlton upholstery fabric on the custom sectional. Behind the sofa, Hilliard installed a metal console table by Vancouver artist and designer, Martha Sturdy. It provides a work surface for both parents and children. The room is accented by a gold tree sculpture from Coup d'Etat.

Heather Hilliard spent two years on this project which spans the lives of four generations. One of the antiques that remains is a formal silver tea service. The husband remembers it from his childhood as it passed from his grandparents to his mother. He now enjoys it with his own family in their new and yet very old home. 



ABOVE In the entry, a sparkling giltwood mirror allows guests to check their appearance before making an entrance into the living room.

OPPOSITE Flanking the fireplace Hilliard took two of the clients' existing mahogany chests and updated them with honed absolute black granite tops. Drapes are fabricated in wool from Pindler & Pindler with a contrasting French Grosgrain Ribbon.

