

# FLIGHT OF FANCY

With nowhere to go but up, a creative family expands their space in San Francisco.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY FLETCHER RHODES  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA BURKE  
 ARCHITECT: JOHN LUM ARCHITECTURE  
 BUILDER: CB CONSTRUCTION



**W**hen Emily Mughannam of Fletcher Rhodes describes this San Francisco renovation, the design brief is clear: "Space! Color! Happiness! And a yellow dining table."

She'd first worked with the clients at the start of her career in 2012. "We both had just started families, and we connected through that," she recalls. "They had just done a major renovation with architect John Lum and Cameron Bryce of CB Construction. The original house is a 1900s Victorian that hadn't been updated since the '80s. They opened up the small rooms, updated finishes, and redid bathrooms to make it current for the family."

Fast forward to 2020, and the family of now five was cramped and desperately in need of more space. Instead of moving, they decided on an addition. "In San Francisco, the only way to add is to go up, so that's what they decided to do," Emily says. The original team assembled and crafted a plan to add a third story. Permitting took roughly two years, but in 2022 they were ready to break ground. "Or should I say," Emily says with a laugh, "rip the roof off."

In the process, they decided to upgrade the main living spaces, including the kitchen, dining, and living areas. "The footprint of the home didn't change on the main level, but we needed to reimagine the rooms and how they were used," the designer explains. "They told us they all spent the majority of their time surrounding the kitchen island and cooking together or doing homework."

The existing sink was moved to the sidewall, allowing for a larger island and more usable space. The dining room became more of a lounge with comfortable banquette seating and, yes, that statement yellow dining table. Finally, the hallway became an extension of the kitchen with plenty of storage and Signature Kitchen Suite's 48-inch French Door refrigerator.

"The clients were so relieved to have their own space back after 18 months," Emily shares. "I think they were shocked this was the same house. With some changes in color, finish, and layout, it felt like a new home altogether."

**1 Hub of the Home**  
 "We painted the cabinets a very subtle neutral green (Farrow & Ball's Mizzle) that carries into every space through other textiles and art," says interior designer Emily Mughannam. The pendant light is by Ladies & Gentlemen Studio.

**3 Order Up**  
 The design team worked with Kenwood Cabinetry and Lutz Plumbing on the kitchen. Symphony Stone by Aurea Stone in a polished finish makes a big visual impact, while hardware from Park Studio adds an organic touch. The bar stools are from Hammer and Spear.

**2 Gathering Place**  
 "The dining space is so light and airy," Emily says. "Between the chinoiserie mural done by Charles Leonard, the super comfortable dining seating (upholstered in Kravet), a bright yellow table from Community Manufacturing, and leather chairs from DWR, it's a place anyone would want to hang out in for hours."

**4 Practice in Patience**  
 Once the roof was removed, the Bay Area experienced massive rains for months. "It caused huge delays and some minor headaches inside," the designer recalls. The expert team forged ahead, and the space is now a happy, uplifting, and colorful home-base for the family of five.