

Maya Angelou has a quote, “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” I think about this now while writing about our home – 96 Jefferson Avenue. While wall paper has been stripped and replaced with paint, and carpet has been removed to reveal the beauty of the chestnut and oak floors, the bones and feeling of this house have always remained the same.

We moved to Maplewood from Manhattan with our toddler son, and were attracted by the beautiful architectural character of the homes, the lush plantings in the area, and the artistic community. We absolutely loved the southern exposure orientation and light in the house, and bought it the day we first visited. Leaving the city for the suburbs was a big step and, initially, it seemed so quiet but we quickly grew to love this home where you could relax and breathe with ample space. From the street it is deceptive in size, and it is hard to see that there are 7 rooms on the second and third levels that can be used as bedrooms. There are many rooms that serve as places of gathering, and many places for time alone and quiet contemplation. Through large, light-filled windows, we’ve enjoyed watching the spring flowers emerge, the fall leaves change into beautiful red and orange tones, and then disappear, to be replaced by glistening icicles.

My husband launched his architectural practice in the home office before moving to Maplewood Village. I have used it since then as my full-time office, giving me the flexibility to manage work, home, and raise our children. Over the years we’ve renovated the house to accentuate the light, the yard, and to create an understated, finely-crafted, and timeless interior, incorporating many of the features used in the homes of my husband’s clients. This center hall colonial house provided the structure for us to be able to add the details and charm we wanted in our home, which has been renovated from top to bottom.

The large and very private backyard can only be fully appreciated by walking out to the back and sitting on the bench under the arbor, shaded by plum trees. It is a lovely, quiet place to sit and read, or bask in the glorious beauty of the blooming trees and chirping birds in spring. The flower garden island, with two dogwood trees and all the perennials date from the time when the house served as a local parsonage with a gardener. We have continued to add flowering trees and bushes so it offers a year of changing colours. The yard has been a wonderful backdrop in our lives, from kids’ birthday parties to prom photos in front of the arbor. The bluestone terrace across the back of the house has been a true source of joy. Many nights have been enjoyed on the terrace, grilling dinner and talking as the sun sets and the fireflies begin to sparkle.

This home is a wonderful place to host gatherings of friends and family, from the easy flow of the public rooms on the first floor, to the game room in the basement, to the guest suite on the third floor. The bedrooms are particularly gorgeous in autumn, as the light and warm colorful glow of the surrounding tree leaves stream in through the upper windows.

This home has given us much happiness over the years and now it is time for it to nurture another family, as it did ours. We hope you will enjoy its beauty and comfort as much as we have so that you, too, can call this special place home.