

DESIGN + DECOR

CONNECTICUT
NEW JERSEY
NEW YORK

THE KITCHEN ISSUE

HONING YOUR
MASTERPIECE



\$7.99 US/\$8.99 CANADA



DISPLAY UNTIL 06/13/22



©2022 California Closets Company, Inc. All rights reserved. All images displayed are not affiliated with any other company. Photo: Sydney Kautman

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

CALIFORNIA CLOSETS®

californiaclosets.com   [@caliclosetsnyc](https://www.instagram.com/caliclosetsnyc)

914.592.1001 NEW YORK CITY 26 Varick St | 1625 York Ave WESTCHESTER 16 Saw Mill River Rd, Hawthorne

203.924.8444 CONNECTICUT 565 Westport Ave, Norwalk



RingsEnd.com
800-390-1000



Color Trends 2022
Mysterious AF-565

Your Inspiration. Our Expertise.





Diane Durocher Interiors

DianeDurocherInteriors.com

201.825.3832





ART
AT YOUR DOOR

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

1372 39TH STREET, BROOKLYN NY

718.871.2200

WWW.GRANDDOORS.COM

GRAND
DESIGN
DOORS

MAKE A GRAND ENTRANCE



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

DESIGN + DECOR

CONNECTICUT
NEW JERSEY
NEW YORK

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 2 | 2022



32 A FARMHOUSE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

A traditional home on the outside abounds
with color on the inside.

Story by Meryl Siegman | Photography by Jane Beiles



44 HONING YOUR MASTERPIECE

2022 ANNUAL KITCHEN ISSUE

Story by Heather Shoning



88 RETURNING TO THEIR ROOTS

A young couple exchanges the city for the suburbs
without sacrificing their edgy style.

Story by Heather Shoning | Photography by Jane Beiles

DEPARTMENTS

- 8 Editor's Letter
- 12 Ask the Experts
- 104 Profile

- 10 Melange
- 26 In the Field



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

DESIGN +DECOR

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 2 - 2022

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,
Durstion Saylor, Eric Striffler, Carl Vernlund,
Jonathan Wallen, Woodruff/Brown Photography

Copy Editor
Elena Serocki

Graphic & Web Design
East Coast Home Publishing

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

Account Managers
Jane O'Reilly
Kelly Ames Smith

Design + Decor
349 Forest Hills Boulevard
Naples, Florida 34113

Design + Decor is published six issues per year. To subscribe: www.dd-mag.com; Subscriptions: one year, \$14; two years, \$20. Back issues can be purchased at www.dd-mag.com. For editorial inquiries: Editor, Design + Decor, 349 Forest Hills Boulevard 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
349 Forest Hills Boulevard
Naples, Florida 34113
DD-MAG.COM



Handcrafted in New Hampshire

Custom cabinetry
for every room in your home

CROWNPOINT
CABINETS

800-999-4994 • www.crown-point.com

Available direct, nationwide

Work with one of our
in-house design professionals



BRINGING BEAUTIFUL SPACES TO LIFE

FairfieldHouseAndGarden.com
203.661.8900
Greenwich, CT • Bedford, NY

EDITOR'S LETTER



What a long strange trip it's been.

Welcome to the beginning of Spring 2022. It's been quite a roller coaster ride over the past few years, and with mandates lifting, we can get back to some sort of normalcy, which I'm sure we are all looking forward to.

With this new freedom to have more than one contractor in your home at a time, kitchens and baths have been very difficult to construct since each room requires all of the trades. In light of this, *Design + Decor* takes a closer look at some fabulous kitchens from our favorite designers to give you a head start in beginning your renovation project.

We love all of the features they have included in each project and the layouts, from simple to complex are directly influenced by how the homeowners are living in their homes and these features are direct reflections of the events of the past several years. I hope you enjoy these stories as much as we did producing them for you. It's interesting to see how the kitchen has truly become the command center of the home and how preferences in design and features have changed and evolved.

Enjoy!

Matthew J. Kolk
Editor in chief

Correction from The Sourcebook: The two designer credits from Bilotta Kitchens were inadvertently switched in the copy. Below is how it should read correctly.



Kitchen Designed by Doranne Phillips-Telberg of Bilotta Kitchens in collaboration with Modern NetZero.



Kitchen Designed by Daniel Popescu of Bilotta Kitchens in collaboration with Jenny Wolf Interiors.

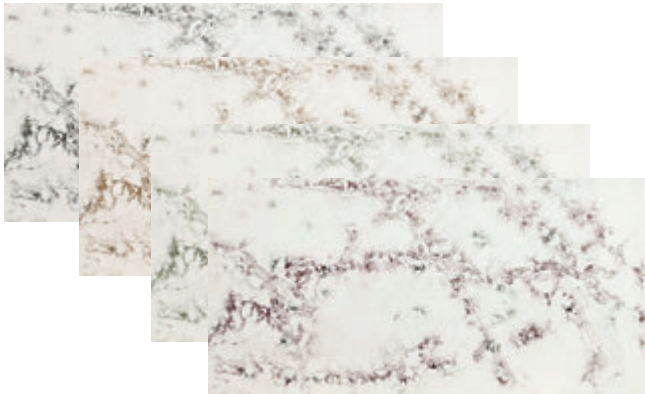
JerMar

LUXURY INTERIOR DESIGN



KBIS 2022 ROUND UP

This past February in Orlando, the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show, or KBIS, came roaring back after its COVID hiatus, with 375 vendors descending upon downtown to show their latest and greatest wares. Here are some items that we spied and wanted to share.



Ice Genesis Collection by Arik Levy

The inspiration is from the large ice lakes of the Arctic. ICE Gold represents the summer, ICE Green the spring, ICE Viola the autumn and ICE Ink represents the winter. us.compac.es/



Miele CM5 Silence Countertop Coffee System

The CM5 Silence range of countertop coffee systems has reduced grinding noise by 50%. Now, whether at home or in an office setting, users can more quietly prepare a fresh, hot beverage. Seven coffee specialties, from a simple espresso to a latte macchiato, can be prepared and dispensed at the touch of a button. miele.com



Unity Refrigerator
Modeled after SMEG's retro-inspired FAB28 Refrigerator, Unity features signature hues and imagery of the seventies era, and is now available exclusively at Neiman Marcus, retailing for \$3,999. smeg.com



Sterling Light

Vadara captures the essence of nature's most beautiful places in artisan, handcrafted quartz — transforming your interior into a space filled with the same breathtaking beauty your surface was inspired by. vadaraquartz.com



ROHL Apothecary by House of Rohl

The Apothecary Collection draws its inspiration from the beautiful shapes of old apothecary bottles that are now sought-after collectables. Designer Xander Noori looked to the past for inspiration and brought it into the present with unique chamfered details, beveled edges and balanced arcs, resulting in a silhouette of contoured elegance and nuanced simplicity. houseofrohl.com



CABINETS | VANITIES | TILE | STONE | COUNTERTOPS



*Our design team provides a hands-on approach
from inspiration to installation*

Our curated Dobbs Ferry showroom, conveniently located off the Saw Mill Parkway, offers a wide variety of stone and tile for all of your projects.

Kitchen & Bath Showroom

14 Hamilton Street Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522 | 914.274.8888

info@sidelitileandstone.com |  sidelitileandstone | www.sidelitileandstone.com



ASK THE EXPERTS

RISE AND SHINE

It attracts the eye, brightens a space and is extremely durable. But more than anything, it makes a bold statement. Here's what you need to know.

Design + Decor chats with Michael Italiano
of Shoreline High Gloss

Story by Elena Serocki



D+D: We know that the paint we choose for the interior and exterior of our homes is based on design aesthetic, but what are the deeper reasons for using paint in our homes?

Painting can be a wise choice for a multitude of reasons. Altering or enhancing the aesthetic of our homes is pleasing to the eye on a surface level, of course, but there's a deeper connection available if you want it. Paint has the ability to enhance and evoke different moods and emotions, depending on color choice. Using color therapy to cultivate feelings and energy in a space is incredibly powerful, and it can make or break the "comfortability" in any given room. Another reason for painting—less fun but meaningful, nonetheless—is proper maintenance. Your home interior and exterior need to be maintained, and paint is a major factor in this.

D+D: Consumers tend to think that high-gloss paint is something on trend, when in fact it is not. Could you please tell us briefly about the history of high-gloss paint?

The term "high gloss" may be trending these days, but in fact it's been widely used and more commonly recognized as "lacquer" for decades. Both terms represent a high level of sheen—meaning more shine! The differences today are the quality of the paint and the level of



expertise now available when delivering the final product. The paint brand Fine Paints of Europe offers the most luxurious and durable line of paint in the industry, and in my opinion it is the only product that should be used when offering high-gloss finishes to clients.

D+D: What are some benefits of using high-gloss paint?

Two main reasons jump off the page: durability and the “wow” factor. High-gloss paint is among the most durable paints offered, which makes it extremely appealing to some customers. But the overwhelming reason most people desire high gloss is because of the incredible aesthetic it provides. Few things stand out like a properly painted high-gloss finish.



DANIEL CONLON
ARCHITECTS

dconlonarchitects.com
203-544-7988
Wilton, CT



Design with Inspiration



INTERSTATE + LAKELAND LUMBER

A Century of Excellence

Visit our award-winning Greenwich Design Center
and discover why Interstate + Lakeland Lumber
is Fairfield and Westchester Countys' leading supplier of
preeminent architectural hardware.

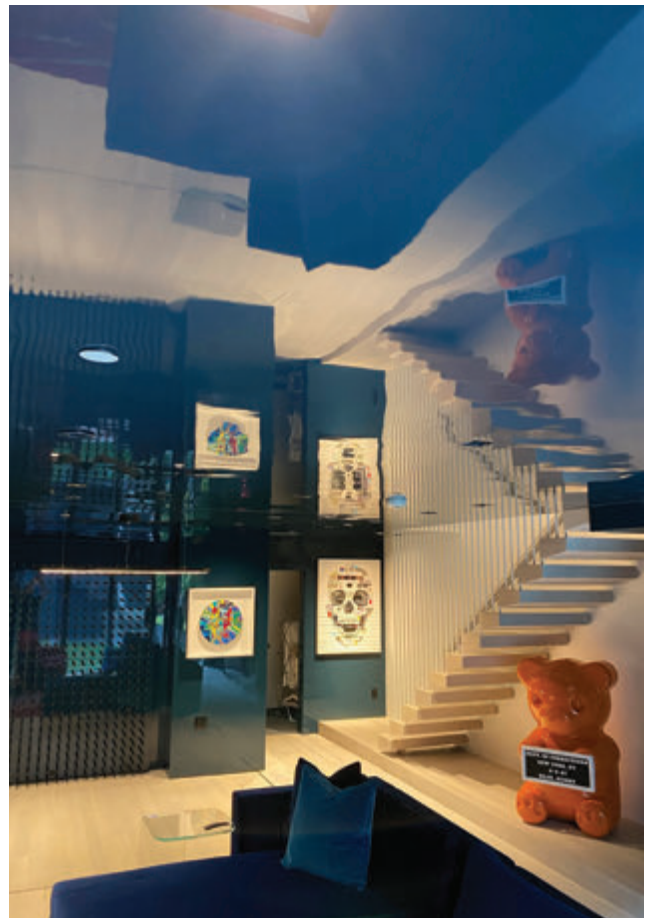


1922 - 2022

Call to schedule a tour

(203) 531-8050

184 S. Water St, Greenwich, CT • www.interstatelumber.com



HOBBS, INC.

**DISTINCTIVE HOMES
ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS**

CONNECTICUT • NEW YORK
NEW JERSEY

203.966.0726
www.hobbsinc.com

D+D: What's the best way to use high-gloss paint in a home?

Using high-gloss paint ultimately comes down to personal preference. If you desire that mirror-like finish—a super-high level of sheen on a wall, ceiling or window/door casing—then high-gloss paint is the way to go. Using high-gloss paint in certain areas of your home enhances the aura, making it extremely noticeable and incredibly stunning when applied correctly. Some standout areas can be the dining room ceiling, front entry handrails, office built-ins, pantry walls and others. It's important to remember that wherever you want to make a statement, use high-gloss paint!

D+D: High-gloss paint is mainly considered for use in interior spaces and on furnishings, but what are some cool ideas for utilizing it on exteriors?

Front doors—100%! Painting the exterior front door in a high-gloss finish provides curb appeal unlike any other. High-gloss finished substrates are bold in statement and lavish in appearance; when your front door stands out with an ultra-lux sheen level in contrast to the rest of the home, please believe that your neighbors will take notice.

Resource:

Shoreline Painting & Drywall
Michael Italiano, VP, Sales/Marketing
20 Broad Street, Floor 2
Norwalk, CT 06851
203.302.1086
shorelinepainting.com

Shoreline High Gloss
New York City
Tower 49, 12 East 49th Street, Floor 11
New York, NY 10017
212.764.3059

Palm Beach, FL
4001 North Dixie Highway
Boca Raton, FL 33431
212.764.3059
shorelinehighgloss.com



KAREN BERKEMEYER HOME
Cabinetry • Design • Tile • Plumbing

KARENBERKEMEYERHOME.COM

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

A Conversation with Diane Durocher of Diane Durocher Interiors

Story by Meryl Selgman | Photography by Mike Van Tassel



When a kitchen remodel turns into a whole-house project over the course of several years, you know the interior designer has developed a special relationship with her client. To learn more, we sat down with Diane Durocher, who has been designing exquisite residential and commercial interiors for more than 25 years.

D+D: How do you start the design process?

The design process always begins with a discovery session. I ask the clients about the scope of the project, what they are hoping to achieve with the design, and their budget. During this meeting, I find out which of their furniture, artwork, light fixtures and rugs they want to incorporate into the new design. If there is something they really love, such as a painting or rug, we will color-swatch it so we can find fabric that will complement it.

D+D: How do you approach a residential project versus a commercial one?

The biggest difference is that residential projects are very personal, whereas commercial projects need to appeal to the masses. I prefer a neutral color palette for commercial projects because it has more of a universal appeal. Regardless of the type of work, I always focus on the functionality of the space and the particular needs of the client.

D+D: Do the materials you use dictate the design process, or do you choose them based on your design concept?

My vision depends on my clients' needs and the furniture or materials they

already have to work with. It has been my experience that everyone has "treasures" or special pieces they want to incorporate into the design, so it's rare that we are starting from scratch. We also refer to the architecture of the home, so we can consider its style along with the client's design preferences and color palette.

Functionality always dictates the design direction. For example, I always specify durable fabrics for my upholstered pieces. I love to repurpose and reuse whatever the client already owns, so I will refinish or reupholster existing pieces. It really personalizes my clients' homes.

D+D: What is your design pet peeve?

Delays. Designers are always reliant on their contractors and vendors, and the availability of materials. This can be frustrating to clients, so part of my job is to manage their expectations. I am usually able to shorten lead times by selecting items from vendors that are in stock rather than custom-made. I also use a very reliable upholstery shop in Clifton, NJ, that does 100% of our reupholstery within a very reasonable time frame. It's also a great incentive to repurpose an existing piece rather than go out and buy a new one.

D+D: What are the most important inspirations in your life?

I had two major influences: my Aunt Jan and my Uncle Joe. Aunt Jan had fabulous taste. It was during a Thanksgiving dinner when I was young that I realized how a well-designed home can make a positive impact on our lives. Everything from the cabbage rose wallcovering with matching



MAJESTIC

KITCHENS AND BATH

Celebrating 60 Years!

914.381.1302

700 Fenimore Rd

Mamaroneck, NY

www.majestickitchens.com



pinch-pleated panel drapery to the beautifully set table with a glow from the candlelight made the dinner memorable and even more delicious!

Uncle Joe owned an upholstery shop. Although my grandmother resisted, he reupholstered her old sofa, fabricated two new chairs and made draperies to match. She was incredibly proud of the results and loved showing them off to everyone.

I am lucky to have had these two people in my life as a source of inspiration. It made me understand from early on how our environments affect how we live. I strive to duplicate that feeling with every design project I take on.

D+D: If you could give advice to your younger self, what would it be?

I knew I wanted to become an interior designer from the time I was a teenager. Although life took me on a longer journey to get there, it was worth the ride, and I wouldn't change a thing! I worked hard, graduated at the top of my class, and was lucky enough to have the support of my husband, who is a contractor. We often work together on projects.

I would say to my younger self, "You'll get there. Believe in yourself, and always find beauty and inspiration in your surroundings and the people in your life." I am very fortunate and grateful to love what I do for a living.

D+D: Tell us about the project shown here.

This project is a perfect example of how I like to integrate the client's



existing furniture and rugs into the new design scheme. Their living room furniture was beautiful and well made, with good clean lines. All we needed to do was reupholster it to honor the architecture of the home, a traditional, stately brick manor-style house. We repurposed the pendant light in the breakfast area, but had to purchase new barstools and lighting for the kitchen island. All the new pieces had to match the existing pieces, so everything read together like a composition. The end result was a design that looks intentional, with all the materials, furnishings, accessories, colors and textures working together.

The project began as a collaboration with the New Jersey-based kitchen design firm Peter Salerno Inc. to remodel the kitchen. We left the original layout but gave it a fresh, more transitional look. You'll notice the exquisite range hood. It was already there, so Peter figured out how to reuse it by covering it in reclaimed tin from a vintage ceiling. The clients were so happy that I ended up decorating the rest of their home. My goal for all my projects is that the client be as thrilled about and proud of the project as I am. That's how I know it was a success.

Resource:

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

WESTPORT
LIFESTYLE
READERS' CHOICE
2021

Consultations by appointment
203.858.7762
 ✉ MariaMatluck@gmail.com
 🔗 MariaMatluckCC.com

Expert Design, Custom Cabinetry, Complete Personalization

Design & Cabinetry

DESIGN SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

Insight into the special challenges facing architects today

Story by Elena Serocki | Photography by Devon Banks and Mark Woodward





Daniel Markiewicz and Miroslava Brooks



Daniel Markiewicz and Miroslava Brooks, co-owners of the architectural firm FORMA, reflect on key design issues, including their approach to lighting, the rules they like to break and the true meaning of sustainability.

D+D: How does light play into the architecture of the home?

The beauty and challenge of considering daylighting is that it is ever-changing. How do you design with something that is constantly in flux? Architecture is static; light is transient. But the play between the two is what's so exciting for us. Light animates architecture; it can dictate the mood of a space as well as its function. Geographic location, the room's cardinal orientation, time of day, size of openings, color and texture of surfaces all impact our lighting strategy. We like to build an approach to daylighting around key moments in time and location. For a home, it may be a space for a morning cup of coffee or a lazy Sunday afternoon crossword puzzle. Once the key moments are established, things begin to fall into place.

D+D: What is your favorite rule in architecture to break—and why?

We like to break the rules of our own making. Symmetry is one of our favorites. Symmetry helps us organize our world conceptually; its rules have been used and broken over and over again in art and architecture for centuries. We like to continue this play in our own work, whether it is through spatial planning, material choices or three-dimensional sculpting. In many of our projects, we start with establishing lines of symmetry, either in plan or elevation, and then we try to find moments to break them, offering unexpected surprises within the design.

D+D: What is the one rule of architecture that cannot be broken—and why?

All rules are meant to be questioned and bent, if not fully broken. If one is not considering how to push beyond established rules and paradigms within architecture, then one is not interested in developing innovative solutions. This doesn't mean we try to break every

AUSTIN GANIM LANDSCAPE DESIGN, LLC



Design • Installation • Maintenance
203.333.2003
www.AustinGanimLandscapeDesign.com

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

rule in the book for every project. Having a mix of conventions and innovations in every project is important, but our attitude will always be to challenge the way assumptions about design are made and continue to search for large and small ways for improvement.

D+D: How do architects better understand and approach acoustics in a project?

For more complex projects that deal with sound and vibrations, an acoustical engineer is paramount. But, in general, when it comes to acoustics, material choices are critical. The difference between the sound in a room with a rug and without one can be dramatic. We don't try to solve compartmentalized problems, however, but rather look for holistic solutions that satisfy all aspects of any given project. For example, we ask, how can this surface perform acoustically while also activating our other senses,



LAUREN VALLARIO DESIGNS



FULL SERVICE INTERIOR DESIGN STUDIO

914-522-4527 | LAURENVALLARIODESIGNS.COM | SERVING CT & NY



such as sight and touch.

D+D: The sustainable movement has been around for quite some time, and it is more imperative than ever for the building community and their clients to get on board. What are some of the biggest obstacles to educating both the trade and the consumer about sustainability? And what can we do to start making steps towards the American Institute of Architect's 2030 Challenge?

Energy efficiency or CO2 emissions often determine whether a project is considered sustainable or not. We have a bit of a problem with the term "sustainability," or at least with how it is often used today, based on the measurable, data-driven aspect of our work as architects. We believe there are also intangible aspects of sustainability that cannot be easily measured and evaluated through data, which are equally important to consider: for example, people's emotional attachment to a building, which is linked to the building's longevity, transformation and adaptation over time—in short, the building's cultural significance. This topic calls for a much longer discussion, but we believe sustainability must be understood as a holistic term that encompasses both the art and the science of architecture.

Resource:

FORMA

Miroslava Brooks and Daniel Markiewicz

Stamford, CT / Brooklyn, NY

614.260.4032

formany.net



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

IN THE FIELD

ANNUAL RETURN

Eva Chiamulera of Austin Ganim Landscape Design discusses the joys and rewards of replanting flowers each year.

Story by Eva Chiamulera

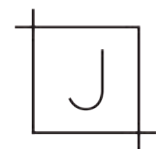




The pandemic brought many changes to our daily routines. Gone were lengthy commutes and the shuttling of children to after-school activities. Finding ourselves with time to spare, many of us rediscovered simple domestic pleasures like baking bread or cooking with homegrown vegetables, which offered a brief escape from the world around us.

One of our newfound interests is gardening. Annual flowers in particular are seeing a resurgence, perhaps because they evoke our grandmother's gardens filled with zinnias and cosmos, the whimsy of a freshly cut bouquet, or our sense of adventure as we explore culinary flowers. Planted after the danger of frost has passed, many of these flowers are easy to grow, either from seeds or as seedlings purchased from neighborhood garden centers. Most annual flowers are at their peak in hot summer months and well into the fall; their brightly colored flowers attract pollinators, and late-flowering zinnias and lantanas provide refueling stops for migrating butterflies. The intoxicating jasmine fragrance of nicotiana attracts hummingbirds and nocturnal pollinators, making it the perfect addition to a moon garden.

Some organically grown annuals, particularly those classified as herbs, serve a culinary purpose. Edible flowers such as the pansy, calendula or nasturtium can be used to spice up a salad or decorate a cake. Breadseed poppies not only provide an interesting floral display, but their dried seed heads work well in flower arrangements, and their harvested seeds can be used in baking. Another quite versatile plant is the marigold, not only for cut flowers, but also as a companion plant in vegetable gardens; it attracts beneficial insects and serves as feed for chickens, improving yoke color. Before consuming any flower or plant



design by the jonathans

Design by the Jonathans, LLC

thejonathans.com

203.557.3205

Serving Connecticut and New York

interiors

kitchens

bathrooms





part, however, it is important to verify—preferably using the Latin name—that the plant is safe to eat by checking with a reputable source, such as the seed company or grower.

If you dream of creating gorgeous bouquets from your home garden, be sure to select taller varieties; plants that grow two to four feet high have nice long stems and are ideal for making arrangements. Some of the more old-fashioned flowers—dahlias, snapdragons and zinnias—make excellent cut flowers. Annuals also mix well with the cut flowers of perennials and shrubs. The long, trailing flowers of love-lies-bleeding offer a dramatic statement when paired with large, late-season hydrangea flowers. Songbirds also enjoy eating the seeds in the winter months.

Although you must replant your annuals each spring, doing so provides an opportunity to change the color scheme from year to year. The labor is far outweighed by the reward of seeing beautiful blooms for months—and the satisfaction of growing them yourself.

Resource:

*Austin Ganim Landscape Design
Eva Chiamulera, ASLA, PLA
Landscape Architect
320 Kings Highway Cutoff
Fairfield, CT 06824
203.333.2003
austinganimlandscapedesign.com*



KATE GELFAND
INTERIOR DESIGN

50 Greenwich Avenue | 2nd Floor
Greenwich, CT 06830

203.485.0413
www.kategelfand.com



DESIGN + DECOR





A FARMHOUSE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY



The mirror in the entryway is from Bungalow and the cube lighting from Circa.

A traditional home on the outside abounds with color on the inside.

Story by Meryl Siegman | Photography by Jane Beiles

This modern farmhouse on an unusually large, secluded lot in Southport, CT, was ready for a facelift when it was purchased by a young family with two small children. Before moving in, the new owners wanted to enlarge and update the three-story, four-bedroom house to accommodate their growing family, busy lifestyle and eclectic taste. Their goal was to honor and preserve the “bones” of the house, which was built to replicate an old farmhouse, while adding touches to reflect their personalities. The result was an artfully decorated and ultra-comfortable retreat where they could relax and entertain after a long day’s work.

They couldn’t have chosen a more suitable setting. Designated a local historic district since 1967, Southport is a charming hamlet on the Long Island Sound in Fairfield County, just over an hour’s drive from New York City. It is part of the town of Fairfield, home to an assortment of 18th- and 19th-century architectural structures, including many in the federal and Greek revival styles, along with traditional farmhouses that evoke its New England history.

The couple found the perfect design team to help them realize their vision in Moss Design, a boutique, full-service interior design firm

based in Southport, specializing in high-end residential renovations. Meghan De Maria, the firm’s founder and principal designer, and her partner, Courtney Yanni, senior designer and director of marketing, have earned a reputation for sophisticated lifestyle interior design and creative use of color. Their work is influenced by Courtney’s background as a television producer for the Food Network and Meghan’s previous career in the fashion industry.

A Beautiful Collaboration

Meghan was still attending design school when the homeowners originally hired her for a color consultation, based on the recommendation of a friend. The relationship eventually resulted in Meghan’s first job as an interior designer and the complete renovation of her clients’ new house, including the addition. “It snowballed into a whole house project,” she recalls. “It’s the kind of project you dream about getting many years into your career, not when you’re first starting out.” Meghan immediately fell in love with the location, saying, “It’s very transportive. It makes you feel like you’re far away, the perfect place to relax from the hectic part of life.”

The scope of work included remodeling and decorating the original part of the house, and designing and building the addition. The



design team reconfigured the kitchen and either fully gutted or otherwise updated all the bathrooms. The new wing houses a workout room, another guest bedroom and bathroom, and additional space in the basement for storage. According to Meghan, the clients were fun and easy to work with, resulting in a “beautiful collaboration.”

Color, Color Everywhere

“One of the owners came from an artistic background,” Meghan says. “She had a beautiful art collection from her family.” The woman was very creative, she explains, and loved and understood color as much as she did. But, Meghan recalls, “We needed to channel her enormous talents and tastes. My job was to apply everything in a manner that flows from one room to another, making sure the house functions for the family, but is also a reflection of their personalities and lifestyle. The balance of form and function is important in our work.”

From the outside, the home looks like a traditional New England farmhouse. But as you enter and start to take in the space, you feel like it “turns the concept of a farmhouse on its head,” as Meghan describes it. What you notice above all is the extraordinary use of color—not a repetitive color palette, but a virtual rainbow of hues,

working together in harmony to create a delightful flow. “We added the client’s personality to it,” says Meghan. “She is creative and fun. Her energy is reflected throughout the house. But while it’s whimsical, the house also functions beautifully for the owners’ lifestyle.”

Indeed, a tour of the house reveals its unique incorporation of color:

Purple and Pink Living Room

The living room is the anchor of the design scheme and color palette. Meghan chose pillows upholstered in Pierre Frey fabric incorporating purple, pink, red and green—colors that are utilized throughout the home. Because the living room features enormous windows on three sides, offering a stunning view of the property, she used saturated colors that reflect the purple hues of the amazing sunsets seen from the room. She chose the Farrow & Ball purple color Pelt for the walls, and selected a spotted leopard Thibaut wallpaper for the ceiling to pull the look together.

Red Office

“The client wanted her home office to be lipstick red,” Meghan recalls. “My job was to make sure the room where she works wasn’t over-energized; it had to be vibrant but not electric.” The color she chose was influenced by a piece of artwork in the mudroom featuring









tiny cherries, which her client adored. “It’s the kind of details that, as a designer, you collect and keep in your head.”

Orange Boy’s Room

Orange was important to the owners’ son because it was the color of one of his sports idol’s shirts. So Meghan used a fully saturated orange by Farrow & Ball named Charlotte’s Locks for the walls of his room. Design details include orange-and-white stripes and a custom-made desk resting on Lucite feet.

Green Bedroom

Instead of furniture, the master bedroom features built-ins, including a customized dresser and window seats. The designer wanted to pull the outdoors inside with green tones, complemented by green tile in the master bathroom. The bed features Lee Jofa fabric, while the print on the bench was chosen for its novel gold shimmer. The different textiles and textures, as well as the artwork on the walls, add a sense of tranquility, coziness and comfort.

Rainbow Room

The young daughter requested a rainbow in her room, but Meghan was concerned that the child might quickly outgrow it. She solved the dilemma by choosing a prism fabric by Jonathan Adler from Kravet, and designing an arched bookcase with a rainbow-like feel. In a room where blue prevails, she used St. Giles Blue from Farrow & Ball for the walls.

Cherry-Themed Kitchen Nook

The window in the kitchen nook looks out on gorgeous views, while the cherry-themed wallpaper adds bold dashes of red and blue. To make sure nothing else in



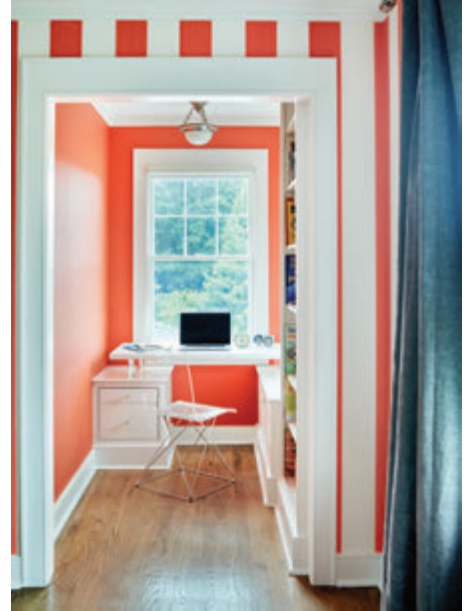
Wallpaper is Serena & Lily, sofa is Kravet.
The painting was created by the owners'
daughter. The latch hardware was from the
home's original kitchen.







The pillow fabric by Pierre Frey was the inspiration for the use of color throughout the home. The sconces are from Circa. The purple wall color, which picks up the hues of the evening sunset, is from Farrow & Ball.





Custom built-in dresser and window seats,
Lee Jofa green velvet fabric.

the area distracted from these focal points, Meghan chose clear Lucite chairs by Philippe Starck for function as well as their neutral look. She enjoyed mixing the modern with the classic, using a touch of gold to highlight the abundance of natural light in the room. “The light works with the modern edge of what’s happening in the room,” explains Meghan.

Going Beyond Color

The color scheme is so beautifully rendered, you almost miss the other exquisite details in this modern farmhouse. Not to be overlooked are the vintage wooden beams on the kitchen ceiling that came from Yale’s Gilder Boathouse, and the elegant oak plank flooring throughout the home. Because the owners often cook at home, Meghan chose nano glass for the countertops. This man-made stone is very reflective, adding more light to the space. As functional as it is beauti-





ful, nano glass far surpasses marble and granite in its ability to resist stains. A strong-veined marble, double waterfall island stands in the center of the kitchen.

The third floor was converted into a TV room for watching sports, another favorite activity of the clients. The room offers magnificent views of both the Long Island Sound and the spacious backyard. The finishing touch was the addition of a small kitchen so the owners don't have to climb up and down three flights of stairs for refreshments.

Moss Design's ability to merge the functionality of this modern farmhouse with a natural flow and creative use of color is what makes this home so special. Completed almost a decade ago, the timeless design continues to be a source of pleasure for the family that lives there.

"I know the project is a success when I have happy clients," Meghan concludes.

Resource:

*Moss Design
Meghan De Maria
Courtney Yanni
354 Pequot Avenue
Suite 130
Southport, CT 06890
917-292-6153
mossdesignct.com*

KITCHENS





GARY CIUFFO
CIUFFO CABINETRY
"COLLABORATION IS KEY"

HONING YOUR MASTERPIECE

Finding your style in the Kitchen

Story by Kathleen Syron





Every kitchen designed by the staff of Ciuffo Cabinetry is like their first kitchen, because it always starts with the client. To understand his clients' sense of style, Gary Ciuffo, the firm's owner, says he begins by asking standard questions about their basic style preferences: traditional, transitional, contemporary or modern. "If they're unsure of their preference, we'll go through inspiration photos to help them narrow down what they like," says Gary. "Once we've established what they prefer, I ask crucial questions about their lifestyle and daily routines that will inform much of the style and design of their kitchen. Some important questions I ask are: Do you do a lot of cooking? Do you entertain a lot in your kitchen? How big is your family? How much time do you spend in the kitchen?"

Gary followed this procedure when designing this beautiful kitchen in a new build outside New York City. The homeowners were well into the design process for their home's overall style and color scheme, so when they came to Ciuffo Cabinetry, they were prepared and educated. "Our clients were very confident that they wanted a bright, contemporary kitchen space that maximized natural light and echoed similar tones and finishes from the surrounding home's design," Gary recalls. His role then became as a guide, helping the clients to select a functional layout, cutting-edge appliances and complementary tones, finishes and materials to bring their kitchen vision to life. The clients also had several "must-haves" that made the design a bit more challenging: they wanted the kitchen free from upper cabinetry, while also maximizing storage and creating a focal point for the home. "Our clients' request for maximized window space and reduced upper cabinetry was a welcome challenge for us," says Gary. "It required us to work creatively to ensure that our clients still had plenty of cabinetry for storage and organization."

With this in mind, Gary designed the kitchen with minimal upper cabinetry while providing base cabinets that are a contemporary, sleek, custom-stained walnut and white that com-

plements the client's style. He created ample under-counter cabinetry that incorporates inserts and drawers for optimized storage and functionality, two sinks, and pantry space that flanks each side of the kitchen.

Gary also furnished work zones to ensure that his clients can cook, entertain and prepare meals with ease. "All our cabinetry is custom-made in-house, and is unique to each client," explains Gary. "For this kitchen, we utilized custom-stained walnut for island cabinetry, floating shelves and hood details, and painted the surrounding cabinetry white with special door details. We installed full-height retractable doors to house a spacious and accessible breakfast/coffee bar. Many custom drawer inserts and organizers are integrated throughout the cabinetry to keep utensils, fine dishware, and pots and pans well ordered. We chose custom-stained walnut, clean white cabinetry, elegant quartzite and satin brass fixtures throughout the space. These well-balanced materials—earthy, rich, light, warm and bright—complement the style of the surrounding home and reflect our client's taste."

The design and the build were a success because Ciuffo maintained constant communication with the client. "Responsiveness is key to a successful process with our clients," he says. "From drafting to final design, we review each phase with them and address their questions and concerns. Providing drawings, renderings and samples, and meeting in our office and at their home, helps our clients stay informed and on the same page with us every step of the way."

Resource:

Ciuffo Cabinetry
 Gary Ciuffo
 1000 Sylvan Avenue
 Bayport, NY 11705
 631-586-5976
ciuffocabinetry.com



JENNIFER HOWARD
JWH DESIGN + CABINETRY
"MIXING MODERN WITH HISTORICAL"

Photography by Brian Madden



One of the most challenging interior design requests is to mix the conveniences of modern technology with the constraints of historic homes. It is admirable and necessary to preserve our historic structures, but rarely do they allow for modern living, especially in terms of the kitchen. When Jennifer Howard, founder of JWH Design & Cabinetry, met up with a family of four in Rye, NY, she was introduced to their historic Victorian home. The beautiful residence had been lovingly restored by the family, and it was obvious that the client wanted to maintain the look, feel and floor plan for their new kitchen. "We were limited in making any architectural changes," notes Jennifer. "For example, we were unable to move the doorways to the dining room or mudroom."

On top of those limitations, the client wanted a treasure trove of modern conveniences. This family's "must-haves" included an island with seating for four; a small bar area near the ex-



terior door for easy access to their outdoor space; a snack area for kids away from the work zones; and pantry storage, including one area for kids, out of the work zone, and the other convenient for cooking. The homeowners also had specific appliance requests: a 36-inch range, double ovens, a flip-down microwave,

refrigerator drawers and a beverage/wine refrigerator. Their number one request, however, was a Sub-Zero refrigerator/freezer to be built in with specialty ice-box hinges by Armac Martin.

The most critical step, space planning, came next. The original kitchen was dated and inefficient, so the homeowners were looking to maximize their space, which is a JWH specialty. "Identifying the pain points and finding creative solutions is the first step," says Jennifer. "With each layout option, full 3D renderings allow clients to fully visualize the potential of their spaces." To share the designs, JWH has fully embraced modern technology. It has a "Worktable" section on its website, where





clients can access all their designs and necessary documents in PDF form. JWH can review them with clients via Zoom or other video link services, making the whole process efficient and convenient.

Although JWH was architecturally limited regarding the doors, the team was able to remove one small side window and shorten another, which provided critical opportunities for improvement in creating “work zones.” The clients wanted to make sure they had an efficient area for preparing busy meals and entertaining, and another location to allow their kids to be self-sufficient.

After exploring the adjoining spaces in the home and areas that had already been renovated, Jennifer had a good understanding of her clients’ general taste. She then ascertained their goals and wishes, and collected their inspiration images, “JWH clients will often tag photos that appeal to them from our website and from idea books on Houzz and Pinterest,” explains Jennifer. To recreate the homeowners’ style in this kitchen, Jennifer used JWH custom cabinetry designed in a classic, inset style with exposed nickel hinges. The raised panel doors and drawers

and coordinating moldings provided the right level of traditional, with the unique color scheme from adjoining spaces that had been decorated with soft, muted colors.

While all JWH cabinetry is custom, the firm offers additional features and accessories to further the function of its client’s spaces. The accessories used in this kitchen feature Hafele LED under-cabinet lights, spice racks, tray dividers, cutlery dividers and can racks on pantry doors. Other details provided by JWH that extend the traditional style include stone floors, walnut finishes, Armac Martin hardware and an apron-front sink.

Resource:

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

JONATHAN GORDON
DESIGN BY THE JONATHANS
"MEET CHALLENGES WITH FLEXIBILITY"

Photography by Robert Norman





Jonathan Gordon, owner of Design by the Jonathans, found himself in the sensitive position of having friends for clients. A young family with a toddler and a baby on the way came to him to redesign their home to be more functional and cosmetically up-to-date. Although it might seem like having friends as clients would make the process easier, in reality it carries both pros and cons. But Jonathan, well aware of the situational jeopardy, treats his friends like any other clients. “They will get the same level of care, and the process will not change,” he says. “I may know them, yet still not have insight into what they really like and how they use their kitchen.” He succeeded in designing this kitchen by wiping the slate clean of any prior knowledge of the client or their home.

Jonathan starts with broad questions about the homeowner’s likes and pain points, and then digs deeper by asking about specific colors, appliances and style. Ultimately, he suggests design solutions for the client’s approval. Here, the existing kitchen was a U-shaped dead-end with no access to other parts of the home—as was the adjacent family room. Jonathan believes that “tastes are specific, but the need for functional space is universal,” so his first decision was to take down all the walls and combine the kitchen, dining and living areas. This opened up the space and gave him a clean palette to design the perfect kitchen.

The hallmark of Design by the Jonathans is kitchen utilization—as well as putting backsplash tile up and over the window for a more complete look—so it’s





paramount that all functional aspects are in place before the client decides on style. These particular homeowners knew what they wanted in terms of style—transitional with white cabinets—but were unsure how to accomplish their functional desires—access to the garage and a bigger powder room. Their questions for Jonathan all began with “How do we....?” Jonathan reconfigured the spaces adjacent to the new open floor plan by increasing the size of the powder room, eliminating the laundry room and creating a laundry closet, and giving the family access to the garage. These changes dictated the new kitchen/living/dining floor plan. He placed a large island in the center of their kitchen to provide seating for four. One of the clients’ “must-haves” was double wall ovens—somewhat challenging to accomplish in a relatively compact kitchen. Teamed with a pullout pantry, the ovens were similar in size to the refrigerator/freezer, so Jonathan placed these items on opposite ends of the kitchen for balance. The other features fell into place within those confines.

After completing the floor plan and functional aspects of the design, Jonathan started making material selections with the client on a big shopping day. Starting with the countertops, he and the homeowner first decided what stone would fit their design scope, and then moved on to the backsplash tile, plumbing, appliances, lighting and, finally, cabinetry. When Jonathan and his clients go shopping, they have ideas about material selections but are open to finding new pieces as well.

In this case, he and the homeowners were set on a marble herringbone backsplash until they found a beautiful, pillowy 3D fireplace tile. Since the fireplace and backsplash are in the same vicinity, it was important to keep their style complementary, so Jonathan and the homeowners opted for a similar marble backsplash tile in the kitchen. The clients also liked the look of a big wooden hood, which would not be appropriate for an island-based range, so they settled for a curved glass hood. Jonathan’s selections for the hardware cabinetry mimicked the curve of the hood.

“Our innovative design solutions come together within a collaborative environment,” says Jonathan. “We foster relationships between our clients and our team to make the whole process refreshingly enjoyable.”

Resource:

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

KAREN BERKEMEYER
KAREN BERKEMEYER HOME
"FARMHOUSE ELEGANCE"





The word “farmhouse” gets bandied about the interior design world, often without any specific definition, space or direction. The style has been building in popularity over the past decade and does not appear to be waning. Indeed, it is so ubiquitous that “farmhouse kitchens” have merged with a large variety of design styles to create design hybrids. The current favorite, modern farmhouse, consists of clean lines, glossy accents and neutral or monochromatic color schemes. The country farmhouse tries to recreate the charm of mid-20th-century farm kitchens with linoleum, inset cabinets and scalloped trims. A French farmhouse will have cool grays, whites, warm hardwood flooring, rustic accents and tons of marble. The Scandinavian farmhouse is minimalist and bright white, with clean lines and light wood flooring, while the coastal farmhouse is airy, breezy, light and inspired by the colors of the ocean. And the rustic farmhouse combines handcrafted, distressed woods and open shelving with flea market décor. The common thread in these different styles is the appearance of being casual amid high design. When Karen Berkemeyer Home was tasked with creating an Old World kitchen for a big family that entertains often, Karen was not envisioning casual, and her client did not want a cookie-cutter farmhouse style. Instead, Karen took an ordinary suburban kitchen and elevated it with vintage accents to create one of the most elegant farmhouse kitchens for the modern age.

Karen’s client was adamant that she wanted a working kitchen with all the modern conveniences, yet one from a different age. “The client, a skilled and avid cook, wanted a timeless kitchen space that would defy categorization,” says Karen. “With the use of natural materials and state-of-the-art appliances, we created a rustic industrial space with a vintage farmhouse feel. Every detail in this space is fully imagined, including the antique hand-hewn beams, penny mudroom floor and creatively selected fixtures.” Luckily, the products available through Karen Berkemeyer Home are carefully hand-selected by the designer so each client will get the custom look they want. Karen, in collaboration with Dunn Designs, renovated the kitchen in this 104-year-old, shingle-style house to be more in keeping with the age and history of the home.

To achieve Old World charm, Karen knew it was important to be as genuine as possible with the materials. All elements of the kitchen were either sourced from antique vendors or custom-made. The rough hand-hewn beams came from an old barn. Realistically, ceiling beams are part of the building structure, and either follow the roofline or are laid to support the floor above. Modern faux beams are used to add warmth and style, but are obviously





decorative, as the added beams would never be enough to support the roof, let alone another structure. Although the beams in this kitchen are not supportive, they are real solid hardwood beams laid out in a typical post and beam structure, with the beams running not just parallel to each other, but perpendicular as well, to provide authenticity.

A true vintage kitchen will always have some element of subway tiles, as they were the most popular style during the advent of running water inside the home. Instead of sourcing antique tiles, which would run counter to the reasoning behind the use of white subway tiles (to satisfy a rabid desire for cleanliness), Karen commissioned custom artisan tiles for this kitchen. The craftsmen designed these subway tiles to have some glazed on the top and some glazed on the bottom, so when laid out the tiles would give a textured, bumpy appearance, as though they had been there for over a century—and yet were still hygienically clean.

There is nothing more vintage in a kitchen than a butler's pantry—a useful and once critical part of the home that has been pushed away for more open-plan living. Karen wanted to highlight the butler pantry's usefulness in the modern age while also em-

phasizing vintage charm. She added plenty of storage, a wine refrigerator and another cleanup sink. The client liked the checkerboard look, but wanted it updated. Instead of the typical square/diamond-shaped pattern, Karen chose an arabesque/lantern-style quarried tile in black and white.

Other vintage elements Karen used to add to the authenticity include inset cabinets, exposed hinges, lock cabinet pulls, glass cabinet fronts displaying contents, an old-fashioned carving station with massive butcher block, and a custom galvanized steel range hood.

Resource:

Karen Berkemeyer Home
Karen Berkemeyer
 175 Post Road West
 Westport, CT 06880
 203-454-0032
karenberkemeyerbhome.com

MEGAN O'HALLORAN
SIDELI TILE & STONE
*"FROM IDEATION TO
IMPLEMENTATION,
TOGETHER"*

Photography by Siobhan Stanton





Lead designer and co-owner Megan O'Halloran launched Sideli Tile & Stone in 2017, and since that time she has designed many kitchens for many clients. Recently, owners of a home more than a century old in in Dobbs Ferry, NY, hired Megan to remodel their kitchen, but as it turned out, they were far from ordinary clients.

The homeowners, one of whom is in the real estate industry, were quite savvy and had a keen eye for design. "These clients had a really good idea of what they wanted, but it took a lot of collaboration to ultimately achieve the total vision," says Megan. They were having a challenging time selecting material and implementing the design. So Megan first emphasized finding out the clients' style and their vision for the kitchen by looking at inspirational photos and choosing color tones and textures. "This client had a Pinterest page and a good vision for their space," remembers Megan, "but they needed to be guided to execute the finishing touches."

Clients are most often prepared with a "must-haves" list of functions, materials and style. It can be challenging to work with a client who is set on one element or material that ultimately either won't work in their space or for which there is a better alternative. Megan avoids these types of situations by constant communication with the client. "The more you understand, the easier it is to execute," she explains. This client knew she wanted black cabinets with visible wood grain. "It was challenging to find the right wood species and stain to create the look and feel the client desired," recalls Megan. Though they were initially thinking oak, Megan ended up using hickory for all its





grain detail. She chose to work with a custom cabinet line so she could pick the right wood species and finish.

The homeowners also wanted a custom island with a warm finish and open shelves for easy access. “The custom island was tricky because we had to get the sizing and color just right,” says Megan. “The island had to look and act like a piece of furniture, but function as an island.” She designed and built the island in-house to make sure the clients got everything they desired.

The structural changes in this design consisted of combining the former kitchen and dining rooms and enlarging the windows along one side, creating a grander space. Unfortunately, this eliminated upper storage on one wall. Megan’s challenge was to get all the necessary functionality and storage on one wall without it looking like of solid block of cabinets. She broke up the wall of pantries (equipped with custom storage solutions) with a coffee/wine bar and open bookshelves for their cookbooks—both on the clients’ “must-have” list.

Resources:

Sideli Tile & Stone
Megan O’Halloran
14 Hamilton Street
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
914-274-8888
sidelitilestone.com





MARIA MATLUCK MARIA MATLUCK CONSTRUCTION CONSULTANTS *"OPERATING ON A LOVED ONE"*

Photography by Simon Howard



One of the latest trends in real estate is the move away from downsizing. Retirees are no longer looking to minimize their spaces, but instead want to modernize their homes and open them up to multigenerational living. Such was the case for Maria Matluck when a recently retired couple approached her firm, Maria Matluck Construction Consultants, to help them with their kitchen remodel. Homeowners seek out Maria because she offers smart designs, custom cabinetry, seamless project management and budget tracking all under one roof. Few designers and contractors have the ability to offer their own custom cabinetry, but for Maria it became a necessity. "After searching for the best custom cabinetry for my projects and not finding exactly what I needed, I developed my own line of cabinets handcrafted in Connecticut by skilled artisans," explains Maria. "It gives you unparalleled options."

The retired homeowners loved their kitchen but admitted it was out-of-date and had other problems. They were open to a major remodel, but they didn't have a clear style vision. Working on a beloved kitchen can be a daunting feat; Maria consulted with the clients to keep the elements of the kitchen they loved and tackle the pain points. The existing kitchen was dark and dominated by a giant island range hood. Maria would have considered moving the range as she prefers a clean island, but the clients love to cook and face the people sitting at the island. So she needed a way to incorporate a powerful hood without it taking away from the view. Maria's solution was to build a small soffit over the island that houses the new range hood and lighting; it blends in well with the ceiling and does not obscure the view of the kitchen. The clients also requested that the island have a small prep sink so two people can work there at the same time.

Maria had suggested lighter floors, but another "must-have" for the homeowners was to keep the cherry floors. So Maria kept the floors but sanded them down to be more complementary to the new gray kitchen.

Maria's clients also wanted to use only all-natural organic materials—no man-made products.





And since they are very visual and tactile people, Maria took them to the source and had them see and feel the stone, tile and cabinetry. They chose a beautiful marble stone for the island and counters. The custom cabinetry made out of cabinet grade plywood with a MDF panel and painted in Benjamin Moore Smoke and Mirrors; the shelves and the hidden cabinet doors on the back of the island are made of rift-cut white oak. This show-tell method was perfect for the clients, as it helped them make confident decisions more quickly.

Maria made room for all the new, bigger appliances, moving the kitchen closer to the eating and living areas. To unite the other areas near the kitchen, she created a living room console table with the rift-cut oak from the shelves and the back of island, and painted the eat-in dining table and chairs the same color as the cabinets.

Resource:

*Maria Matluck Construction Consultants
Maria Matluck
401 Westport Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06851
203-858-7762
mariamatluckcc.com*

ROBERTO LEIRA
MAJESTIC KITCHENS
"JUST ENOUGH EDUCATION"

Photography by Brian Madden





Roberto Leira of Majestic Kitchens designs approximately 70 kitchens per year, but it never gets old for him, as each kitchen is custom and different. Recently, a lively, quirky family came to Roberto, looking to do a kitchen remodel. The mission was simple: renovate the couple's home, built in the 1950s, with the focus on creating a great entertaining space that was both functional and beautiful. In addition, create some order for the numerous items used by this kosher household during various religious holidays. From his very first meeting with the homeowners, Roberto realized he'd need to provide some information and a bit of an education to help them understand the benefits, costs and options available in today's kitchens. "It's an art form, a colleague of mine would often say, providing homeowners with just enough of a window into the various options and combinations available, while not overwhelming them," explains Roberto.

The style of the clients leaned toward transitional, but they were open to new finishes and ideas. Roberto introduced the homeowners to the Russian Blue paint color from the Grabill Custom cabinet line, and the family fell in love at first sight. The blue cabinets then became the anchor of Roberto's design. Although the clients are active and love to entertain, they wanted a clutter-free kitchen—almost as if it were never used. The idea struck Roberto to showcase the island like a beautiful jewelry box among a clean white background. As family and friends gather around the island together, the real jewel of the family is revealed. Robert used the raised panel Heritage cabinet doors from Majestic for the island, and the Cascade white flat panel door with one-quarter round Vogue door from Plain and Fancy Cabinetry. The stark color contrast places emphasis on the center island, which has become known as the center of their home.

The family loved the blue glass tile Roberto chose for the backsplash, but they wanted to mix it up with a secondary tile. They picked a softer blue tile that wouldn't clash with the stunning glass





tile, yet added a bit of whimsy for this unique family.

While setting the style, color scheme and finishes for this kitchen was a fairly straightforward task, designing the functionality was a bit more challenging. The couple needed an unusually large amount of space for appliances and storage to maintain their kosher lifestyle. First, the architect increased the depth of the kitchen to accommodate the large appliances. Then Robert decided on frameless cabinetry for the extra storage, including areas for small appliances to keep the countertops clear. “We had an agreed-upon goal to create a space that had clean and clear counters at the end of each day,” explains Roberto. “Using various storage options, configurations and creative design work, we achieved a space that makes me smile each and every time I get to see it.”

Resource:

*Majestic Kitchens
Roberto Leira
700 Fenimore Road
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
914-381-1302
majestickitchens.com*



KATE GELFAND
KATE GELFAND INTERIOR DESIGN
"MASTERFUL CUSTOMIZATION"

Photography by leila-brewster







Kate Gelfand Interior Design is a full-service interior design firm known for creating spaces that celebrate craftsmanship, beauty and a sense of place. Kate's time spent living in Florence, Italy, and her extensive travel throughout Europe and Asia exposed her to varying styles of art, decoration and design, and give her a deep appreciation for the artistry and craftsmanship involved. She brings all that knowledge plus years of experience to provide custom solutions and styling to suit a range of traditional and modern styles for her clients.

Kate recently met a couple who were empty nesters but far from retiring or downsizing—in the traditional sense. After raising their children in a large home in a rural area, they now wanted to live closer to town, with the notion of creating an airy, breezy, entertainment-focused home. Their adult children live nearby and visit often, and the whole family loves to entertain. The couple settled on a home in town, but the kitchen didn't meet their needs.

Kate's clients wanted a "completely custom" kitchen—a challenging task for any interior designer, as it requires in-depth knowledge of the clients, their style and how they use their space. And, although Kate's clients didn't come prepared with a stylebook and must-have appliances, they knew what they wanted and could show the designer. Kate interviewed her client in her previous kitchen, where the homeowner not only highlighted the pain points but also the patterns she wanted to retain. Thus, when Kate reenvisioned the new kitchen, it was easy to recreate what the clients liked in the previous kitchen, while eliminating the unnecessary and redundant.

The new home's kitchen had been built for a traditional family, so adjustments had to be made to the style and function. The original kitchen was lacking storage and not set up for entertaining. First, Kate created a separate area for more storage along an unused wall in the kitchen by stealing some property from a hallway on the other side of the wall. This area now contains a pantry, beverage fridge, microwave and coffee bar. All the other cabinets were fitted out with appropriate inserts to service how these particular homeowners use their kitchen. The original kitchen had two refrigerators, which seemed unnecessary, so one refrigerator was converted to a freezer. Of the "must-haves," the clients wanted the island top to be Calacutta gold marble measuring two-and-a-half inches thick. This was a bit of a task to source, but it truly makes the island and sets the airy, breezy tone of the design. The chairs of the eat-in kitchen are made a high-performance velvet for entertaining, and the floors are a very pale white oak to give off a sun-bleached resort style.

Resource:

Kate Gelfand Interior Design
 Kate Gelfand
 50 Greenwich Avenue
 2nd Floor
 Greenwich, CT 06830
 203-485-0413
 kategelfand.com

KATIE CANFIELD
STUDIO KC INTERIORS
"GOING IT ALONE"

Photography by Brewster Photography





Katie Canfield was a humble freelance interior designer, working with other designers in New York and Connecticut, when she also became the go-to resource for local contractors and trades. In 2015 she founded Studio KC Interiors, a full-service interior design firm. Because her company is small, Katie is able to form deep connections with all her clients to meet their needs and bring their visions to life. “Studio KC is there for clients from the start of the design process through construction to the final touches of accessories,” says Katie, who is also principal designer of the firm. “I enjoy both the construction phase and the decorating work.” Her immense talent and ease with clients are evident in a beautiful kitchen she designed for a family of five at their weekend lake retreat. The project, however, was not without its challenges—something Katie never shies away from.

Katie met the family late in 2019 to discuss the focus and scope of the job. She got together with them a few more times, and then the pandemic hit. Because of the lockdown, Katie was unable to have any more in-person contact with the homeowners. She prides herself on the attention she gives to each client, so she had to adjust to a new working relationship to provide the same level of service. “Not working together in the same room really slowed the material selection process,” explains Katie. “With the pandemic already causing supply-chain issues, by the time the client made a decision about a product, it was too late, sold out or back-ordered.” At that point, Katie’s



client took a giant leap of faith and entrusted her with all the design decisions. “Exhilarating and terrifying!” exclaims Katie.

The initial decision to renovate the kitchen was sparked by a storm that sent a tree crashing through the roof of the 100-plus-year-old house. The clients spent every weekend hosting friends at the home, so they wanted a large entertainer’s kitchen with an abundance of appliances. Then, mid-renovation, still during lockdown, the family decided to move to the lake house and live there full-time. That decision didn’t change the overall design of the kitchen, but it did alter how the family would use the space, so Katie needed to make adjustments.

The pandemic had thrown a wrench into Katie’s working style, but that was not her only challenge. She also had to deal with the normal issues that arise during renovation. Due to the large number of appliances, for example, the architect/builder needed to insert an electrical run on the left side of the range. Katie did not want to alter her

symmetrical cabinet layout design, so she kept the layout as it was and worked instead with the cabinet interiors. She built the cabinets around the pipe and added interesting pullouts to utilize all viable space.

The clients were so happy working with Katie that they asked her to revamp their whole house.

Resource:

*Studio KC
Katie Canfield
41 Lowe St #1
Norwalk, CT 06854
845-705-0684
studiokcinteriors.com*



LAUREN VALLARIO
LAUREN VALLARIO DESIGNS
"A STUDY IN WHITE"

Photography by Tracy Wind





A young couple with a child love to entertain and spend time with family and friends, but their kitchen didn't reflect their lifestyle. They wanted more light and additional space for entertaining and storage. A decorator friend recommended they consult Lauren Vallario, an interior designer specializing in kitchens and bathrooms, who has more than 10 years of experience working with clients. "The kitchen was dark and drab and didn't reflect the owners' personality," says Lauren. "They wanted light and bright, but warm." The clients had a few other requests as well, including a larger range, clutter-free countertops, office storage with no desk, and an appliance garage.

Lauren's first step was to work on the functionality of the space, including the kitchen, dining room and living room. She created a separate dining zone/breakfast nook by bumping out a wall approximately 10 feet to accommodate a dining table and chairs. This not only changed the look and feel of the space, but added more space for entertaining and much-needed light from the wall of windows. Lauren worked with a third-party architect to create permit-ready plans for the builders. Then she worked on the storage solutions for the family. The main feature of the kitchen is the multifunctional built-in pantry Lauren designed. The top half has two appliance garages with pocket doors that slide back into the cabinet for full exposure, instead of





the tambour doors featured on most appliance garages. The lower portion of the pantry is for office storage, and contains a charging drawer. “I like to include a charging drawer in all my kitchens, as it gives the homeowners a place to put their devices when it is time to switch off,” explains Lauren. For the odd, unused space above the tall refrigerator, Lauren created a cupboard for large platters and trays. She also added refrigerator drawers in the island both for entertaining purposes and for kids to access drinks and snacks. Lauren was practical in her design as well, using a durable white quartz on the island, and leaving the glamorous yet porous marble for the backsplash. And, at the owners’ suggestion, she installed inlaid quartz on the front side of the island, at foot level, to protect the island from scuffing.

The biggest and most important challenge was creating a white, bright space that didn’t feel cold or off-putting. “To create a warm, white room, you must use a warm, white paint,” says Lau-

ren. Her go-to white paint is Benjamin Moore’s Chantilly lace, which provided a palette of warm neutrality to build on. The white glow and the wall of windows supplied all the light the homeowners requested. Lauren then added streaks of warmth throughout the kitchen in the form of brass finishes on the cabinetry hardware and pendant lights, natural rattan and woven chairs on the island and in the breakfast nook, and warm wood floors anchoring the entire space.

Resource:

Lauren Vallario Designs
Lauren Vallario
210 Laurel Drive
Cortland manor NY 10567
914-522-4527
laurenvallariodesigns .com

JOHN + KIM CONTE
FAIRFIELD HOUSE & GARDEN
"WORKING FOR YOURSELF"

Photography by Neil Landino





During the 80-plus years that the Conte family has been running Fairfield House & Garden, the firm has become known as a leader in interior and exterior construction in Fairfield, CT, and Westchester, NY. John and Kim Conte, part of the Fairfield team, had a house they no longer loved and were contemplating moving. But it was hard to leave this home: a 1976 mid-century modern classic with a lot of original detailing, especially the cedar tongue-and-groove ceiling. So instead the couple decided to hire their own firm and remodel their dated kitchen and back garden. “The wonderful thing about this project is that we were our own client,” recalls Kim. “Every now and then, we get to do a project for ourselves, where we sit on both sides of the table. As designers, contractors and client, we experience the process in a way that is enlightening and informative. We always learn from these experiences in ways that directly benefit our clients on the next project.”

When she wears her interior designer hat, Kim gets a sense of her client’s style from conversations and nonverbal cues provided by the homeowner. For their own project, however, Kim let the house dictate the style. Having lived there for 10 years, she and John appreciated the mid-century modern aesthetic and didn’t want to lose it. “We realized



how beautiful the original materials of the house were—everything is natural and top quality—and we wanted to stay true to that,” she explains. “We matched existing mahogany throughout, the Douglas fir beams, and the knotty cedar tongue-and-groove decking on the ceilings. The flooring throughout the house is eight-inch-wide plank character white oak. Entryway flooring is natural large-cleft irregular bluestone flagging to match the screened porch floor.”

Kim gave herself an extensive list of “must-haves.” Just because the couple loved the pureness of their mid-century modern home didn’t mean they didn’t want modern updates. These included relocation of the stove to an island, the addition of a coffee bar, a large pantry for food and kitchen accessories. The renovations presented a number of challenges, however: Lighting in the ceiling was a big concern because of the cedar planks; the only way to rewire the kitchen without destroying the ceiling was to temporarily remove part of the roof. Relocating the range to an island, moreover, would require special venting. These challenges, however, were no match for the experts at Fairfield

House & Gardens.

Kim created several sketch-up renderings, which were constantly tweaked until the design was just right. Favorite features of the house include a hidden pop-out buffet counter to keep the counter/bar clean for seating, and the stunning navy blue and copper La Cornue stove. Kim also used copper in the cabinet hardware, faucet and trim on the mahogany vent over the stove.

Resource:

Fairfield House + Garden
 John and Kim Conte
 28 Langborne Road
 Greenwich, CT 06831
 203.661.8900
fairfieldhouseandgarden.com



RETURNING TO THEIR ROOTS

A young couple exchanges the city for the suburbs without sacrificing their edgy style.

Story by Heather Shoning | Photography by Jane Beiles





Stephanie wanted to give the family a comfortable spot to enjoy time together. The large sectional in a heavy-duty fabric withstands use while its rich texture ensures that it looks great. The custom upholstered ottoman is perfect for the homeowners to kick back with their feet up, and they don't have to worry about small heads hitting a corner. A rug from Nourison adds texture and warmth to the room.



Although the family room is kid-friendly, Stephanie wanted to make sure it still had a modern, edgy feel to reflect the homeowners' personalities. A pair of pale purple chairs with brushed gold frames flank a side table with acrylic legs. The sleek and shiny textures add interest to the room.



What do you do when you leave a 1,500-square-foot apartment in the city for a 7,000-square-foot home in the suburbs? You call a trusted design professional to help you outfit the space—pronto! When a young couple with two small children returned to their hometown of Westport, CT, the wife called on Stephanie Rapp Interiors to help her furnish a home designed for family living. “Stephanie designed my parents’ house,” says the wife. “She did such a phenomenal job, and I have pretty similar taste to my mom, so I said, ‘I don’t need to interview anyone else—let’s just

use Stephanie.’” And the result is precisely what the homeowners dreamed of.

Just a few years old, the New England shingle-style home was in impeccable shape. It featured the clean, modern finishes Stephanie would have specified—sleek trim detailing, Shaker-style cabinetry and a neutral palette. So she set to work choosing furnishings and finishing details with the intent of giving the couple a fashionable home that would reflect their personalities and withstand growing children and lots of entertaining. The homeowner also wanted to maintain a neutral palette without much color, so Stephanie opted to introduce textures that would create visual interest and warm





White, charcoal and black are the primary colors in this modern palette. But the chic home designed for a young family includes surprising materials to ensure that it always looks fresh.

The barstools are upholstered in vinyl so they won't be stained by small children. elegance of the room to the next level.



The dining room features chairs that resemble the kitchen stools in shape, and they, too, are covered in kid-safe vinyl. The light fixture from Nuevo adds a touch of glam to the space—a look that is repeated throughout the home.



up the space. “I wanted modern, and I don’t love a lot of color,” says the homeowner. “I’m more into different textures, and I love light fixtures. I think Stephanie did a great job of keeping everything neutral in color, but mixing up the textures and keeping it family-friendly.”

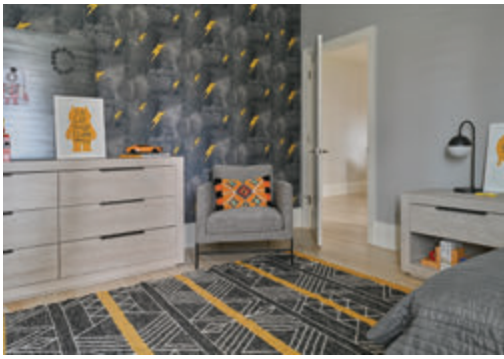
Jettisoning the hustle of the city for a suburban lifestyle didn’t mean the homeowners left behind their sense of edginess or style. So Stephanie ensured the home had touches of bling in all the right places to play against the pseudo-monochromatic palette and kid-friendly surfaces. “The homeowners wanted to spread out in the space and have their personality show through,” explains Stephanie. “And I had to make it very livable for the young, active family they are.”

Blending Bling with Function

The kitchen includes an oversized island with room to comfortably seat three. The gray island contrasts with the white perimeter cabinetry. The barstools, which have a similar profile to the chairs in the adjoining dining area, are upholstered in a luxurious-looking but stain-repelling vinyl. “Whatever my kids spill on them I can clean, and they look modern, sleek and gorgeous,” says the homeowner. The dining table has a washed white oak top that is sturdy enough

The clean, modern sofa with the oversized light fixture and the high-gloss ceiling treatment create a decidedly refined look in this room. However, the print rug made of FLOR rug tiles is the perfect solution for the kid-centric space.





to handle everyday use, while the legs are brushed gold to add some glitz alongside the modern light fixture.

The open floor plan means the kitchen and dining flow seamlessly into the family room. “The sectional created a seating pit for the family to hang out and live in comfort,” says Stephanie. It’s covered in a textural, heavy-duty fabric that has the sheen of rich velvet. Stephanie designed a custom ottoman upholstered with vinyl so the children can’t hurt themselves on it, and the homeowners can put their feet up on it while watching television. The rug is commercial grade so it can withstand traffic, but it’s a beautiful organic element grounding the space. The high-gloss finish inside the trough ceiling is a simple detail that elevates the design.

Likewise, the pair of matching chairs in a pale plum add just a hint of color, but, with their brushed gold legs, they add a punch of pizzazz. The side table between them has acrylic legs, furthering the textural elements in the room from soft and silky to shiny and sleek. “It’s those combinations of materials—organic with glam with durable—that make the space both elevated and elegant but also very livable,” notes Stephanie.

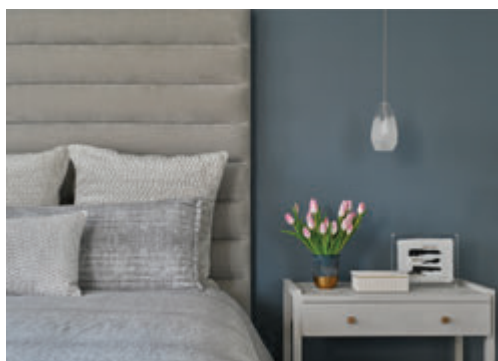
Stephanie’s design employs gold and black throughout the home for a tasteful consistency. “I love that edgy charcoal and black in contrast with white, and the gold accent really elevates it,” she says. In keeping with the gold accents, custom brushed gold benches pick up the light lavender from the chairs in playfully patterned cushions. Floor-to-ceiling draperies add a slight edge with studded drapery tape detailing.

The playroom off the foyer features a sectional with elegant tufting on the seating area and oversized comfortable cushions on the back. A carpet-tile rug is a perfect solution for the inevitable stains in a kid-centered space, and it adds a bit of fun and frivolity to the room. A huge capiz shell chandelier is a standout design element hanging from the gloss gray ceiling in this room.

Stephanie designed the children’s bedrooms with longevity in mind. The furniture will age well with the children, and is neutral enough to complement any future design styles. But she wanted to be sure the rooms were playful, so she gave each its own fun wall treatment and geometric print rug. As the couple prepares for their third child, Stephanie is designing the nursery.



The primary suite is the homeowners' retreat. It is equal parts sexy, glamorous and comfortable. The alluring blue adds just the right amount of color to the space, while the textures in the Prestige Mills rug and bedding create a warm sense of comfort. Elegant sophistication is provided by the bench, with its muted zebra print and brushed gold frame, and the Arteriors sunburst light fixture.



While the kids' rooms are fun, the primary suite, on the other hand, is all about a high-end hotel feel. "I love my bedroom more than anything in the world," says the wife. "Nothing makes me happier than re-treating to my bedroom at the end of the day." After living in a small two-bedroom apartment in the city, she wanted a statement headboard. The bed has a velvet upholstered frame with a tall headboard featuring a modern horizontal tuft pattern. The bedding and accent pillows are highly textured, as is the bench at the foot of the bed with its zebra pattern fabric and brushed gold frame. An overstuffed side chair offers just a hint of the purple hue from the family room, but the real color in this space is on the walls.



"Stephanie convinced me to do a dark, kind of sexy color," says the homeowner. The result is a deep, inviting backdrop that envelops the room in warmth. A sunburst gold light fixture adds an element of flair, while two cut and frosted crystal pendant lights flank the bed. An inspiration Pinterest board revealed the homeowner's penchant for these pendant lights. "Stephanie said to me, 'Do you know that in every single picture you pinned, you have these pendant lights?'" the homeowner says. "They were an expensive addition, but she said, 'You have to do it because you're obviously drawn to them.'"

Expanding Outdoors

Besides furnishing the indoors, Stephanie helped the couple create a functional space for outdoor









entertaining. “That was part of our upgrade to their lifestyle—designing and having that outdoor kitchen built,” explains Stephanie. In addition, Stephanie created different seating areas—a dining area, a cozy spot around the fire pit and a lounge area by the pool. “Having an inviting outdoor space that really works for entertaining was important to us,” says the homeowner. “We wanted to ensure—similar to my house—this notion of trendy, edgy and modern while still being family-friendly and easy to maintain.”

Stephanie opted for sleek lounge chairs with no cushions that would need to be taken off and on. The dining table is a simple, modern design surrounded by string chairs with an organic, Boho feel. The string-style furniture appears again around the fire pit, with cushions to ensure maximum comfort for gathering around the fire in the evening or during family gatherings. “I design for many young families—not surprisingly in West-

port—and many of them have moved from Manhattan. They come here already having a very chic and fashionable aesthetic,” says Stephanie. “And I don’t think they want to lose that when they move to the suburbs. The same was true with this family, so I wanted to give them that little bit of edge and chic in those individual decor decisions.”

Resource:

Stephanie Rapp Interiors
Stephanie Rapp
489 Post Road East
Suite 201
Westport, CT 06880
203-216-5835
stephanierappinteriors.com



BARBARA LEWIS OF THE LEWIS DESIGN GROUP CREATES “THE CLOSET REIMAGINED” FOR THE KIPS BAY DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE PALM BEACH

Barbara Lewis, principal designer of the full-service interior design firm The Lewis Design Group will be one of twenty-four featured designers at the 5th Annual Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach opening on March 5th. The Lewis Design Group was invited to design the primary closet at 3001 Spruce Avenue, a prominent Mediterranean Revival estate, built in 1923 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. “The Closet Reimagined” by The Lewis Design Group is a sartorial sanctuary that inspires creativity, joy and rejuvenation.

Inspired by the lush colors of Palm Beach, the defining element in this space is the hand-painted palm tree wallpaper by Aqualille. Barbara Lewis says, “It was love at first sight with this wallpaper. From there, the rest of the design fell into place and the concept of an elevated closet was born.” The beautiful palm fronds covering the walls create the experience of entering one’s own enchanted garden.

Beyond just a place to store clothes and accessories, “The Closet Reimagined” is furnished like a room, with a curated mix of one-of-a-kind antiques, re-upholstered and painted in cheerful blues, yellows and whites. Chic accessories and dresses, all with a certain Palm Beach panache, are displayed like works of arts. A charming seating area next to a window continues the feeling of being in one’s own private sanctuary. Joyful green and yellow fabrics by Schumacher on the settee and roman shades create a stunning pattern play with the palm frond wallpaper.

2022 is a milestone year for The Lewis Design Group — in addition to being a featured designer in the prestigious Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach, Barbara Lewis also opened a design studio in Juno Beach this winter (in addition to locations in Long Island, NY and Fairfield County, CT).

Beyond the professional significance of being a Kips Bay Designer, Barbara Lewis is committed to the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club mission to improve and enhance the lives of New York City’s children who are economically, socially or recreationally disadvantaged.

The Lewis Design Group
 Barbara Lewis
 40 Highland Road
 Glen Cove, NY 11542
 914-227-0016
 thelewisdesigngroup.com





jwh
design & cabinetry



Inspired design. Innovative function. @jwhdesigns 203.661.0490



Stories, set in stone

Transforming living spaces with the essence of our living world. An alchemy of craftsmanship and art, a mastery of beauty, Vadara quartz captures the stillness, flow and endless wonder of nature's most captivating corners and sets them into each handcrafted piece, for a surface that's fit for purpose but etched with possibility.



Capture the world in quartz. Visit vadaraquartz.com or call 866.4.VADARA.

vadara

**MARBLE AND
GRANITE, INC.**

Serving Upstate New York and Connecticut

EUROPEAN

Serving New Jersey, New York City, Westchester, and Long Island