



LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE



Designer Steven Favreau PROVIDED

The show-off

Area designers have turned the Nathaniel Allen House into a stunner.



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Twenty local interior designers have transformed 25 rooms in the Nathaniel Allen House in West Newton for the Junior League of Boston's 2016 Decorators' Show House, which will be on view through June 5. The Greek Revival style home dates to 1854 and is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. Now owned by the Newton Cultural Alliance, the renovated property will be used for performances and cultural events with a

special focus on children's programming. We asked two of the project's designers, Steven Favreau of Fort Point-based Favreau Design, and Kelly Rogers, who heads Waban-based Kelly Rogers Interiors, for their advice for sprucing up older homes.

Design for yourself

Keeping a modern family in mind, Rogers turned a bedroom into a mother-in-law suite inspired by her own mother-in-law. "I took the idea of a guest bedroom, but personalized it for a person who deserves their own space and privacy," she says. "The tricky thing — and this is the same with most older houses — was the floor. Rather

than fight it, I decided to keep my floor rather than refinish it, and I found a rug that harmonized."

Preserve & reserve

"One mistake people make is to recreate a house in the period of the original home," Favreau advises. "Unless you have a big budget and can afford antiques from that period, it usually falls short and looks like a poor imitation."

"I'm a big proponent of respecting the architecture," adds Rogers. "I always say don't take out moldings and modernize, especially for reselling. People value the original details even if they aren't any longer in perfect shape. It's an important part of our history."

If you go

Through Sunday, June 5
The Nathaniel Allen House
35 Webster St., Newton
\$35 advance, \$40 at door
jlboston.org/show-house

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