

RD

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN



FOR ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS
OF DISTINCTIVE HOMES

VOL. 2, 2019

Conscious of Context

Moore China White. Most modern designers would go for a purer white, and the wife hesitated, but she was pleasantly surprised at how well it worked, Brian says. “The colors we presented were very warm, not stark white, and she said she would never have picked the white, but she loved how it gave the house warmth throughout and avoided a cold modern box with black windows,” he says.

“Back in the day when people used creamy whites, they were pairing them with tan and beige, and everything felt muddy,” Jennifer adds. “This lends a little softness, so that when you do striking navy blue in the bath, it still seems homey and inviting. It’s something we play with in all our projects.”



This page: The sleek modern palette of colors and materials is softened with a creamy white paint hue. The color keeps the house homey and inviting, while still providing contrast for bold touches.



Passive Aggressive

This is Mowery Marsh’s first certified Passive house, though a previous renovation fell just short of the requirements. Because most of their clients don’t have Passive house goals, Mowery and Marsh try not to lead with the conversation, but it’s a layer of rigor they apply to every commission. “Once you do Passive house construction, you can’t go back because the detailing of a regular house is so bad,” says Brian, who is trained in Passive house standards. These owners were familiar with the concept, however, and saw the value of getting the house certified. “They thought, absolutely, why wouldn’t you build this way?” he says.

It took some serious networking to find a Passive house-trained subcontractor who could oversee critical tasks such as insulation and air sealing. The general contractor, Mike Passafume, embraced the building science aspects and said, “You tell me what you want me to do, and I’ll do it,” Brian recalls. “But I knew from past experience that