



Clockwise from left: An island with Knoll stools anchors the minimalist kitchen, illuminated by Kuzco pendants. An ipe deck affords treetop views. A new stairway leads to second-floor bedrooms and the new third floor, home to the husband's study. A modern vibe prevails in the dining room via crisp-white walls, mid-century chairs and a custom table from Baltimore Fallen Lumber Co.



As the years went by, the couple and their two teens faced a choice: Move to larger suburban digs or turn their starter house into a stylish forever home. They opted to stay put within walking distance of schools, favorite shops and restaurants and the Metro. In 2017, they engaged Eric Carle, co-principal of Runningdog Architects, to implement a whole-house redo that would enlarge and modernize their living space while remedying structural issues. In fact, tearing down and replacing the troubled house would have been easier, but would have required long waits for permitting and more time spent in temporary quarters.

“We tore down everything but the three original brick walls in front and on the sides, to respect Tenleytown’s modest 1940s homes,” Carle notes. “Inside and behind that brick exoskeleton, we built a

new, 6,050 square-foot, four-level modernist residence.”

The architect teamed with contractor John Allen whose firm, AllenBuilt, Inc., overhauled the foundation and attached the surviving walls to new construction. “Metal rods were epoxied into the brick and then bolted to the wood framing,” Allen explains.

With its foundation correctly designed and executed, the home today is roughly the same 30-foot width as the original. The existing brick front has been subtly

Renovation Architecture & Interior Design: Eric Carle, AIA, principal, Runningdog Architects, Kensington, Maryland. Renovation Contractor: John Allen, AllenBuilt, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland. Kitchen Design: Sugarloaf Kitchen & Cabinet Works, Ijamsville, Maryland. Structural Engineer: Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Washington, DC.

