

DESIGN + DECOR

CONNECTICUT
NEW JERSEY
NEW YORK

KITCHEN ENVY 2021



\$7.99 US/\$8.99 CANADA



DISPLAY UNTIL 06/14/21



FAMILY COMPANIES

STONE & LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

Exceptional Products, Personal Service

WESTPORT SHOWROOM

203.227.5181

BETHEL SHOWROOM

203.790.9023

gaultstone.com





From simple to intricate designs, California Closets systems are custom designed specifically for you and the way you live.

CALIFORNIA CLOSETS®

californiaclosets.com   @caliclosetsnyc

NEW YORK CITY 26 Varick St | 1625 York Ave WESTCHESTER 16 Saw Mill River Rd, Hawthorne

ROCKLAND & HUDSON VALLEY 83 S Main St, New City 914.592.1001

CONNECTICUT 565 Westport Ave, Norwalk 203.924.8444

ARCHITECTURE | INTERIOR DESIGN | NEW HOMES | RENOVATIONS | ADDITIONS



TAYLOR-VIAZZO
ARCHITECTS

TVARCHITECTS.COM | 914-740-5966 | INSTAGRAM.COM/TAYLORVIAZZOARCHITECTS



RingsEnd.com | 800.390.1000

f i p in

Branford | Danbury | Darien | Fairfield | Lewisboro
Madison | New Milford | Norwalk | Orange | Stamford
Trumbull | Westport | Wethersfield | Wilton

HunterDouglas



Your Inspiration. Our Expertise.



settled.

THE PREMIER HOME ORGANIZATION FIRM



The first step to eliminating distraction and achieving your potential? An elevated and holistic transformation of your home.

settledhome.com

[@settled.home](https://www.instagram.com/settled.home)

Ask us about our designer partnerships!

info@settledhome.com



HARTLEY  BOTANIC

HANDMADE WITH PRIDE SINCE 1938

STRUCTURALLY
SUPERIOR



BESPOKE VICTORIAN GLASSHOUSE
Wyoming, USA



THE VICTORIAN LODGE
Washington, USA



THE MODERN MAGNUM OPUS
RHS Hampton Court Palace Show, UK



THE HERITAGE HIGHGROW
Devon, UK

Discover the secret of Hartley Botanic by calling 781 933 1993 or visit www.hartley-botanic.com

 **RHS**
Inspiring everyone to grow

HANDMADE IN ENGLAND
CHERISHED IN AMERICA

The only aluminium Glasshouses and Greenhouses endorsed by the RHS

© The Royal Horticultural Society 2021. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society, Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262. rhs.org.uk



DESIGN + DECOR

CONNECTICUT
NEW JERSEY
NEW YORK

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 2 | 2021



59 PARK AVENUE SPLENDOR

A symphony of boldly orchestrated elegance

Story by Sean Jarvis

Photography by SGM Photography + Danlly Domingo



72 THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Designer Diane Durocher blends Traditional and Modern in this Mahwah, New Jersey Victorian Home

Story by Ross Robinson

Photography by Mike Van Tassel



84 LONG ISLAND LUXE

Transitioning from a large home to an apartment, a couple trades traditional for contemporary.

Story by Meryl Seigman

Photography by Marco Ricca

DEPARTMENTS

- 10 Editor's Letter
- 20 Ask the Experts
- 96 Profile

- 16 Melange
- 22 Kitchen Envy



The Affordable Closet Experts

Custom designed simple to elegant closets. We offer a full line of materials that range from melamine laminate to stained wood with your choice of finish. Our professional closet designers will be happy to give you a free in-home consultation.

Our state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities enable us to keep our quality high and our prices low.

- Home Office & Mudroom Areas
- Entertainment Centers
- Bookcases
- Pantries
- Garage Systems
- Accessories

QUALITY FIRST



Factory Direct!



QUALITY STAINED WOOD & MELAMINE SYSTEMS

Free In-Home Consultation

203-847-4179

Visit our showroom: 6-B Muller Park
Norwalk, CT 06851

DESIGN + DECOR

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 2 - 2021

Editor-in-Chief
Matthew J. Kolk
mattkolk@me.com
203-820-1092

Managing Editor
James Eagen

Contributing Writers
Deborah Brannon, Lisa Gant, Susan Heller, Alder Grove,
Anna von Stelzer-Worth, Kait Shea, Anastasia Storer

Contributing Photographers
Jane Beiles, Michael Biondo, Phillip Ennis, Tria Giovan,
John Gruen, John Hannon, Paul Johnson, Neil Landino,
Mark La Rosa, Tim Lee, Daniel Milstein, Janice Parker,
Durstion Saylor, Debra Somerville, Eric Striffler,
Jonathan Wallen, Woodruff/Brown Photography

Copy Editor
Elena Serocki

Graphic & Web Design
East Coast Home Publishing

Social Media
Alessandra Flanagan

Group Publisher
Shelley E. McCormick
sm@dd-mag.com
203-545-7091

Account Managers
Jane O'Reilly
Kelly Ames Smith

Design + Decor
7485 Inspira Circle #1203
Naples, Florida 34113

Design + Decor is published six issues per year. To subscribe: www.dd-mag.com; Subscriptions: one year, \$28; two years, \$50. Back issues can be purchased at www.dd-mag.com. For editorial inquiries: Editor, Design + Decor, 7485 Inspira Circle #1203 Naples, Florida 34113 or e-mail: mattkolk@me.com. For advertising inquiries: Please call Shelley McCormick at 203-545-7091. Reproduction whole or in part without permission is prohibited. All projects described in this publication are for private, noncommercial use only. No rights for commercial use or exploitation are given or implied. The opinions expressed by writers for articles published by Design + Decor are not necessarily those of the magazine.

EAST COAST HOME PUBLISHING
7485 Inspira Circle #1203
Naples, Florida 34113
DD-MAG.COM



PLAIN
CUSTOM CABINETS
& FANCY

KITCHENS

BATHROOMS

OFFICES

MUDROOMS

AND MORE

FRONT ROW KITCHENS

117 NEW CANAAN AVENUE | NORWALK, CT 06850 | 203.849.0302 | FRONTROWKITCHENS.COM



21 Bridge Square Westport CT 06880
203.331.5578 jan@janhiltzinteriorsllc.com
www.janhiltzinteriorsllc.com

EDITOR'S LETTER



Get your kitchen on in this issue of Design + Decor! Our Kitchen Envy department is filled to the brim with some truly fabulous kitchens from our favorite design partners elevating the bar from simply functional to chic and sophisticated.

Planning a kitchen design is a very difficult thing to do as it is the most expensive room in the house and serves as "mission control" for your family. The sheer variety of styles and the thoughtful design as to how each family utilizes this space shines through. A great big "fantastic job" to all of them.

Our three feature stories are world-class as well. All three designers: Jacqueline Cutler, Diane Durocher and Robin Baron showcase very different styles in each of the stories and it's interesting to look closely at each project to see how they put their stamp on their projects through their own personal touches. A sign of true professionals. Thank you ladies for sharing your exquisite work with our readers.

In our next issue, we will be featuring a multitude of Outdoor Spaces. It will be interesting to see these projects come to light and the creativity involved in individualizing each space since the focus of the home has turned to the outdoors during the crisis. We look forward to sharing them with you.

Until next time, we hope that you can enjoy the change in season as we move towards being able to enjoy the outdoors again!

Best,

Matthew Kolke - Editor in Chief



DEMOTTE
• ARCHITECTS • P C •

203-431-8890 • brad@demottearchitects.com • [@demottearchitects](https://www.instagram.com/demottearchitects)



P&I CUSTOM BUILDERS

BUILD - RENOVATE - DESIGN BUILD

WESTCHESTER COUNTY | FAIRFIELD COUNTY

WWW.PNICB.COM | INFO@PNICB.COM | (914) 967-0413

209 NORTH ST | RYE, NY 10586



MICHAEL
SMITH
ARCHITECTS

NORWALK, CONNECTICUT | P. 203.563.0553

WWW.MICHAELSMITHARCHITECTS.COM



Amy Andrews for
Hilton Interiors

Tel: 203.717.1005 | @hiltoninteriors | hilton-interiors.com



FORM LTD

KITCHEN AND BATH DESIGN



MELANGE

IN THE MOOD

DESIGN + DECOR ASKS SOME OF OUR FAVORITE DESIGNERS TO CREATE MOOD BOARDS FOR THEIR FAVORITE SPACES IN PART ONE OF THIS TWO PART SERIES

Coastal Bedroom

ND Interiors | ndinteriors.com

A bedroom should be an oasis of calm that helps you leave the stress of the outside world behind.

This luxe beach style is achieved by using colors found in nature and by employing contrasting textures to envelop you in a dreamy and comfortable environment.

From the earthy feel of the Abaca fiber bed to the soft felted wool of the rug, every piece was selected to bring a sense of luxury and escape.



Randolph & Hein Twister Sidetable



Made Goods Hetty Mirror



Cowtan & Tout Casablanca Fabric



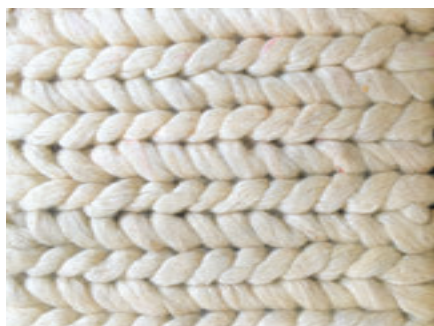
The Shade Store Drapery



Bernhardt /Allanis Bed



*Palecek
Antilles
Lamp*



Blossom Wool Rug



G.

John Richard Credenza



A D A M S
INTERIOR
DESIGN

MELISSA ADAMS GRUBER

Owner, Associate ASID

917.886.6666

AIDESIGNNY@OPTIMUM.NET



DEAR CLIENTS, FRIENDS, AND COLLEAGUES

We want to take this time to reach out and encourage everyone to **STAY WELL**. As we continue to work towards a healthier population, don't forget that the space that we inhabit and the care we give it has been proven to have a positive effect on our physical and mental well-being. Many of you may be considering a big move out of The City. We want to dedicate ourselves to making your home fit your ideals. As **home renovation specialists**, we can help you envision the potential of your new real estate purchase. You will need a project manager who can keep your design and renovation projects on track.

Many of us struggle to work productively from home as we now contend with multi-use rooms. Others are wondering how they managed to live so long with spaces that aren't working properly for them. We can help you re-imagine your environment, bringing a fresh perspective to your existing home.

We provide our clients comprehensive services to execute each project for the most successful design transformation.

CLIENT SERVICES INCLUDE

Architectural Design
Furniture Layout

Space Planning
Paint Consult

Lighting and Plumbing Fixtures
Furnishings

Tile Design
Vendor Selection

Supervision & Coordination
Scheduling & Installation

OUR SCOPE INCLUDES NEW HOME PURCHASE, NEW CONSTRUCTION, AND RENOVATIONS



W W W . A I D E S I G N N Y . C O M

MELANGE

Crisp + Chic Kitchen

Daniella Hoffer Interiors | daniellahofferinteriors.com

The kitchen has painted cabinets in two shades of blue, warm wood, leather tones and is infused with a fresh, crisp feel which brightens up the space.

The combination of textures in the tile and furniture, as well as brass and chrome finishes, creates a distinctive space which is functional, timeless...and exquisite.



Hudson Valley Lighting
Liberty 5046 AGB



Robert Abbey
Ranger Pendant



Buster + Punch Brass Furniture Knob

LITZE® Pull-Down Faucet with Angled
Spout and Knurled Handle

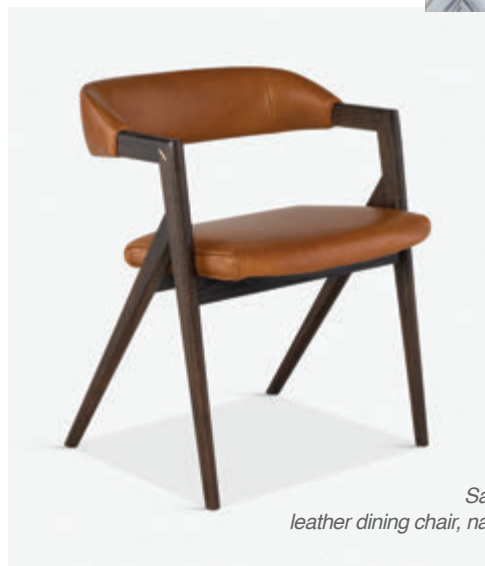
Tile Bar Soleras Avana Chevron Pattern
8x32 Porcelain Tile



Calacatta Bluette Marble Field Tile

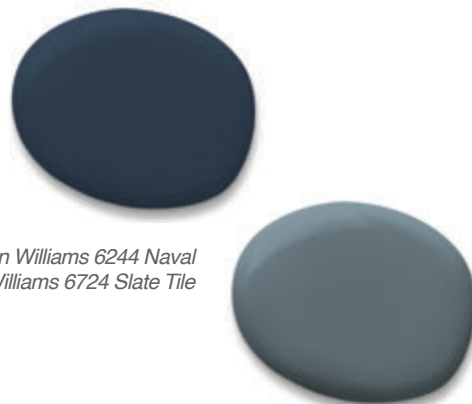


Aronson Woodworks Pedestal Table



Sandia
leather dining chair, natural

Sherwin Williams 6244 Naval
Sherwin Williams 6724 Slate Tile



ROBERT A. CARDELLO

RAC

ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN
CARDELLOARCHITECTS.COM
GREENWICH | WESTPORT
203.853.2524



ASK THE EXPERTS

AMERICAN-MADE SUSTAINABILITY

Story by Sean Jarvis



Custom cabinetry built by Nayaug & Co. LLC, Glastonbury, CT
Hand blown pendants by Tracy Glover Studio, Pawtucket, RI



Custom soapstone sink by Vermont Soapstone Co., Perkinsville, VT
Galvanized steel base by Foreman Welding, Durham, CT
Azeq beadboard and sink cabinet by Cuomo Construction, Durham, CT
Antique reproduction cabinet by Brunarhans, Woodstock, CT

Behind every piece of American-made furniture is a story waiting to be told, and Lisa Davenport of LDD Interiors has a library's worth. With an enthusiasm that is as inspiring as it is infectious, Lisa is a strong advocate of the importance of staying local when it comes to furnishing your home. "My mission is to get people to think a little bit differently, to take a minute and ask, 'How am I really spending my money?' I want people to stop and consider where their furniture came from and where it will end up going." When it comes to American-made, craftsmanship and high-quality materials go hand-in-hand with creating furniture that can last decades and be passed down from generation to generation.

Minimizing Impact

Along with being durable, American-made products have many positive ecological aspects. Finding American companies that minimize their environmental impact through proper material harvesting, furniture production and waste-disposal methods has become Lisa's forte. "I enjoy and feel strongly about working with American-made products because I care a lot about our environment," she says. "The United States has some of the strictest environmental laws, thanks to the Environmental Protection Agency. Products made in other countries are not held to the same standards as ours. It makes

you wonder: What's going out into the environment, the water, the air, the landfills?"

For Lisa, the answers to these important questions strongly influence her decision-making process. "Gat Creek and some other American-made companies we work with have zero waste," she says. "They use leftover cutoffs to heat their factories, grind them down to use as fill, or make them into wood chips for gardens and stables." While many clients worry that there is a high premium for labor with American-made goods, they don't consider the tariffs on overseas products, shipping costs or environmental effects of cheap manufacturing. "With our desire for instant gratification, we're not paying attention to the ecological ramifications of purchasing low-quality furniture, which will soon end up in a landfill," says Lisa. "For these reasons, we need to support local, American-made companies that are actively working to reduce their carbon footprint."

Creating Communities

Lisa has seen firsthand what goes into the production of American-made furniture, and loves to share that experience with her clients. "Quite a few companies we use have invited us to tour their factories and get a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into the beautiful furniture they make. We get to meet the



Camel and blue chairs by CR Laine, Hickory, NC
 Coffee table by Old Hickory Furniture, Shelbyville, IN
 Furnishings by Lloyd Flanders, Menominee, MI
 Fire pit custom built by Creative Exteriors, Vernon, CT

craftsmen and learn about the history of the business and the materials. It's a personal experience for everyone involved, and it makes it so much easier to educate my clients when I've been educated by the craftsman and tradesman who created the furniture."

When buying American-made products from small companies, you have the opportunity to develop personal relationships with different people, getting on a first-name basis with the tradesmen and learning about their families and the background of the company. "I believe in keeping my fellow Americans working," says Lisa, "and I love to showcase what I refer to as 'local homegrown talent.' I believe in the American story, and it's one of the reasons I enjoy working with American artisans and American business owners, and specifying American products to my clients."

Working with American-made companies creates a feeling of community and camaraderie that you won't find when purchasing prefabricated furniture overseas. You also miss out on the hands-on experience of designing custom pieces with artisans who are able to match finishes and styles with your current aesthetic. As people spend more time living and working from home, you want to be surrounded by items that bring you joy. "2020 has taught us a lot of great lessons," says Lisa. "It has taught us to embrace our home and, now that we're home more, to furnish it with products made in our local community."

Resource:

*Lisa Davenport
 LDD Interiors
 140 West Street, Unit 303
 Middlefield, CT 06455
 860.316.5718
 lddinteriors.com*

MAJESTIC

KITCHENS AND BATH

Celebrating 63 Years!

914.381.1302

700 Fenimore Rd

Mamaroneck, NY

www.majestickitchens.com

KITCHENS

KITCHEN ENVY

A plethora of fabulous kitchens that will have you saying "I want that!"

Story by Susan Winlow



HEMINGWAY CONSTRUCTION MUSE INTERIORS

A much-needed overhaul of an outdated 20-year-old kitchen resulted in a warm and airy transitional space that combines modern and functional with traditional.

Peter Sciarretta and the talented professionals at Hemingway Fine Homes and Lauren Muse of Muse Interiors created this fantastic look, giving a large family usable space that allows for comfortable distancing as a nod to the new normal of COVID-19. The stunning white kitchen backdrop is aided by navy cabinets, pops of blue and a mixture of textures to bring warmth and character to this cozy space. "It's important for a kitchen of this size to mix textures, which is why you see a combination of door fronts such as metal mesh detail, glass and solid wood," says Lauren. "The glass has a slight restoration to it; it's clear but has a soft wave to it that gives it character. The backsplash is also a handmade tile that has variation to it."

As soon as you walk into the kitchen, the striking conservatory top draws attention upward to a spectacular, unobstructed view of infinity. The drench of sunlight keeps away the need for lights during the day, but this impressive traditional piece meets modernity at the ceiling, with 42-inch circular light fixtures hanging on stainless-steel chains. "The ceiling here is the sky, and that's what is so amazing," Peter says. "It just keeps going." Referring to the light fixtures, Peter adds, "Modern and traditional meet at the ceiling."

The previous kitchen had a square island that was cumbersome, underutilized and so large that only the perimeter could be used. The team created double islands to establish a traffic pattern and allow for a more functional countertop and additional storage. They painted the islands navy and the surrounding cabinets in a calm, light gray with a touch of brightness.





A lovely yet durable Carrera quartz was chosen for the countertops, a decision that aided in choosing the kitchen's overall color palette. A stunning matte and polished stainless-steel hood, large-scale ceiling lights, ceramic backsplash and stainless-steel toe kicks fuse effortlessly to complete this modern-meets-traditional kitchen.

"Aesthetically, I just love how it flows," Lauren says. "It's very functional; it's very well thought-out. I'm happy that the clients are happy."

Resources:

Hemingway Construction
Peter Sciarretta
115 Mason Street
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830
203.625.0566
hemingwayconstruction.com

Muse Interiors
Lauren Muse
469 West Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830
203.344.9444
museinteriors.net

JWH DESIGN & CABINETRY





This light and airy kitchen in Rye, NY, is brimming with natural light, bringing out the beauty and harmony of the remodeled portion of this 20-plus-year-old home.

Jennifer Howard of JWH Design & Cabinetry says the homeowners' needs had changed over the years. Their children had grown and had children of their own, so the owners were looking for a large, comfortable area for weekend visits and Sunday dinners.

The clients' desire to entertain their family in a large, welcoming space necessitated some extensive wall demolition. Jennifer's team combined the dining room, kitchen and foyer into one delightful room rife with stunning colors, natural elements and metals, illuminated by the natural light from a large bank of windows. "Everything about this project is natural," Jennifer says. "When you're in the business, you tend to fall in love with natural, and it's nice to stay natural when you can."

The stunning beamed ceiling, made with untreated reclaimed wood from a barn, conceals the needed structural beam and gives the space a sense of rhythm. It also provides visual separation within the large area, without the need for intrusive delineators.

The wood-beamed mantel over the natural-rock gas fireplace is identical





to the ceiling beams, and ties in effortlessly with the dining room table and chairs. Adding to this complementary duo is the dark oak flooring, with a bit of sheen that helps reflect light to the center of the room. The dark floor stain beautifully balances the oil-rubbed hardware of the drawer pulls and gooseneck faucet over the lovely farmhouse sink.

The blue cabinets surrounding the fireplace are perfectly in sync with the durable bluish gray-veined quartzite countertop. They also play nicely with the creamy white subway tile backsplash and the magnificent custom copper hood over the Wolf range, with its tell-tale red knobs. The white wood cabinetry, with the added textured glass paneling, adds a sleek, clean contrast to the dark in this warm and inviting room full of storage and seating.

“It’s a good representation of mixing metals and mixing colors,” Jennifer says. “This looks like the homeowner’s kitchen and her personality, but the elements still look very classic.”

Resources:

JWH Design & Cabinetry
Jennifer Howard
 1111 Boston Post Road
 Rye, NY 10580
 914.967.6020
jwbdesigns.com



GERMAN ENGINEERED.

Experience the difference.

(203) 667-1187

UWEWINDOWSANDDOORS.COM

HOGUE INTERIOR DESIGN







When you see the state-of-the-art kitchen in this beautiful Westport, CT, home, two thoughts come to mind: the homeowner has impeccable taste, and the designers created this kitchen as a jaw-dropping showcase.

Obviously, beauty comes into play, but this kitchen also owns the word “functionality.” What’s more, it’s proof that a spec or model home doesn’t have to be a tidy, neutral-colored residence with an impersonal kitchen and no pizzazz. “It’s a remarkable and unique kitchen,” says Michelle Hogue of Hogue Interior Design. “We made every decision in this house as if we were building it for ourselves.”

Michelle teamed up with architect John Halper on this extraordinary project, which won two distinguished Home Building Industry awards. The kitchen boasts a sleek fusion of surprise design elements, such as a steel ceiling beam that blends with the stained black oak, reclaimed gray and high-gloss white cabinetry, splendid wide-plank character oak flooring, high-end appliances, and a delightful fusing of metals that pulls together a sophisticated modern look that touts functionality as well as good looks.

The eye is immediately drawn to the oversized island, with its black-stained oak base and slim, black, easy-clean Corian countertop. This stunning island surprises with a built-in notch that allows the table to slide in, giving the island two-tiered functionality that also doubles as a casual dining



area. The table slides out to accommodate additional guests, seated in high-quality natural linen upholstered barrel chairs. Also included in the island is a Gaggenau induction cooktop and ample storage, with rear cabinets and front drawers.

Michelle decided to forgo upper cabinets to create a more open look, but that doesn't mean the kitchen lacks cabinet space. On the contrary, a lengthy bank of walnut-lined drawers with interior drawers—a drawer within a drawer—runs the length of the window. Its lovely waterfall countertop offers sleek, clean lines that sync well with the rest of the kitchen.

Beautiful and discreet lighting, picture-perfect windows and an inviting con-

versation area tempt guests to sit and chat while a meal is being prepared. This dynamic project is proof that homeowners don't have to choose between functionality and sleek modern beauty.

Resources:

Hogue Interior Design
Michelle Hogue
Westport, CT
Santa Rosa Beach, FL
850.622.3760
hogueid.com

DESIGNED *for life* | CREATE YOUR HAPPY PLACE



TILE AMERICA

SEE IT IN YOUR ROOM
 SCAN TO GET STARTED



AMAZING SHOWROOMS | INSIGHTFUL ADVICE

A Connecticut family business for over 50 years

BROOKFIELD | FAIRFIELD | MANCHESTER | NEW HAVEN | NEW LONDON | STAMFORD | WEST HARTFORD

DESIGN BY THE JONATHANS





A spectacular remodel of a 1920s beach bungalow in Milford, CT, gave two law enforcement officers a stunning kitchen with sophistication, poise and a unique focal point—a fusion quartzite backsplash with a dramatic swoosh.

The naturally intense colors in the backsplash—greens, turquoise, purples, rust, grays and blacks—lend themselves organically to the matching countertops and distinctive black quartz sink in the island, which Jonathan Gordon of Design by the Jonathans says is “pretty much impervious to everything.” The modern-style bridge faucet in matte black and the art-glass pendant lighting with a modified finish—from stainless steel to matte black—work in unison to accentuate the stone backsplash. “The glass itself mimics the stone in such a way that it doesn’t detract from it,” Jonathan says. “It allows us to pull the elements straight in, without clashing and without it making it seem as if they’re fighting in any way.”

The glossy subway tile around the stone and the narrowed neck on the vented hood both play off the high-end appliances and give the stone a chance to shine within its own background vignette. “The high gloss is a beach feel, but leaves it to be innocuous and lets the stone do the talking,” Jonathan says. “It pulls off the beachy vibe but doesn’t scream ‘beach.’”

The light-colored wood cabinets, some with glass panels, the unique but utilitarian island







piano curve with coordinated curved edging, and the pickled and gray washed white oak flooring add to the sleek and seamless design of the functional yet beautiful kitchen.

That is what the homeowners asked of Jonathan—to create a functional space that gives a hint of beach, but not too much, which is a long way from the vibe of the prior kitchen. The kitchen's previous diminutive state necessitated opening walls to both the dining room and living room. The age and shape of the house—including evidence of a past fire that had burned some beams—required some foundation work, such as jacking up the sagging foundation, before work on the kitchen could begin.

“We accomplished what we set out to accomplish,” Jonathan says. “We gave two very hard-working people a retreat. It’s bright and open and has the ability to do whatever they want. And it has the beachy vibe without screaming ‘beach house.’”

Resources:

Design by the Jonathans
 Jonathan Gordon
 Jonathan Robner
 85 Willow Street
 New Haven, CT 06511
 203.557.3205
 thejonathans.com

AUSTIN GANIM LANDSCAPE DESIGN, LLC



Design • Installation • Maintenance
203.333.2003
www.AustinGanimLandscapeDesign.com

Licensed & Insured: B-2036, HIC.0602611, HIC.0602612, 54820

MAJESTIC KITCHENS + BATH





They say the devil is in the details, and that is wildly true of this fantastic kitchen in Larchmont, NY.

Vincent Carilli of Majestic Kitchens + Bath says the detailed process took 20-plus renditions to design, with changes made continuously throughout the collaborative process. The result is a magnificent functional, transitional kitchen that plays off the natural lighting from an extended bank of windows in this extra-long rectangular room.

The most prominent features in this space are stunning double islands with beautiful natural wood countertops from Grothouse. The dual islands add functionality and ease of movement. The original plans called for a single, long island that would have necessitated a lengthy walk around one side or the other to get to the opposite side of the kitchen. The break in the two islands—one more utilitarian and another for seating—offers easy access to the kitchen from the dining room. The island with the seating offers a convenient built-in microwave and ample storage, and there are double garbage pails in each island.





Vincent used stunning Bardiglio Nuvolato marble strategically on the walls and for the countertops, which top dark gray maple cabinets. The five-centimeter marble thickness allows for the detailed beveled edging, which matches the beveled edges on the cabinets and further mimics the beveled kitchen hardware. "It's a detail we did to make this very interesting," Vincent says. "The five-centimeter material gave us the width, so we could take a big cut out of the bottom in order to bevel." As a surprise, watertight pop-up outlets are embedded within the marble.

Since there is only one back wall, Vincent even had to deal with appliance location in finite detail. The strategic decision to place the sink and range with a downdraft feature on the long counter below the windows offered its own set of essential considerations. Vincent says it was important that both the sink and range be centered exactly within the corresponding window. "It was critical as to how the cabinets and windows were layered," he explains. "They had to be centered under the window, or it would throw off the visual if they didn't align perfectly."

Vincent's attention to detail pulled together a sleek, sophisticated kitchen that made great use of the natural lighting and the elongated room size. "It was challenging," he says. "It was not done in a weekend; we worked on this for a long time."

Resources:

Majestic Kitchens + Bath
Vincent Carilli
 700 Fenimore Road
 Mamaronock, NY 10543
 914.381.1302
majestickitchens.com



Architecture: Charles Hilton Architects
 Photography: Robert Benson



HOBBS, INC.

**DISTINCTIVE HOMES
 ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS**

CONNECTICUT • NEW YORK
 NEW JERSEY

203.966.0726
www.hobbsinc.com

FORM LTD









About 13 years ago, John Leontiou and FORM Ltd. designed a stunning kitchen in Larchmont, NY, in a country/traditional style. John and his team came back over a decade later when the homeowner wanted an update and a more transitional or modern look. “We made the kitchen feel more open and spacious by design layout and colors,” John says.

The new design layout makes it easier to access the eating area, patio and family room. The team also removed a barely used bar area and replaced it with a zero-clearance gas fireplace, and added a flat-screen TV to a recessed area above the fireplace.

The new kitchen features a unique island countertop with two different materials and heights: the first level, designated as a work area, is composed of three-centimeter Patomic marble, and the second level, for eating, is made from American black walnut with a natural finish. “This makes the counter a much softer material to eat and work on,” John says.

The island blends flawlessly with the rest of the kitchen, with matching marble for the backsplash, a serene neutral palette, and satin brass finished cabinet hardware that evokes calm and peace. The globe glass pendant lighting, recessed lights, glass-paneled cabinets and neutral-colored wallcoverings give the kitchen a light, bright and clean feeling. Even the ceiling plays a magnificent part in the story, with the original exposed ceiling joists modified to fit into the new design.

“Our client was willing to make a real change,” John says, “not only in the kitchen layout, colors and finishes, but in the types of appliances we used and the change from the wet bar to the fireplace and TV.”

Resources:

FORM Ltd
John Leontiou
32 West Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830
203.869.6880
formlimited.com

habitatgreenwich

gifts • decor • furnishings • artwork



interior design services

personal shopping experiences

cos cob design district

234 east putnam avenue

greenwich botanical center shop

130 bible street

habitatgreenwich.com





What started out as a slight refresh—perhaps replacing a backsplash, outdated lighting and countertops—ended up being a much larger project that incorporates new and old in a seamless fit that makes for happy homeowners.

The clients were interested in keeping their budget under control and, with some high-end fixtures and appliances already in place, they weren't too eager to replace some of the prevailing pieces of the kitchen. For example, the existing traditional columned cabinets were extremely costly, but not the homeowners' current style. So they sought out Melissa Adams of Adams Interior Design to create a new environment using some of the existing pieces.

The kitchen originally had a distinct niche Tuscan feel, with buttermilk glazed cabinets and some celadon blue accent walls—a distinct country look. Blending those elements to create a more contemporary and timeless look required a lot of forethought for Melissa and her team.

They decided to stay away from the oft-used navy and charcoal accent colors, and instead use a deep dark spruce, almost black, for the island and the dining room bench seats, moving the color palette from greens to browns and grays. The perimeter cabinets were done in Benjamin Moore Sea Spruce. Instead of painting, Melissa used linen grasscloth with gold detailing that picks up on the tranquil earthy tones and looks stunning with the champagne bronze fixtures and lighting throughout the space. The glass tabletop in the dining room not only makes cleaning easy, but also lightens and brightens the entire room with its coordinating Jaipur dining room rug. In addition, the rug works well with the bar area's elegant TileBar VZAG backsplash, made of Carrara stone with a brass inlay.

The team further modernized and brightened the area by replacing the dark Labrador granite counter and island tops with breezy Calacatta Laza quartz, which resembles natural marble veining. This had to be done around the existing cabinetry with its distinctive Tuscan columns. "One big, difficult thing was that the cabinets themselves were very traditional, with column details. These were difficult to work





around because they required the countertop people to do an exceptional job when it came to matching up the curves and the profile of the countertops to the cabinetry," Melissa says. "It had to be done in such a way that took it from that traditional Tuscan look and translated it to a contemporary look that ignored the design elements already in place."

"What was really great," she adds, "was that the clients were interested in going outside their own comfort zone. In going from something really traditional, they were giving themselves permission to do something out of the box. It was like a journey with them and has continued this way through other parts of the house."

Resources:

Adams Interior Design
Melissa Adams
 18 Appalachian West
 Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
 917.886.6666
aidesignny.com



Young's Legacy LANDSCAPING



INTEGRATING SPECIMEN TREES
 INTO SUPERLATIVE LANDSCAPES
 203.491.2257 | YOUNGSLEGACY.COM

J. STEPHENS INTERIORS





A stunning transformation gave a bright new life to a 20-year-old kitchen in Stewartsville, NJ. The original builder's kitchen featured busy flowered wallpaper and extremely dark cabinets that hid the beauty of the windows and nearby outdoor space. "The kitchen was 17 years old, but it looked 30 years old," says designer Jo Ann Alston of J. Stephens Interiors. "I think when it was done, it was already out of style."

The change gave way to an airy, attractive space that takes abundant advantage of the outdoor space, natural light and lovely windows in a Hampton-style design, with exquisite French undertones adding a subtle beauty that makes relaxing in this space a priority. "There is something about the feel of this," says Jo Ann about the Hampton-style design. "It's





light yet serene, and not overly fussy. But it's very dramatic and very classic at the same time. It's not modern, and it's not exactly traditional, but it's more like a fresh version of classic for today."

The wheels started turning for Jo Ann and her client when the client proffered numerous photographs of kitchens she liked. Jo Ann was able to design the completely custom kitchen from drawing to inception. The complete gut job removed a pantry and opened up the outdoors to brighten the kitchen by using some tricks of the trade: lighter paint on the walls and window areas, brighter-colored cabinetry with glass panels, fresh lighting and hardware, and a wall of marble in a herringbone pattern that Jo Ann says "is really subtle, but beautiful. It's not screaming for attention, but it adds something to the room." This herringbone pattern subtly moves into a waterjet mosaic subway tile made from the same slab as the herringbone. An arresting custom metal hood with brass bandings adds a muted yet stately focal point to the room. The skilled mix of paints, metals and stone give the entire space an inviting atmosphere.

Adding to this appealing space is Brunschwig & Fils' exquisite

Bird & Thistle wallpaper with matching drapes, bringing the outside in and making the windows appear larger. The sheers behind the drapes add some blockage but don't obscure the view or totally inhibit the natural light. The peaceful seating area with numerous pillows upon the performance-velvet adorned banquette add fun and charm to the relaxing breakfast space.

"You can tell from the beautiful view that this is a tranquil setting," Jo Ann says. "The homeowner loves the bird and botanical aspect of the wallpaper. She wanted to make this area a little bit of European charm."

Resources:

*J. Stephens Interiors
Jo Ann Alston Stephens
14 Tingley Road
Morristown, NJ 07960
908.375.8288
jstephensinteriors.com*

ARTISTIC TILE





The sky is the limit for Artistic Tile, which has the extraordinary ability to transform a kitchen into whatever eye-pleasing delight the homeowner is looking for.

Whether it be modern, transitional or classical—from timeless subway tile to dramatic Grand Antique marble or tranquil Bleu De Savoie marble—designers work hard to bring Artistic Tile to life while creating jaw-dropping, thematic, inspired kitchens or a pleasing, serene, integrated space. “My feeling is, the kitchen needs to make the clients happy for years, every single day and usually two or three times a day,” says Roy Marcus, the brand ambassador for Artistic Tile. “When they come home from shopping or work and put packages down, that’s Number 1. The kitchen has a responsibility; it’s got to give back to you what you put into it.”



In a dramatic kitchen in SoHo, black and white play nicely together and share equal stardom. “Really crisp black and white is definitely part of the current vernacular in a major way,” says Roy. The beautiful white walls in the intensely dramatic space were once exposed brick, and the room jumps to life with the Grand Antique marble island with the black and white threaded together. Satin black pendant lights play against the super glossy white of added elements.

A home on the Jersey Shore utilizes simple material, but uses them with “panache and integrity,” according to Roy. The stunning floor is a Bianco Dolomite mosaic marble tile, which Roy says has been em-

ployed all over pre-war New York, as well by the Romans. “It has an antique aspect, but a modern offhandedness,” Roy notes. “It almost says, ‘Don’t pay attention to me—I’m fabulous.’ It’s very lux.”

The wall tile is a simple classic ceramic crackle tile, and everything is delightfully offset by the wooden ceiling beams adding directionality, midnight-gray paint and brass fixtures. Adding some Northeast locality to the project, the low-porosity Montclair Danby Striato marble on the countertops is from the Vermont Quarries, which has been in operation since before the American Revolution.



These days, tile isn't just for flooring, and slabs of stone aren't just for countertops—both can be used in place of paint and as backsplashes. “This is a huge movement,” Roy says. “People are using slab as they would fabric, wood and leather. It can be used absolutely everywhere.”

Resources:

Artistic Tile
 Roy Marcus
 Artistic Tile New York
 38 West 21st Street
 New York, New York 10010
 (212) 727-9331

Artistic Tile Paramus
 727 Route 17 South
 Paramus, New Jersey 07652
 (201) 670-6100

Artistic Tile Shrewsbury
 777 Broad Street
 Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702
 (732) 212-1616

Artistic Tile White Plains
 65 Tarrytown Road
 White Plains, New York 10607
 (914) 422-0041

Artistic Tile A+D Building
 150 East 58th Street, 9th Floor
 New York, New York 10155
 (212) 838-3222

Slab Gallery, HQ, & Distribution Center
 520 Secaucus Road
 Secaucus, New Jersey 07094
 (201) 864-7000
 artistictile.com



Diane Durocher Interiors

Diane Durocher, ASID, IIDA, CAPS, CID
 Ramsey, NJ • 201.825.3832 • diane@dianedurocherinteriors.com • www.dianedurocherinteriors.com

APADANA FINE RUGS



Luxury Flooring for a Perfect Room

Apadana Fine Rugs believes that our homes should reflect who we are and the journeys that we have taken. That is why your space deserves a rug that is a work of art, with a story and soul. This website and our showroom in Norwalk, CT are uniquely designed to help you find a rug that fits your taste and aesthetic needs. Discover our extensive collection of rugs, which are pleasing to the eye, exquisite to touch and curated exclusively for the interior design community and discerning individuals. **Call us at 203-698-5667 or email us at Help@ApadanaFineRugs.com.**

APADANA FINE RUGS

DESIGN + DECOR







PARK AVENUE SPLENDOR

A symphony of boldly orchestrated elegance

Story by Sean Jarvis | Photography by SGM Photography + Danlly Domingo



The blue stools in this room add a splash of color that is mimicked in the painting hung over the sofa. Aiming for a more classic aesthetic, the Tac-
cia lamp by Achille Castiglioni creates an air of sophisticated refinement and propels the elegance of the room to the next level.



Since she was a child, designer Jacqueline Cutler has known that her calling was to create spaces that improve the quality of life for those within them. “If you’re not happy where you’re waking up, where you’re going to work, then everything else is wrong,” she says. “If you wake up in your bed and think, I can’t believe this paint color is still here, if it doesn’t feel right, then your whole day will be off.”

While attending New York’s Syracuse University, she changed her focus from architecture to interior design and has been hard at work in the profession ever since. “It’s something I’ve always wanted to do,” she says, “and I’m so lucky that I get to do what I love every single day.” Even during this global pandemic, Jacqueline has not slowed down. With a passion driven by her conviction that you should love where you live, she puts an emphasis on creating homes that speak to her client’s individuality.

When it came to this residence on Park Avenue in New York City, Jacqueline has enjoyed a close-knit relationship with the clients for many years. “Once upon a time, four kids and three dogs lived here, and now that the children are all grown, the purpose of different rooms has evolved,” she says. “I’ve done some of these rooms three times already, and I always enjoy the process with these clients. They are a wonderful family who are willing to take chances, and you can see that in the style of this home.”

New York Living

The soft glow of sunshine that pours through the windows elevates the creamy whites of the plush furniture, giving an ethereal glow to the charming living room. Perfect for entertaining guests and relaxing in front of a roaring fire, the ample seating options create an atmosphere that is as comfortable as it is stylish. The mercury glass that

This elegant living room is a soothing place to entertain guests. With the unique mercury glass installation dancing across the wall opposite the gold-framed mirror, this mixed-metal design choice adds warmth and originality to the overall composition.





adorns the wall sends light dancing across the room and adds a textured design element reminiscent of raindrops or pearlescent shells on a soft white beach.

“The living room style caters to traditionally based glamour, and we kept some of the traditional bones, like the beautiful marble fireplace and the molding on the wall,” Jacqueline explains. “There are also some classic furniture pieces in the room, but we neutralized them by adding more contemporary aspects. I think that’s what makes the room interesting; it really tells a story about the people who live there.”

While the sofa is centered on the marble fireplace, the molding is centered on the walls. This positioning would create an awkward placement if one were to hang a piece of art over the sofa. To counter this potential imbalance, Jacqueline made a bold suggestion that, while requiring a bit of hand-holding, led to a one-of-a-kind art installation that perfectly suits the room. “When it came to using the mercury glass, there was a bit of uncertainty—of ‘I’ve never seen this before. What is it going to look like?’—but we ran with it,” she recalls. “It wasn’t about having just one piece of art, but creating an installation, so we chose to use the entire wall as a canvas.”

This level of trust and open communication that Jacqueline inspires is what creates long-lasting relationships. “Some of my friends become my clients, but all of my clients become my friends,” she says. “Some people you just dance with really well, and when clients trust you and let you do your thing, it works out much better in the end.”

Cultivating Uniqueness

To keep the room from feeling too modern, Jacqueline took cues from the original pieces and incorporated them into the new design. “We used the mirror and the sconces from the previous iteration of the living room, keeping the gold so everything wasn’t so monochromatic, and playing on the tension between the gold and the silver,” she explains. “I love mixing metals. I think it’s very beautiful, and the reason the walls don’t come across as being so cold is because of the warmth from these materials.”

As a designer who enjoys working within all styles, Jacqueline knows that a home should reflect the homeowner, first and foremost. “I am good at getting to know my clients—figuring out what their style is and making their homes personal and unique,” she says. “Everything I do is very individualized, and I approach it with the mindset of, ‘Don’t dress two people in the same outfit.’ If I use something in your home, I don’t use it in someone else’s home you will be going to.”

The Whole Package

Jacqueline approaches each project with a complete vision in mind, and wants to be involved in every step of the decision-making process. “I believe every room is the sum of its parts,” she says. “It’s not that there is one thing that makes the room, because that means that everything else is not holding its own. It’s about how everything—color, form, scale, texture and light—works together. To me, it’s a complete composition, one big collage. It’s like a symphony where everybody has to be doing their part; every piece has to be strong on its own to make the room come together as a whole.”



Iron and glass doors, designed by Jozef Custom Ironworks, open up to the dining room. This creates a wonderful segue from one room to another, adding to the distinction between such aesthetically different spaces.

From the classic Taccia lamp by Achille Castiglioni to the custom-made coffee table designed by Jacqueline, every element in this room speaks volumes on its own. When it all comes together in the final vision, it creates a dazzling display of calm elegance. Taking her cues from long conversations with the homeowners throughout the years, Jacqueline is able to bring her clients' dreams to fruition, bridging the gap between new and old to maintain a sense of personal attachment. "There are some classic furniture pieces in the room, but we neutral-

ize those with a few contemporary pieces," she notes. "I think that's what makes the room interesting."

Energetic Transitions

As you move from the living room to the dining room, the feeling changes dramatically. An energy builds as the radiant sheen from the high-lacquer blue walls reflects light throughout the space and adds to the regal aesthetic. The dining room entrance was modified, with



These twin 18th-century mirrors hung over matching vintage tables add a touch of refinement that helps bring the high-gloss walls down to Earth. With the spindly arms of this exquisite gold chandelier hung low over the table, this room exudes grace and glamour.



The pale blue ceiling does wonders in creating a soft cocoon, perfect for relaxation. The floral wallpaper by Phillip Jeffries and matching velvet beds set up a playful dynamic that excites as much as it calms.



large iron and glass doors created by Jozef Custom Ironworks, welcoming visitors to the client's favorite room of the house. "While the room is very forward, we are still respectful of the pieces used in the previous iteration, and it calms the room down," says Jacqueline. "For instance, the chandelier is a very bold statement, and the vintage mirrors and tables help to ground the room, taking the edge off all that excitement." Combining style and comfort is a hard and fast rule for Jacqueline, as illustrated by how the blue velvet armchairs from Artistic Frame soften the high-gloss sheen that surrounds them.

Jacqueline created a seamless transition from the soft white living room to the vibrant blue dining room by repeating the rug in both rooms. The gold finish from the mirror and sconces above the fireplace were carried over into the dining room at the same elevation, creating a streamlined continuation that marries the separate spaces. The credenza also plays on the living room's color palette with its chunky silver and gold vertical lines.

Active Listening

Years ago, while searching for paint colors for their home in Nantucket, MA, Jacqueline's clients came across a vibrant blue that they liked. Though there was no place for it at the time, Jacqueline tucked away a paint sample and later used the color in the Park Avenue dining room. Being an active listener goes hand in hand with being a fantastic interior designer, and this dedication to learning about her clients has helped Jacqueline forge long-lasting relationships. "I take my cues from our conversations—things you have in your house, things you

talk about, things that move you," she says. "I tell my clients, 'Feel free to dislike any sample I bring to you.' I never feel insulted; they are just products and possibilities. Brainstorming is a process, and what's important is that the process gets us to the right place."

The More the Merrier

The guest bedroom speaks of soft dreams and relaxing comfort, with its powder blue ceiling and floral printed grasscloth wallpaper by Philip Jeffries. The large flower pattern ties together the different shades of blue that play throughout the room and create a soothing vibe. The walls are a high-lacquer white and, much like the dining room, the sunlight bounces off this glossy sheen and bathes the room in a soft glow. Unnoticed at first, but making a significant impact on the overall composition, is the treated ceiling. "I love treating the ceiling differently as it's the most ignored surface in the room," Jacqueline says. "Even if you give it just a hint of color, it can make all the difference."

This design element is repeated in the master bedroom, showing that neither Jacqueline nor her clients are afraid of being creative. "It's a mixture of elegance and groovy," she says. "There's something about it that's refreshing and exciting, while calming at the same time. I love that the client was agreeable and dared to use the pink tiger velvet, because I love what it does in this room. Coupled with the hint of pink in the ceiling, it really brings everything together."

The pink chairs from Bespoke LG add a splash of color to the room, and while there is a very contemporary feeling, the addition of gray



These matching pink chairs add a pop of color and pair well with the curved lines of the Dmitriy Seine bed. With the Murano glass chandelier tying in the charcoal molding that frames the room, the slight pink hue in the ceiling creates a subtle glow against the dark tones. The walls have a custom decorative finish by Philis Himmelfarb, adding another unique touch to this one-of-a-kind home.



trim on the leading edges of the drapery brings the space back to a more traditionally based glamour. The master bedroom walls have a custom decorative finish created by Philis Himelfarb and outlined by a very deep charcoal molding. In the center of the room hangs a Murano glass chandelier with stringy black shades, suggesting a step back in time to a more elegant Breakfast at Tiffany's era.

Love Where You Live

"I always strive for elegance, but elegance doesn't have to mean fancy," explains Jacqueline. "Elegance has to mean well done within the context of what it's doing. It's not an isolated adjective." Many aspects of this project required special attention, from the mercury glass wall installation to the custom-fabricated coffee table. In the end, Jacqueline created a truly one-of-a-kind property for her clients. "It's been their home for many years now, and they love it. When it comes to designing for my clients, I want to be on their page; I want their dreams to come true. I want them to really love the house they live in."

Resources:

Jacqueline D. Cutler Interiors
 Jacqueline D. Cutler
 Scarsdale, NY
jacquelinecutler.com
 914-433-3380



THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Designer Diane Durocher blends Traditional and Modern
in this Mahwah, New Jersey Victorian Home

Story by Ross Robinson | Photography by Mike Van Tassel



Dining room furnishings are from Urban Natural.



Blending traditional and modern styles is a great way to create a unique style all one's own. A homeowner can enjoy a deep, rich design that exudes warmth and tradition, while still embracing the clean, modern beauty and accessibility of mid-century design.

Making both styles blend together takes careful planning, but interior designer Diane Durocher was up to the task when asked to remodel this gorgeous Victorian home. When she got the call, she realized immediately from the description of the unique kitchen fireplace that she had previously consulted on this residence, designing millwork and wainscoting as well as built-ins and a coffered ceiling for the great room. She clearly understood the home.

Like most new homeowners, the clients wanted to take their house in a new direction, and this brought opportunities for the designer. Diane could indulge in the creativity of cohesively blending together two themes by reworking certain areas of the home that were specific to the previous owner's needs—such as the kitchen—while maintaining some of the home's architectural elements. “I was happy we were able to redo parts of the home that needed to be addressed,” Diane recalls. “It was a win-win.”

A Modern Victorian

Located in Mahwah, NJ, the 3,162-square-foot, four-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath home was built in the 1990s, during a period of Victorian and Federal Revival styles. The home's Victorian façade has a front porch, a turret and other traditional features. The interior layout is more in the style of a center-hall colonial, with the center hall acting as a foyer.





The home needed updates and adjustments to make it less about the prior owner and more in tune with the requirements and style of the new homeowners, a young couple with three children. The design needed to be family-oriented with a blend of function and youthful design, and have plenty of light, to fit their personality. The couple also wanted to honor the home's traditional architecture while incorporating transitional and contemporary styles.

Bicoastal Design

The clients were relocating to New Jersey from California, but since they remained in California during most of the first phase of the design, the majority of the approvals were done remotely. While remote design has become commonplace for many designers since 2020, this project began three-and-a-half years ago, predating COVID-19 and today's frequent use of Zoom. The first design phase was completed primarily via email, text, video, FaceTime, phone calls and mailed samples, with a few in-person meetings along the way.

The first phase involved remodeling and furnishing the entire first floor. This full-service project encompassed a new kitchen renovation, flooring, cabinetry, lighting, tile, molding additions, window treatments, artwork and furniture. How did it go? "The clients were so easy to communicate with," says Diane. "We never felt it was difficult to get the answers and proceed. They knew what they wanted, and they did a lot of homework. They were a pleasure to work with."

Reworking the Elements





The artwork above the fireplace is from Broadfoot & Broadfoot.



All the rooms of the home work together as one open-flowing square. When entering the foyer, visitors will find an opening to the right that leads to a formal living room, while to the left is the dining room. The rear great room is adjacent to the living room and can be easily accessed. To the left of the great room is the kitchen and breakfast area, which leads to the dining room and finally back to the entrance. “We wanted to have an easy flow from one room to the next,” says Diane. “Yet the introduction of grasscloth walls allowed the dining room to have its own personality.” She increased the amount of light in the dining room by adding a window to the longest wall.

The clients wanted a neutral-based palette of warm gray and creamy white, but they also love color—particularly green, teal and yellow. To brighten things up, Diane’s team painted the molding, wainscoting and coffered ceiling in a white dove color to complement the gray walls. Brighter colors can also be found in the pillows, drapery and artwork in the living room and great room. The foyer, dining room and kitchen were kept more subtle and neutral. The grasscloth in the dining room was introduced for added textural appeal.

Blending Styles

Combining traditional and modern meant adding simpler lines by using mid-century styling with rich wood and Shaker-style cabinetry that brings a blend of old and new. The great room features built-in cabinetry and a fireplace wall featuring stacked stone. Above sits the coffered ceiling, and all around are



The custom kitchen was co-designed by Diane Durocher and Anthony Albert Studios.



luxurious moldings. An ample-sized sectional allows for comfortable family TV viewing and socializing.

Diane co-designed the kitchen with Anthony Albert Studios from Waldwick, NJ. They completely redid the room to include a blend of creamy white and natural wood cabinetry in the Shaker style, along with light quartz countertops and modern, linear stone and glass backsplash that complements the stacked stone in the great room. The breakfast area and lighting pick up on the modern touches of the countertops, appliances, tile and hardware. The barstools bring a blend of natural wood and modern lines to complement the surrounding themes. “The clients love the kitchen table and chairs, which are pretty fabulous,” says Diane.

The furniture in the dining room and master bedroom was found at one of the homeowners’ favorite stores, the New Jersey-based Urban Natural; it provided the natural mid-century vibe they were looking for. The clients also knew they wanted sofas from EQ3, which had a showroom conveniently located near their home in California. They were even able to send fabric selections to coordinate with the paint, rugs, accents, other furniture, lighting and accessories.

The Final Phases

The second phase of the project consisted of renovating the lower level to create an office and a playroom for the kids. The final phase was a full renovation of the master bedroom and bathroom, and the completion of all remaining furnishings

and drapery.

As much as the clients love bright colors, they also wanted balance. In the master bedroom, they shifted to a blend of dark, rich colors for a more Zen feel, creating a comfortable yin and yang. Diane selected a grasscloth for behind the bed for texture and interest. “The grasscloth added an additional dimension to the room; the couple loved the texture and detail it added,” says Diane. “And I was thrilled when they agreed to paint the walls a rich, dark chocolate brown.”

The client’s newly purchased bench was the inspiration for the room’s palette. Dark navy fabrics along with wood furniture and wide, softly sculpted chairs complement the room’s overall look and theme. A soft, creamy-white accent was added with the rug, headboard, lampshades, dressing room cabinetry and painted decorative moldings on the ceiling.

The design of the master bathroom complements and extends the Zen theme of the bedroom with its blend of clean design and rich details. “Clean lines always work—they never go out of style,” notes Diane. “We removed the dated built-in tub and tomb-like shower and installed a skylight with a large transom window to allow for maximum privacy and natural light.”

The design team installed stacked stone tile behind the tub as a feature wall to complement the concrete-style tile, rich dark wood cabinetry and black quartz





In the master bedroom, the bed, end tables and dresser are from Urban Natural, the bench and chairs are from West Elm, and the area rug is from Creative Touch.



Master bathroom cabinetry was fabricated by Millwork and More.



countertops. “Stacked stone tile was the perfect solution. It is a repeated element used throughout the house,” says Diane.

Beautifully joining traditional and modern themes, the finished project was a successful collaboration between the designer and client. Indeed, bringing a client’s vision to life is one of the biggest perks of Diane’s job. “I think my area of expertise is to truly listen to my clients’ expectations and be considerate and mindful of the decisions we make together,” she says. “I love to incorporate their treasured pieces of furniture, art and accessories into the design. We form a partnership with each and every client we are in contract with. Our goal is to not only meet but exceed their expectations, all while enjoying the process.”

At this magnificent Victorian home, the collaboration of designer and clients resulted in modern-transitional styling for a young family that respects the home’s architecture—truly the best of both worlds.

Resources

Diane Durocher Interiors
Diane Durocher
375 S Central Avenue
Ramsey, NJ 07446
201.825.3832
dianedurocherinteriors.com

Deco Builders
375 S Central Avenue
Ramsey, NJ 07446
201.825.0563

Anthony Albert Studios
Anthony Passanante
40 E Prospect Street
Waldwick, NJ 07463
201.857.2868
anthonyalbertstudios.com



The art in the living room over the fireplace is by Betsy Eby. It was purchased from the Winston Wachter Gallery.



LONG ISLAND LUXE

Transitioning from a large home to an apartment, a couple trades traditional for contemporary.

Story by Meryl Seigman | Photography by Marco Ricca





The pair of semicircular sofas in the living room are by Interior Crafts with Romo fabric.

A couple whose two kids had grown up and left home were ready to transition from their large family house to a new space and a simpler lifestyle. After deciding on condo ownership because of the amenities and convenience it offered, they purchased two contiguous units in the not-yet-built Ritz-Carlton condominiums in the idyllic village of North Hills on the North Shore of Long Island, NY. Those in the know are drawn to the area for its natural beauty, cultural offerings and convenient location, a mere 20 miles from Manhattan and 60 miles from the Hamptons. The village is home to historic Gilded Age mansions and the Long Island Sound's sun-splashed beaches.

A Fresh Start

The couple sought a departure from their traditional home and all its trappings. They were looking to replace it with a modern feel and cool vibe, but also something warm, comfortable and full of art, with a hint of luxe. They envisioned a space that looked and felt like a house, not an apartment. Their transition began with the bold decision to leave behind all their furnishings and accessories, except for a few pieces of art.

Their next big step was to hire Robin Baron, the creative powerhouse behind Robin Baron Design. With over 30 years of experience, Robin is known for her bold use of color and her eclectic style. But she is not simply an interior designer. With the launch of her own brand of statement hardware, rugs, upholstery, furniture, accessories and lighting, she has created a fully immersive interior design community that provides expert guidance and an abundance of resources. A trendsetter and style-maker, Robin is sought after for her design

expertise, offering advice through podcasts, TV appearances and her "Simply Fabulous" blog. In short, she creates not only beautiful spaces, but lifestyles as well.

Another savvy move on the part of the clients was to hire their designer even before construction began on the condominium development, enabling Robin to be in on the project during its critical early stages. This prevented mistakes and headaches from happening down the road, and gave Robin the ability to customize the space according to her clients' desires, creating a floor plan that aligned with their vision and goals. "It wasn't an easy beginning," Robin recalls. "There were many challenges because the entire project was delayed. When everyone involved has expectations, it's very difficult when the work doesn't progress. It hurts the momentum of the creative process." As a result, items that were purchased had to be stored for long periods of time, and artisans were forced to stop working on the unit while awaiting the construction of the development to move forward.

Leaps of Faith

When the condominium complex was finally completed, however, the clients became the very happy owners of the largest unit in the development, over 4,000 square feet of largely open space, with three bedrooms and four bathrooms. Facing east with lots of pretty light, every room in the home looks out to the lush woods. Each bedroom features a terrace, which Robin designed with a color palette that reflects the room to which it is attached.

The clients' priorities included an open floor plan, a bedroom suite for each of their two children when they visit, a home office that provides a comfortable



and well-appointed space for extended hours of work, and large-sized rooms to offset an apartment-like feel. “The clients were lovely to work with; they were very discerning,” Robin notes. “The husband knew exactly what he wanted, but I was able to work with them and push the envelope a little bit. They get a lot of credit because they ultimately took many leaps of faith, but always in the direction they wanted to go.”

The clients were intent on making the fireplace the centerpiece of the living room. Robin designed it to be long and linear, shopping for quite some time before finding the perfect stone slabs at Artistic Tile. The owners’ love of art is reflected throughout the home and plays a dominant role in the design. The piece displayed over the fireplace in the living room is by the American artist Betsy Eby. It is a striking example of encaustic painting, an ancient medium that uses heated beeswax to which pigment is added. The kitchen column art is an acrylic by another American artist, Laura Wait, whose work is inspired by calligraphy, graffiti and handwriting.

Color, Texture and Shapes

Color and texture also play an important role in the home’s design scheme. “My client works in finance; his is a very stressful world,” Robin explains. “He wanted his new home to be calming—filled with beautiful things, but not overwhelming.” Her solution was the stunning use of a neutral palette brought alive by pops of color. Soft tones in subdued and nuanced shades of gold, silver and bronze prevail, accented by splashes of color visible in the artwork, accessories and upholstery fabric. One guestroom is bathed in lavender, the other in various shades of blue. The living room is peppered with turquoise and plum, while a





The powder room features wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries and a custom faucet set made by Sherle Wagner.



The breakfast nook features Niermann Weeks mirrors and a custom settee with Stark fabric. The chairs are by Cliff Young and upholstered in Cowtan & Tout fabric.



The kitchen features custom cabinetry, a backsplash in natural quartzite and stools from Dennis Miller. The lighting is from John Salibello and CF Modern.



bright fuchsia settee enlivens the family room. “When you put all these colors together in an open floor plan, they become energizing and engaging,” Robin observes. “I incorporated a lot of neutral tones to keep the look calm, but when you work with that type of palette, you also need to add texture or it goes flat.” And so texture is everywhere, creatively woven into the design scheme in delightfully unexpected places: lush area rugs, wallcoverings with striking dimensionality, and doors etched with intriguing patterns. “Another way to create energy in a room is by using different and interesting shapes,” Robin explains. This is evidenced in the twin semicircular Interior Crafts sofas and oval glass coffee table with a ribbon-shaped base in the living room, and virtually all the light fixtures throughout the home.

Custom is Key

Robin discovered early in her career that one of the best ways to get exactly what she wants is to make it herself. Hence, a lot of the home’s furnishings—such as many of the sofas, beds and much of the lighting—were designed by Robin. This includes the bed in the master bedroom with its striking geometric headboard upholstered in Romo fabric, the unusual wooden nightstand with bespoke metal hardware, and the magnificent window treatments in each room.

Robin paid particular attention to the lighting in the apartment. “Lighting is really important,” she says. “It’s like beautiful jewelry on a woman.” A combination of vintage and modern custom-made fixtures includes the master bedroom lamps, which were sourced at a Paris flea market and, in the kitchen, a John Salibello fixture on the ceiling and CF Modern pendants over the island.



The unique and unusual wallcoverings throughout the home were developed by Robin and custom-made by The Alpha Workshops in Manhattan. The Alpha Workshops is the nation’s first nonprofit organization providing decorative arts educa-







The bed in the master bedroom is designed by Robin Baron Design and custom-made.



tion and employment to those with disabilities. It is also a professional and decorative arts atelier whose staff artisans produce hand-painted wallpapers, case goods, lamps and other interior products. They are masters at their craft, and their decorative paint work adds a dazzling accent throughout the home.

Typical of many modern apartment complexes, the condo was built with low ceilings—a detail Robin felt she had to address. She solved the problem by creating ceiling trays. The Alpha Workshops manufactured inside trays in a high-gloss white Venetian plaster. “This helped bring the eye up and create a feeling of height,” says Robin.

When you cross the threshold into this fabulous space, the words “house” and “home” come to mind, and it’s hard to believe you’re in an apartment. The owners achieved this look thanks to their discerning taste and the ingenuity and creativity of their designer. It’s a special home that will be enjoyed for years to come by this couple in the next phase of their life: a showcase of art and a reflection of a life well lived, full of color, texture, shapes and warmth.

Resource:

Robin Baron Design
 Robin Baron
 2472 Broadway #261
 New York, NY 10025
 212.262.1110
 robinbarondesign.com

DESIGN A BETTER TOMORROW



YOU BELONG IN THE ASID COMMUNITY. Be a part of the movement. ASID is a community – designers, industry representatives, educators, students – who believe Design Impacts Lives.

BECOME A MEMBER

ASID is the design industry's only association representing all sectors of design. Membership offers more than professional credibility. We are a connected community of peers, thought leaders, and luminaries.

Engage in educational and leadership opportunities spanning every design specialty and career stage. Grow in your career and understand the latest innovations in the industry. ASID offers the support you need to reach your full potential as a designer.

VALUE

ASID advances the profession and communicates the impact of interior design to enhance the human experience.

RESOURCES

Access countless member benefits that will help you grow as



AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF
INTERIOR
DESIGNERS

CONNECTICUT



a professional including contracts, insurance access, CEU's, mentoring programs and much more.

JOIN OUR NEWEST MEMBER CATEGORY

Associate Member: To qualify for Associate membership, the applicant must be able to provide documentation of a minimum of six (6) years of full-time interior design practice, and proof of completion of, at minimum, a college-level associate's degree in any major demonstrated by official transcript and we are waiving the \$100 application fee for all membership levels in 2021!

Check out our website at asid.org for information on all membership levels and to JOIN today. We would

love to have you as a member!

*Article Produced by Beth Krupa
Allied ASID, President ASID CT*



SCAN + JOIN ASID

THE KALEIDOSCOPE PROJECT

A DIVERSE DESIGNER SHOWHOUSE



*Amplifying diverse talent with a showhouse-inspired
design that lives in perpetuity.*

OPENING NIGHT PARTY
May 15th, 2021

SHOWHOUSE TOURS
May 16 - June 6, 2021

THE CORNELL INN
203 Main St. Lenox, MA 01240

TO PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE GO TO
theKaleidoscopeProject.com

robern



TORRICO | BATH & KITCHEN SHOWROOM

DECORATIVE PLUMBING & LIGHTING | VANITIES | CABINET & DOOR HARDWARE

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH US AND LET OUR
DESIGN EXPERTS HELP YOU CREATE A SANCTUARY IN YOUR HOME.

Since 1917 • www.TorrcoDesignCenter.com • 203.479.6935

DANBURY • EAST WINDSOR • FAIRFIELD • NEW HAVEN • STAMFORD • WATERBURY