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UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH JEAN DE MERRY
ONES TO WATCH: GEMMA PARKER & CLAIRE STASZAK
STEPHANIE WOHLNER'S FRENCH-INSPIRED RETREAT



From top: "The skylight was a piece of art in itself," says the wife. Architect Kevin Toukouridis at dSPACE Studio made the most of a narrow footprint by building up. "I wouldn't want anything bigger; we utilize every inch of the space," the wife adds; built-in walnut cabinetry houses a bar and coordinates with architectural woodwork in the husband's closet.

...CONTINUED "The husband likes more midcentury and modern, and the wife wanted something more transitional and soft," Hickman says. She worked closely with her clients to choose fabrics and furnishings that would complement the architecture while warming up the space and still satisfying their disparate design tastes.

To that end, Hickman deployed natural wools, shearlings, linens and leathers throughout the home, giving a nod to the midcentury vibe while softening the crisp lines of the architecture and adding some pattern for interest.

"It was more about texture and layers and subtle tones," explains the designer.

In the long and rectangular living room, she swathed a 13-foot custom sofa in a charcoal wool cashmere, countering the straight lines with a pair of curved chairs for a relaxed look. Accented by walnut cabinets with a clever sliding panel to conceal the television, the room appeals to both husband and wife.

A banquette in the kitchen is covered in a durable outdoor *Perennials* fabric. Behind it, Hickman upholstered a wall flanked by glass with leather panels to "give some softness to the space," she says. A live-edge walnut table can handle anything the kids throw at

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