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The Art of Adding Classical Details to a New Home

Wood flooring, custom trim and symmetrical design can transform a cookie-cutter house into a timeless interior

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Keep All Eyes on Symmetry

Symmetry is a term thrown around quite a bit in architecture and interior design. This ubiquitous design concept, which denotes equally balanced parts often mirrored from one side to another, could be considered elemental in classical spaces.

“Neoclassical characteristics typically feature symmetry and the balance of straight lines and geometric shapes,” said Georgia Zikas, an interior designer in West Hartford, Connecticut. “We see these interiors with symmetrical door casings, the placement of windows, and even in furniture seating.” Ms. Zikas regularly refers to mirrored furniture plans as “Noah’s Ark” since the room features pairs of everything.

Symmetry in architecture can readily exhibit a neoclassical feel. Think traditional built-ins—these anchors ultimately create a more classic room.

Flanking a fireplace with a pair of matching bookcases, for instance, is a straightforward solution to achieve symmetry in an existing home, according to Ms. Zikas. Twin display cabinets with glass doors—ideal for showcasing an assortment of accouterments and collectibles—are a variation to open bookcases. Shelves can be accessorized to mirror one another in terms of scale and items, whether you choose books, pottery,

