

# WHITE LIGHT

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A nautical-inspired color palette with crisp linens, whitewashed wood and luxurious marble bathrooms lightens up a traditional suburban home.

By Tate Gunnerson  
Photography by Tony Soluri and Dennis Jordan

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“My client wanted a house that looked like it was on the ocean,” explains Lauren Coburn of the massive renovation of a contemporary manse in Glen Ellyn that she designed for family living with three kids and two large dogs. “The interior had a lot of dark woods,” Coburn explains. “It was a heavy and very traditional house that didn’t suit his personality at all.”

Watery blue walls and white moldings brighten the atmosphere in the front living room and create a crisp backdrop for a custom white sofa with an open back that was designed by Coburn so that her client can watch his children practice piano or play chess at the handsome wooden game table in the corner. “He wanted furniture pieces that had a very European feel,” the designer explains, “so everything is of a large scale, masculine and clean-lined but with



**AIR CONTROL**

The whitewashed wood theme continues in the breakfast room with a custom table and chairs designed by Lauren Coburn and fabricated by Mike Bell. A chandelier from Nancy Corzine and a custom silk embroidered panel by Fromental at Holly Hunt add European flair.





**DOUBLE-SIDED**  
A custom black iron chandelier made by Al Bar Wilmette Platers was inspired by a fixture Coburn saw in London. The unique open-back sofa is a custom design by Coburn, fabricated by Mike Bell and upholstered in Perennials outdoor fabric. All of the art was curated by Patti Gilford Fine Arts.



**GRAY MATTER**  
The home office is a study in grays, with a punch of rich navy blue to continue the home's subtle nautical theme. The desk and built-in bench seat are custom designs by Coburn, made of cerused walnut and fabricated by Vas Design. The burlap wallcovering was hand-done by Anna Wolfson on-site.



traditional details.”

Bespoke iron light fixtures designed by Coburn for the living area perfectly complement the ones that she selected for the center entryway and formal dining area, which has been furnished with a white limestone dining table with a wood top refinished to match its base. Dining chairs covered in white fabric and a tall buffet with a whitewashed finish and a bucolic chicken-wire window insert stand out sharply against the sophisticated striated silver wallcovering. “We did a lot of whitewashed woods because he likes seeing the grain and the texture,” Coburn explains. “The owner has very good taste and was extremely involved with every decision.”

Whitewashed display cabinets likewise add a hint of informality to the master suite—a spacious paneled retreat with an oversized canopy bed outfitted with linens and flanked by a pair of hand-embroidered silk panels in

custom silver-leaf frames. “The softness of the embroidery and the soft colors provide a nice juxtaposition against the heavy wood bed,” Coburn notes. “The room has a mix of textures that gives it interest, depth and intimacy.”

Although the traditional vibe is evident throughout the house, the designer erred on the side of whimsy for the children’s bedrooms. An imposing shark hangs over the bed in a son’s “crib,” which is outfitted with custom furniture made of oak with a cerused finish that evokes the feel of driftwood. “We had an 8-foot replica made of a 12-foot shark that the son caught,” Coburn says. “It never would have fit in this room.”

In the daughter’s bedroom, a streamlined canopy bed with an upholstered turquoise headboard feels all the more modern when paired with a hammered silver bench and a glitzy chandelier. The turquoise headboard, chairs and ottoman are one of three distinct



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**SERENE SCENE**  
From left: A metal tub from Waterworks allows the homeowner to soak and enjoy the views from the exquisite marble master bathroom, which Coburn worked on with Design Construction Concepts. Silver-leaf panels by Armand Lee flank the tub, and custom millwork fabricated by Mike Bell adds to the drama; a canopy bed and nightstands designed by Coburn and fabricated by Mike Bell establish the romantic feeling the homeowner envisioned for the master suite.

shades of blue that Coburn incorporated into the space, along with purple window treatments. “I tend to use a lot of neutrals, but my clients inspire me to use color,” Coburn explains. “Those wind up being some of my favorite spaces.”

The most dramatic transformations, however, occurred in the home’s bathrooms, which Coburn and Design Construction Concepts completely redesigned, selecting statuary marble for the powder room and floor-to-ceiling Calacatta gold marble with a wavy gray vein for the master bathroom. “It was an extremely time-consuming process because the floor tile is different from the wall tile, which is different than the moldings, which are handcarved out of slabs,” Coburn explains. “It was very complicated to coordinate

all those pieces.”

Helping the elements all come together are silver-leaf panels that play off the gray veining and add another dimension by softly reflecting the light. “We wanted something interesting on either side of the tub; something simple and understated but dramatic at the same time,” Coburn explains. “This is a soft material that adds symmetry and drama.”

According to Coburn, the owner is ecstatic with the way the home’s nautical palette and mix of traditional and modern elements combine to create the stylish but comfortable aesthetic that he envisioned from the very beginning. “This house flows,” Coburn explains, “but every room has its own unique personality. We’re all very happy with the result.” ■



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## DESIGN DETAILS

### TYPE

**Single-family home**

### LOCATION

**Glen Ellyn**

### INTERIOR DESIGN

**Lauren Coburn LLC**

[laurencoburn.com](http://laurencoburn.com)

### MILLWORK

**Mike Bell, Inc. & Westwater Patterson**

[mikebellonline.com](http://mikebellonline.com)

### PAINTING & WALLPAPER

**No Limits Paint**

[mattinglycustomfinishes.com](http://mattinglycustomfinishes.com)

### RESOURCES

**David Sutherland**

Perennials fabrics on sofas and dining chairs  
[dauidsutherlandshowroom.com](http://dauidsutherlandshowroom.com)

**Design Construction Concepts**

Master bathroom construction  
[dcc-inc.net](http://dcc-inc.net)

**Dessin Fournir**

Floor lamp in living room, chandelier in dining room and Conrad shades throughout  
[dessinfournir.com](http://dessinfournir.com)

**Holly Hunt**

Phillip Jeffries and Fromental wallcoverings and chandelier in office  
[hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

**Patti Gilford Fine Arts**

Art consulting  
[pattigilford.com](http://pattigilford.com)

**Mike Bell, Inc. & Westwater Patterson**

Custom millwork and fabrication of sofas, master bed, nightstands, coffee tables and dining table  
[mikebellonline.com](http://mikebellonline.com)

**Oscar Isberian Rugs**

Antique rugs in foyer, living room and master bedroom  
[isberian.com](http://isberian.com)

**Patterson Flynn Martin**

Stair and hallway runner  
[pattersonflynnmartin.com](http://pattersonflynnmartin.com)

**Remains Lighting**

Dining room sconces  
[remains.com](http://remains.com)

**SMG Furniture**

Upholstery  
847.677.4219

**Stark**

Rug in office  
[starkcarpet.com](http://starkcarpet.com)

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### GRAND ENTRANCE

An antique rug from Oscar Isberian Rugs and an iron chandelier from Dessin Fournir create a warm and welcoming first impression in the front foyer. In the formal dining room beyond, a textural striated silk wallcovering from Phillip Jeffries is paired with custom dining chairs in hard-wearing Perennials fabric to withstand their frequent use.