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A New Year of Bold Ideas and Inspired Spaces

As we step into 2025, the world of interior design and architecture continues to evolve with fresh perspectives, innovative concepts, and a renewed sense of creativity. This year promises to bring even more excitement, as boundaries are pushed and new trends begin to emerge. At the heart of this transformation, we remain dedicated to showcasing the stories of the visionaries who shape

our spaces—architects, designers, and builders who bring our dreams to life.

In this issue, we are delighted to explore two very exciting features. First, we dive into the unexpected kitchen—a space that has evolved beyond its functional roots into a true expression of style and personality. We've invited top architects, designers, and builders to share their insights on how the kitchen has become a place of innovation, experimentation, and artistic design. From bold materials to open-concept layouts and striking focal points, these kitchens are redefining the heart of the home.

Additionally, we're thrilled to bring you an inspiring article featuring interior designers as they reveal their color predictions for 2025. Color plays such an essential role in creating atmosphere and mood, and this year, we're seeing exciting shifts. Designers have curated their top hues, each paired beautifully with wallpaper selections to elevate and personalize spaces. From vibrant accents to serene neutrals, this year's color palette offers something for everyone, ensuring that every room tells a unique story.

As we reflect on the past and look ahead, it's clear that the intersection of design and architecture will continue to offer new possibilities for our homes and environments. Let this issue serve as both a celebration of what's to come and a nod to the timeless influence of those who dare to dream beyond the ordinary.

Here's to a year of bold ideas, beautiful designs, and inspiring spaces.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew J. Kolk', written in a cursive style.

Matthew J. Kolk
Editor in Chief

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HOUSE ON THE ATLANTIC

Burr Salvatore Architects designs a magnificent beach home that perfectly fuses historical and modern features.

CONVERSATION WITH **RYAN SALVATORE** ♦ WRITTEN BY **ANN KAISER** ♦ IMAGES BY **SCOTT FRANCES**



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UNEXPECTED KITCHENS

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THE HOUSE THAT ROARED

A compact Westport home blends coastal luxury with practicality.

conversation with **PETER CADOUX** ♦ written by **MERYL SIEGMAN** ♦ images by **KIRT WASHINGTON**

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MELANGE

New Year New Hue

As we step into 2025, interior design trends are evolving, with fresh colors and patterns taking center stage in home decor. To help you navigate this exciting year in design, we've asked top interior designers to share their favorite color choices and wallpaper patterns that are sure to define 2025.



2



4



1



3

Rhonda Eleish

When it comes to creating a serene and refreshing atmosphere in your home, the combination of wallpaper and color plays a pivotal role. One of the stand-out shades for this season is Icicle, a soft, cool hue that evokes a sense of calm and clarity. Paired with the right wallpaper, Icicle can transform any room into a light, airy sanctuary. Whether you're looking to highlight a bold pattern or create a minimalist, sophisticated backdrop, the delicate tone of Icicle sets the perfect foundation. Let's explore how to pair this tranquil color with wallpaper to bring a touch of elegance and freshness to your space.

Eleish Van Breems; Rhonda Eleish; Westport, CT; 203-635-8080; evbantiques.com

1. **Beata Heuman** The wallpaper is a new take on the marvelous marbled paper which became popular in Europe during the 17th century, when it was used to line books and the inside of furniture. Creating the patterns requires great skill and also a small measure of luck as it is impossible to completely control the outcome. 2. **Christopher Farr Cloth** Based in her London studio since 1986, Kate Blee is an artist and designer working in diverse media and materials, including wood, paper, clay and cloth. She has become renowned for her work's robust, domestic qualities and her passionate exploration of colour relationships. Blee's designs have been translated into rugs, tapestries, print, and wallpaper. 3. **Benjamin Moore - Icicle** A soft white with muted gray undertones." 4. **Phillip Jeffries- Transcend** Inspired by an immersive forest scene, this painterly mural wallcovering wraps a room in nature when printed on paper, grass cloth, silk, authentic metallic leaf, and wide-width vinyl. Our eco-friendly, sustainable grounds for printing include rapidly renewable hemsps and cork.



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Lina Galvão Erin Coren



1



2

1. **Paint color: Benjamin Moore, Garden Oasis - Wallpaper: Scalamandre, Kvitten, Midnight Blue** We love this wallpaper and paint combo, especially for spaces that need visual depth. The contrast between the mid-tone paint and the dark background of the wallpaper creates this depth, an optical illusion to make the space feel bigger. The combination is moody but also sweet and cottagey with the lemons and vines. 2. **Paint color: Benjamin Moore, Chantilly Lace - Wallpaper: Rebel Walls, Bellewood, Sand** The Bellewood Sand wallpaper is a beautiful forest mural with a hand drawn look. The trees are rendered in a sandy beige color, making the whole visual serene and soothing. This wallpaper would be great in a neutral dining room or primary bedroom with a calming aesthetic. We love using botanical and nature inspired wallpaper, especially with murals, as it brings a feeling of nature inside the home, consistent with the biophilia trend today. We matched the background tone of white to the paint, and Chantilly Lace was the perfect fit. This is a bright white, with little to no undertones, making it look pure and pristine.

Curated Nest; Lina Galvão and Erin Coren; Cos Cob, CT; 914-222-0752; curatednest.com



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Diane Rath

We love a good bold combination of paper and color and our team is very much feeling richer, warmer tones as of late. A chocolate brown paired with a softer blue is a go to at The Rath Project as these are complimentary shades and tend to have a rich, luxurious sense when combined. Magentas, reds and plums are also favorites, and we are loving these colors combined with greens and citrusy chartreuses for an energetic pop of whimsy!

The Rath Project; Diane Rath; Fairfield, CT; 518-542-6268; therathproject.com



1

2



1. Paint color: Benjamin Moore, Tudor Brown deep brown exuding classical elegance
Wallpaper: Harlequin x Henry Holland, Marble-Atlantic Free-flowing and unrestricted by form, the organic composition of the design emulates the Nerikomi technique conveyed in Henry Holland's ceramics 2. Paint color: Backdrop, Stardust Yellow with a hint of green. Wallpaper: Kristy Stafford via Supply Showroom, Anna Rust Psychedelic Rorschach-ish bohemian pattern in funky citron, fuschia and brown combo.



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Lisa Oakes

I have noticed we are going through a 1970's color renaissance. Although the materials most manufacturers are producing tend to be more environmentally conscious, the jewel tones from this era are very much in fashion today. Opulent ochres are mixed with variations of emeralds and rubies, creating a harmonious, rich space that can sway even the most color-neutral individual. Fletcher Wakefield; Lisa Oakes; Stamford, CT; 203-358-0818; fletcherwakefield.com

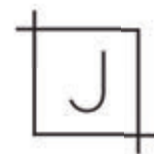


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1. **Paint color:** Farrow & Ball, *Mere Green* Mere Green is a luxurious teal shade. Despite its more traditional feel, it still bursts with energy, making it ideal for the contemporary home. **Wallpaper:** Zinc, Zorelli Wallcovering *Verdigris* Silk wall covering with variations of the Farrow & Ball *Mere Green* create a slight sheen on walls adding depth and movement to any space. 2. **Paint color:** Farrow & Ball, *Bamboozle* Bamboozle brings joy and warmth to any room scheme and is easy to use in both traditional and modern homes. It will hold its own in any light and pairs brilliantly with other strong colors. **Wallpaper:** Kravet, *Woodland Floor* Organic and full of movement, this wallpaper designed by Josephine Munsey represents the proposed theme.



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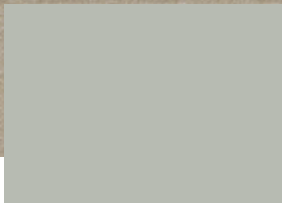
kitchens

bathrooms

Dana Koebbe

These colors have pigment with a patina. Whenever I am working with color on walls, I like to choose paint that is a little muted so the color doesn't overwhelm the room. I currently can't get enough of dark brown and sage green as they are versatile colors for any room. Light blue is always in style and a fan favorite among my clients; it's essential that I have my tried and true blue paint that can interchangeably work in different spaces. When pairing paint and wallpaper, you want to either compliment with subtle contrast or color drench for a more dramatic effect.

Dana Koebbe Interiors ; Dana Koebbe; 203.383.9411 ; danakoebbeinteriors.com



1



2

1. *Paint color: Farrow & Ball, Light Blue No.22 Blue paint can often feel cold and stark, you want a blue that has a hint of neutral. Wallpaper: Aesthetics, Galway/Wheat This neutral linen wallpaper is the perfect complement to Light Blue No.22 to create a serene bedroom space.*

2. *Paint color: Little Greene Paint & Paper, Purple Brown Purple Brown is the perfect dark moody shade that can be considered a brown with a hint of purple. In a matte finish, this color has a velvety look to it and will warm up any space. Wallpaper: Aesthetics, Stockholm/Birchwood This brown felted wool wallpaper would be a sumptuous pairing to Purple Brown paint to create a cozy living room.*



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ALBANO APPLIANCE

conversation with FRED ALBANO ♦ written by SHEHLA LUCANERA



Fred Albano and Mike DiNapoli



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As we enter 2025, the world of kitchen appliances is experiencing a transformation that goes far beyond functionality. Today's discerning homeowners demand appliances that not only serve practical purposes, but also align with their personal values, lifestyle choices and aesthetic desires. Focusing on both the integration of advanced artificial intelligence (AI) and the rising importance of health and wellness, the kitchen of tomorrow will be a high-tech, high-performance space that offers much more than meal preparation.

With this transformation, kitchen appliances are taking on new and exciting roles. Smart technology is pushing boundaries, with AI-powered devices that learn and adapt to cooking habits, improving efficiency and convenience. Meanwhile, health-conscious innovations are redefining the way we approach food preparation, allowing for cleaner, more nutritious meals. Sustainability is also a driving force, with eco-friendly appliances that reduce waste and energy consumption.

How can homeowners balance cutting-edge appliances with luxury kitchen design? To find out, Design + Decor spoke with Fred Albano, owner of Albano Appliance in Pound Ridge, NY. Since 1952, the team at Albano Appliance has helped its clients explore the latest in kitchen technology and offered the most advanced appliances. Fred shares valuable insights about the key trends shaping kitchen appliances in 2025.

Overview of 2025 Trends

D+D: What are the most exciting trends this year in high-end kitchen appliances?

Fred: Some exciting features in kitchens include very flush installations that look sleek and clean. These are not necessarily new, but are now a true part of the focus in kitchen trends. What was once in fashion is new again—for example, a modern version of the Euro kitchen of the 1980s is very on point. Some trends have come full circle: We started with the 1980s Euro kitchen, then evolved into the Tuscan kitchen, then the white kitchen, then the professional kitchen, and now the European look. That means very linear, very clean lines and a minimalist aesthetic.

D+D: How are consumer expectations evolving in terms of both functionality and aesthetics?

Fred: Consumers are anticipating things to be easy to use—the appliances we use should be user-friendly. Cooking shows on television have helped elevate and build more respect for cooking—we're seeing more positive sentiments from consumers towards cooking, and it's all for the better. The idea of family participation and cooking as a fun and honorable pastime is also important. People's opinion towards cooking reflects how people feel about their kitchens; they are celebrating the activity as more of a family-participation event.

Health and Wellness Innovations

D+ D: How are high-end kitchen appliances being designed to support health-conscious living? Will we see more appliances offering specialized cooking methods or food tracking



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“When considering performance versus luxury, I’m personally all about performance, because I love cooking. But I understand that not everyone is crazy about cooking. In that case, I’d say trust your interior designer or architect.”

—FRED ALBANO, Albano Appliance



BlueStar 30" Gas Wall Oven with French Doors

capabilities?

Fred: If you love food and love being in the kitchen, a steam oven is a must. Steam ovens are not new—they’ve been around for over 25 years—but thankfully they are finally gaining notice. Different brands have different functions, but most of them offer a combination of steam and convection. The steam refreshes the food versus reheating, whereas a microwave dehydrates.

The steam oven comes from the needs of the commercial world. Sometimes the food you are served at a restaurant has been cooked the day before and simply refreshed with a steam oven. After the cooking process, the food starts to become dry, with lack of moisture, and even more so if you microwave it—microwaves create heat through evaporation. When you put something in a steam oven, it brings food back to life, as the steam oven puts moisture back into food. A Combi-Steam Oven can be used for baking and roasting, and some can be used for broiling. At my house, we use the Combi-Steam Oven for almost everything, including morning oatmeal, vegetables and Thanksgiving turkey. We haven’t had a microwave in 12 years, and we use the big ovens only occasionally.

Another great option for home cooks is the vacuum sealing of food and the sous vide method of cooking from the commercial world. It allows you to cook things well, consistently. You can cook a piece of steak or chicken, then give it a quick sear on the grill, and serve. You can vacuum seal the fresh fish, steak or vegetables, and then cook. The goal is to cook more fresh foods and to eat less processed food.

Design Aesthetics and Materials

D+D: How are the design aesthetics of high-end kitchen appliances shifting in 2025? What materials and finishes will be popular for high-end appliances, and how do these tie in to luxury design trends?

Fred: Some of the fun things we’re seeing are metal cabinets, including cool bronzes and cabinets with stone on the face and on drawer fronts. Another thing that has really improved kitchens for the better is LED lighting—for example, lights between the open joints of drawers and under the countertop overhang. Improved lighting totally changes the aesthetic of the kitchen and the mood. Adjusting your lighting can change the mood from light to soft, cool or warm, depending on whether the light needs to be task-oriented or for relaxation. The new trends of metal, glass and stone cabinets in the kitchen, along with lighting, is exciting—it’s endless what you can do.

Performance vs. Luxury: Finding the Balance

D+D: How do high-end kitchen appliances balance the need for performance and cutting-edge technology with luxury design and exclusivity? What factors should homeowners consider when choosing between performance-driven and luxury-focused appliances?

Fred: A great example of balance is how companies have designed luxury appliances with user interfaces that incorporate Wi-Fi and LED screens. If you think about how sophisticated this technology is in our cars today, appliance companies are incorporating this advanced technology in our kitchens as well. This change is definitely for the better. Many of us don’t read the manuals that come with appliances, but the user interfaces of today have care guides built right into the control panel. With these advanced smart appliances, you can get advice for cooking a roast lamb, complete with state-of-the-art pictures and YouTube videos.

When considering performance versus luxury, I’m personally all about



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performance, because I love cooking. But I understand that not everyone is crazy about cooking. In that case, I'd say trust your interior designer or architect. Even a simple kitchen will cook you a great meal. Go more for the aesthetic if you don't have high cooking aspirations. Another big factor to consider is, who is using the equipment? Is it one person, two people or a whole family? Is the kitchen for the elderly? For someone for whom English isn't his or her first language? Who the end user is and how your family works are important points to consider when deciding which appliance is best for your home.

Another useful appliance is the kitchen workstation. Companies prefer this term over the word "sink," because the appliance does so much more. See the workstations created by a company called The Galley, for example. You can do your prep work there, entertain and serve drinks or dishes over ice in the workstation, and then clean it all up.

The kitchen is indeed evolving as a space to boost health and well-being, as appliances are being designed to help us cook and entertain while being hyper-connected and aesthetically luxurious. Albano Appliance was the first appliance store on the East Coast to hire a full-time chef to ensure that its clients can fully immerse themselves and discover the many culinary wonders of their new appliances. With decades of experience, the store excels at offering and celebrating the best of innovative, luxury kitchens. Customers are welcome to visit the showroom and enjoy its sophisticated, interactive atmosphere to gain inspiration for their own dream kitchens.

Resource: Albano Appliance; Alfred Albano, Owner; Pound Ridge, NY; 914.764.4051; albanoappliance.com



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HOUSE ON THE ATLANTIC

Burr Salvatore Architects designs a magnificent beach home that perfectly fuses historical and modern features.

CONVERSATION WITH **RYAN SALVATORE** ♦ WRITTEN BY **ANN KAISER** ♦ IMAGES BY **SCOTT FRANCES**



“This client was exceptionally committed to craft,” says Ryan Salvatore, principal of Burr Salvatore Architects. Indeed, he and his client were in sync from the outset of the project. When Ryan first got the referral, his office was located in a WeWork space on Varick Street in New York City. Emailing the architect to set up a meeting with him, the client discovered that Ryan’s office was just a few floors down from his own. “Five minutes later, the client was standing next to my desk,” says Ryan. It was the start of a working relationship that would produce a beautiful end result.

The homeowner was single when they began the project, but Ryan designed his house with a potential future family—and weekend guests—in mind. Over the course of the project, the client married and had a couple of children, who now enjoy the nooks and crannies of the home’s unique and thoughtful design. The residence was also envisioned as a summer house, sited directly on the Atlantic Ocean on eastern Long Island, NY, with views of Shinnecock Harbor on the other side. “You climb over the dunes and you’re right on the beach,” says Ryan.

Its waterside locale certainly lends itself to sea breezes and relaxed days, but the home is sophisticated in its stature. “It’s a refined beach house,” explains Ryan. He drew inspiration from the shingle-style houses that were popular at the turn of 20th century, mining historical designs for key details and compositional elements. Then he transposed those features onto a plan that works for how people live today. Together, architect and client looked at precedents to get a sense of the homeowner’s preferences and ambitions, from small-scale to large-scale details.

Key to the design was maximizing exposure to the coastline for as many rooms as possible. “In a beach house, you’re designing for the view,” says Ryan. To do that, the team stretched out the design along the width of the site, with some rooms running front to back to capture views on both sides. They also gave a great deal of

The waterfront home had to be elevated to comply with flood regulations—and Salvatore did it in style. The architect worked with landscape designer Blythe Yost to create this stepped lawn that gradually rises up to the front door and makes the home appear nestled into the site instead of floating above the sand.



“Because of the climate in India, so much of the architecture blends of exterior and interior spaces. So when you think of a summer house, many of those themes and strategies can carry right through.”

RYAN SALVATORE, BURR SALVATORE ARCHITECTS



Dark oak jali screens mark the opening to the living room, which spans from front-to-back to capture views on both sides. All the walls in the space are a vertical-grain fir, which was wiped in a translucent paint and finished with a topcoat of sealer to create the unique white-washed look. Sofas from Maiden Home covered in a custom fabric from Kravet sit in front of the stone fireplace.

thought to how to sequence the rooms, developing the relationships between the spaces, and thinking through the interior views as well as those to the outdoors. “It’s a beach house for sure,” says Ryan, “but it’s a bit more sophisticated. It doesn’t ramble along, the way a lot of shingle-style homes tend to.”

Since the client is of Indian descent, the design also incorporates historical Indian stylistic influences, largely inspired by more formal and richly detailed spaces, like temples. “Because of the climate there, so much Indian architecture is a blend of exterior and interior,” Ryan explains. “So when you think of a summer house, many of those themes and strategies can carry right through.” There was a complementary overlap in use and style, with Indian-inspired details, such as hexagonal shapes in screen and trim details, blending nicely with classic, shingle-style beading and indoor-outdoor living.

Though the team drew inspiration from more formal designs, Ryan did a beachier interpretation, with features such as white-washed woodwork, large windows and nautical influences. These give the home a more casual feel and make it feel very connected to the breezy, ocean-side site. The architect also defined spaces for all kinds of living and entertaining, giving the family flexibility to use the house in a multitude of ways. “If you want to come in from the pool in a bathing suit, there’s a space for that,” says Ryan. “If you want to have cocktails in a tuxedo, there’s a space for that, too.”

Diverse layers of detailing differentiate each room. The foyer is





The homeowner went for a lived-in feel with the furniture in the rich oak-wood library. A leather Ralph Lauren club chair bought from another homeowner in West Hampton has a great patina, and the coffee table in the library is from a vintage furniture shop in Bridgehampton. A “secret” door hidden in the wall shelving opens to the billiards room.



simple but impactful, with a view straight through the house to the ocean and a few well-chosen, impeccable details that show the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the program. “We made big moves in limited ways in the entryway,” says Ryan. A stone border around the floor and a solid oak railing with a hexagonal motif introduce the Indian temple influence that inspired the design.

Across from the stairway, oak Jali screens with a hexagonal design welcome guests into the living room, which runs front to back to take advantage of light and views. The living room acts as a linchpin between many other spaces in the house. Its design is pared back, with a simple brass-accented stone fireplace and large windows that bring the outside in. “It’s the heart of the first floor,” says Ryan. The homeowner chose all the furniture for the home, including the living room’s light-blue sofas in a squared-off shape, which bring a modern feel to the room. A pair of curved archways lead to the more formal library, appointed with walls of polished oak inlaid with a marble frieze and a coffered ceiling. “It’s about as richly detailed as you can get in there,” says Ryan. Curved leather armchairs and a matching tobacco-colored sofa sit around another cozy fireplace.

After enjoying cocktails in front of the fire, guests can move to the formal dining room or the more relaxed blue-and-white family dining

Salvatore gave the dining area off the kitchen and pool an al fresco feel by applying a wood trelliage over a blue painted wall. Curvy features like the arched ceiling, round Saarinen-style table and circular window add to the light, airy feel. The connected kitchen has streamlined shaker-style cabinets that keep the view on the water outside, plus lots of space for cooking and gathering.

“The connected kitchen and family dining area is full of sunshine and fresh air in the spring and summer. The streamlined, laid-back feel of the Shaker-style cabinetry and oversized island invites swimmers in from the pool for a quick snack or cool drink.”







Burr made use of curving ceilings throughout the house, including in the primary suite and guest room. The ship-shape bunk room was envisioned as a kids' space or guest room, and Salvatore gave it some maritime-inspired whimsy with brass railings, and crisp blue-and-white bedding. The primary bed and bath have gorgeous views of the dunes and water outside, with a balconet off the bedroom space and a cast iron Penhaglion "Lindisfarne" tub with a view in the bath. The rear stair is completely enveloped in a bright blue paint and inscribed with the hexagon shape seen throughout the house.







The floral pebbledash panel comes out of a longstanding tradition of using shells and sand in panels in shingle-style houses. This one is an Indian lotus and was created by an artisan specifically for this project. The stone archway below leads to a storage area under the house, and the elevated pool sits just outside the kitchen and more casual blue-and-white dining area.

area, which features a unique round window cut with a golf ball-like hexagonal pattern and a trellised wall design. Just off the large kitchen, two sets of glass doors lead out to a covered porch and pool.

The connected kitchen and family dining area is full of sunshine and fresh air in the spring and summer. The streamlined, laid-back feel of the Shaker-style cabinetry and oversized island invites swimmers in from the pool for a quick snack or cool drink. While the first-floor layout of the pool, patio and eating/dining areas are designed to be more casual and open, Ryan made a point of creating architectural moments upstairs, along the corridor that runs the length of the house. “In water-view homes, we often end up with long halls to take advantage of the views,” says Ryan. In this case, instead of leaving the upstairs hall as one long corridor, he created spaces along the way that he hopes the family—especially the children—will enjoy and remember for years to come. “We broke it down so it feels almost like a string of pearls,” says Ryan, with each space its own special spot. Along the 50-foot corridor, he carved out two study areas for the children to use as they grow, a separate hall outside the family bedrooms, and a sitting area outside the sun-drenched primary bedroom.

The primary suite has a Juliet balcony and its own private roof deck that is accessed from that anteroom sitting area. On the other side of the room, an en-suite bath gets high marks for unfussy but luxurious design. The symmetrical bathroom space has a majestic view of the water outside, which can be enjoyed from the cast-iron soaking tub, glass shower or slim-legged Lucite-and-marble vanities. “It feels so therapeutic,” says Ryan.

Another memorable space is the whimsical bunk room, built for children and weekend guests. Designed in maritime theme, the room features brass bed rails on each of the four bunks, mirrored portholes on the closet doors, shiplap boards on the walls, and an arched ceiling inspired by the curve of a ship’s hull.

Since the outdoors are such a huge part of this design, Ryan and his team worked very closely with both the builder and the landscape designer, Blythe Yost of Yost Design. Together they ensured the home was sited high enough to accommodate flooding regulations (offering even better views) and to create surrounding grounds that are appropriate to the site. The design team anchored the house with beachy plantings and furnished a stepped lawn design that grades up from the street to arrive directly at the front door.

By drawing from the past and considering the present, Burr Salvatore designed a very personal project with lots of elegant, special details and a focus on the gorgeous and serene natural elements outside. “We wanted to build a memorable home,” says Ryan. He succeeded by creating something that feels like it’s always been there and is ready to make memories for generations to come. ♦

Resource: Architect: Burr Salvatore Architects; Ryan Salvatore, Principal; Darien, CT; 203.655.0303; New York, NY; 212.475.0050; burrsalvatore.com. **Builder:** Hobbs Inc.; Scott Hobbs, Principal; New Canaan, CT; 203.966.0726; hobbsinc.com **Landscape Design:** Yost Design; Blythe Yost, Principal & Founder; Pearl River, NY; Midland Park, NJ; 845.365.4595; yostdesign.com.



PETER SCIARRETTA

UNEXPECTED KITCHENS

BOLD DESIGNS THAT
BREAK THE MOLD

WRITTEN BY DANIELLE PORTER



A recent renovation of an early 20th-century brick Georgian home proves that pushing boundaries in design doesn't always require breaking with tradition. The project, which transformed a dated kitchen into the sophisticated heart of the home, demonstrates how thoughtful design can honor architectural heritage while embracing modern functionality. "The owners wanted it to feel fresh, yet classic and not overly trendy," explains architect Mary Burr of Burr Salvatore Architects. This delicate balance required a creative approach, technical innovation and aesthetic restraint, resulting in a series of spaces that work harmoniously to support the family's lifestyle and align with the classic architecture of the home. The transformation began with a dramatic engineering feat: Peter Sciarretta of Hemingway Construction managed the complex process of underpinning the slab-on-grade foundation to allow for excavation beneath the existing home. This effort provided adequate space for the design team to construct a new space, the mudroom, at ground level.



The mudroom that once led into the kitchen was undersized and often overflowed into the kitchen space, impacting the experience of the kitchen itself. Creating this new space not only freed up the existing, smaller mudroom to become a gardening room, but provided a more intuitive flow that allows family members to shed winter boots, backpacks and outdoor gear before ascending the stairs to the kitchen above.

In the kitchen itself, every detail serves both form and function. Interior designer Leason Cery, an integral team member, selected a whisper-blue for the island, which anchors the space. Subtle touches like the soft edge profile on countertops and mosaic floor tiles—inspired by French bistro design—exude a timeless elegance. Throughout the space, storage solutions abound, but they're cleverly concealed: a coffee bar with pocket doors, phone-charging drawers that eliminate counter clutter, and even a dedicated space behind mesh cabinet doors for the family dog.

Both the mudroom below and the new bar adjacent to the kitchen showcase how different spaces within a home can maintain distinct personalities and aesthetics while speaking the same design language, creating a harmonious experience. Clad in rich mahogany, the bar features unlacquered brass hardware and fixtures that will patina beautifully over time. It serves both interior and exterior gather-





ings through thoughtfully placed pass-throughs. Perhaps most notably, the renovation embraces functionality without sacrificing sophistication. The cutting room, equipped with stone counters and specialized storage, proves that working spaces can be both beautiful and practical. “This isn’t for show,” explains Mary. “If you open those drawers, they’re all full of tools. The owner is an avid gardener, and this space is used frequently.” The success here stems from exceptional collaboration among the design team, builders and homeowners. Weekly meetings involving Mary and Hemingway project manager, Doug Horn, ensured that every detail received proper attention. “These pictures and these spaces don’t get pulled off by accident,” Peter Sciarretta says, emphasizing how this high level of engagement from all parties elevated the final result.

In the end, this renovation demonstrates that true luxury isn’t about following trends or creating showpieces—it’s about crafting spaces that seamlessly support and integrate into the daily life of each specific client and maintaining a timeless aesthetic that will endure for generations to come. ♦

Resource: Builder: Hemingway Construction; Peter Sciarretta, Chief Executive Officer; Greenwich, CT ; 203.625.0566; hemingwayconstruction.com. **Architect:** Burr Salvatore Architects; Mary Burr, Principal; Darien, CT; 203.655.0303; New York, NY; 212.475.0050; burrsalvatore.com.

JUDITH LARSON





For architects and designers who spend their careers creating dream kitchens for others, designing their own space presents a unique opportunity to practice what they preach. Judith Larson’s renovation of the kitchen in her own 7,000-square-foot home in New Canaan, CT, proves that sometimes the best laboratory for innovation is your own backyard. “We kept bumping into each other when we were cooking,” says Judith, principal designer of Judith Larson Associates, LLC, describing how the existing kitchen felt surprisingly cramped for such a grand home. The current size was a driver for this kitchen renovation, which included a thoughtful addition for a light-filled breakfast room, flanked by windows on three sides, and crowned with skylights. This expansion created space for what would become the heart of the renovation: a substantial 10.5-foot island that seamlessly connects the cooking and dining areas. The aesthetic and design shine through in the details. Just as Judith recommends her clients choose colors that feel natural to them instead of trendy hues, she selected a soft green—a color she considers “almost neutral” because it serves as nature’s backdrop. “It works with everything,” she notes, “including Christmas decorations and fall pumpkins and gourds.” Beyond aesthetics, the kitchen’s functionality reflects years of professional insight. Deep drawers beneath the cooktop store pots with their lids, eliminating the common frustration of matching containers to covers. A unique dual-cooking setup features both induction and gas, acknowledging that while induction represents the future, sometimes tradition—along with backup power options—matters, too. Natural light became a crucial element within the design. A former door was transformed into a large multipaned awning window above a secondary sink, while a clever pass-





through to the mudroom creates a welcoming connection to the entry. “When people come in, you can immediately greet them without having to go out and around,” Judith explains.

The space isn’t just about the new; it seamlessly harmonizes with existing elements, including beautiful, antique, reclaimed beams and a double-sided fireplace. Cabinet hardware in white bronze offers a refined touch while complementing the rustic beams, an interesting pairing that creates perfect balance. Upper cabinets stop short of the ceiling, reading more like furniture than built-ins—a subtle detail that adds to the room’s welcoming feel.

Perhaps most tellingly, this kitchen has become more than just a place to cook. “I have an office, but I prefer sitting at the island with my laptop,” the designer admits. It’s a testament to successful kitchen design—when the person who created it chooses to spend her day there, you know something special has been achieved. ♦

Resource: Builder: Judith Larson Associates; Judith Larson, Principal Designer; New Canaan, CT; 203.972.1409; gardinerlarsonhomes.com.

LAUREN VALLARIO





A quiet shift is happening in luxury kitchens across America. After years of safe, neutral spaces dominated by white, beige and gray, homeowners are beginning to embrace bold aesthetics that reflect their own taste, rather than future resale concerns. This shift is more than just a trend—it represents a fundamental change in how people view their homes.

“People are getting riskier with their finish selections,” explains Lauren Vallario of Lauren Vallario Designs. She notes that clients are “increasingly designing for themselves, rather than for hypothetical future buyers.” This newfound confidence manifests itself in striking ways, revealing a broader





shift in how people view their homes as a reflection of themselves. Their push to personalization extends to all facets of design—including finishes, materials, color palettes and hardware—an indication that bespoke is definitely in.

In this recent project, Lauren brought to life a dramatic vision that captured the spirit of the homeowners through a thoughtful and unexpected design and palette. Here, dramatic black Calcutta-inspired quartz spans beyond the counters to the backsplash and waterfall island, creating a bold statement that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago. While two-tone cabinets or feature islands have appeared in luxury and builder-grade homes alike, and the concept itself is still relevant, it's the creative hues and textures that make it something special. Here, the Hale Navy lower cabinets complement the quartz counters and are offset by stunning white upper cabinets that maintain brightness and balance.

Though the dramatic counters and cabinet designs are an evolution in aesthetics, the clients opted for classic polished nickel fixtures rather than trendy brass—a thoughtful balance between trendiness and timelessness. Lauren further notes how this subtle decision also keeps a consistent language between the kitchen and the finishes throughout the rest of the home. Similarly, large acrylic and polished nickel pendants over the island provide necessary light while maintaining visual lightness—proof that statement design can still be refined.

This remarkable kitchen is just one example of how homeowners today are designing their kitchens in ways that bring them joy each day—not as just neutral backdrops that serve a purpose. “It’s not about keeping up with the trends,” Lauren emphasizes. “It’s about creating a trend in your home that fits your aesthetics and personality.”

This evolution suggests a deeper change in American home culture—one in which authenticity trumps conformity, and personal satisfaction outweighs resale concerns. The result? Kitchens that don’t just serve their owners’ needs, but truly reflect who they are. ♦

Resource: Builder: Lauren Vallario Designs; Lauren Vallario, Principal Designer; Stamford, CT; 845.654.1888; laurenvallariodesigns.com.

JONATHAN GORDON





Sometimes the most elegant solutions emerge from the most fundamental challenges. For the team at Design by the Jonathans, the ubiquitous “square kitchen”—long considered a spatial puzzle by designers—became an opportunity for innovation that would transform how a family experiences their home.

“Back in the day, there was the cooking triangle,” lead designer Jonathan Gordon explains, referencing the traditional sink-stove-refrigerator arrangement that worked perfectly in compact 10-foot by 10-foot spaces. “But when you’re dealing with a 20-something by 20-something room, you need to throw that mentality out the window.” The designer’s solution? A striking triangular island with waterfall edges at both ends, maximizing storage and creating feature views from any angle.

This seemingly simple geometric shift revolutionizes the kitchen. Other solutions, like dual islands, would have created awkward corridors, while a table would have consumed precious space that could be better utilized. This angular centerpiece



creates natural flow patterns while defining distinct zones for cooking, gathering and casual dining. The design proves that sometimes the best innovations aren't about adding complexity—they're about finding elegant simplicity.

The materials in the space were chosen with equal thoughtfulness. The countertops feature Taj Mahal quartzite, selected not just for its stunning appearance, but for its practically indestructible nature. It is a feature within the space, in which the color palette demonstrates an artistic balance of color, neutral tones, texture and pattern.

Slightly off-white upper cabinets maintain brightness while avoiding stark sterility, while the green lower cabinets and tower elements create visual anchors. A matching green hood with brass detailing echoes the range's metalwork below, creating vertical harmony that draws the eye upward. The intricate marble mosaic backsplash, which at first glance resembles wallpaper, adds detail without overwhelming the space.

Even appliance placement received fresh thinking. The



designer challenged conventional stacking by placing the microwave below the French door wall oven—a choice born from observing real-life usage patterns. “I’ve always found that reaching up into the microwave becomes difficult, especially for kids,” he explains. It’s this attention to how people actually live that elevates the design beyond mere aesthetics.

Perhaps most telling is Jonathan’s gratitude toward his clients, who balanced clear vision with trust in the creative process. “They knew what they wanted, but trusted my creative vision,” he reflects. “It wasn’t just pictures of what they wanted—it was ideas of what they like, and they asked me to create it.” The result is a space that feels both innovative and inevitable—proof that when expertise meets trust, extraordinary spaces emerge. ♦

Resource: Designer: Design by the Jonathans; Jonathan Gordon, Founder, Owner & Lead Designer; New Haven, CT ; 475.471.4101; thejonathans.com.

CAROL KURTH





Photography by Eric Laignel



Sometimes the most beautiful transformations begin with unexpected disasters. For one family returning from vacation to find much of their home destroyed by a burst pipe, catastrophe became catalyst for reimagining their entire home's flow and functionality, starting with the heart of their home—the kitchen.

The project itself was extremely challenging, as Chris Yaroscak from Legacy Construction explains. "Getting the right subcontractors and custom materials during COVID required ample com-





munication and a seamless flow of information between teams,” he says. Added to this challenge was the extent to which the renovation expanded. “Once we got in there, we started doing a significant number of other projects that were always on the homeowners’ radar,” says Carol Kurth, principal of Carol Kurth Architecture + Interiors. The success of this renovation, which evolved from an emergency restoration to thoughtful reinvention of the home, lies in both the design and construction teams’ collaborative efforts, and in the design’s ability to balance modern functionality with timeless elegance, where every detail tells a small part of a larger story.

Going against conventional design in subtle but significant ways, the kitchen is a work of art. One big shift for the family was relocating the home command center to an adjacent, unused pantry space, creating a hidden organizational hub. This alternative approach allowed for more space and flexibility in the layout of the kitchen.

With an essentially blank canvas, Carol had the freedom to innovate with the layout and design of the kitchen. Even the most practical functions became design features, with Carol pulling out all the stops: a pullout dog dish concealed in the toe-kick of the cabinetry; a strategically separated tower fridge and freezer that provide convenient landing spaces for groceries; and a drawer with integrated charging ports to keep technology close but concealed.

Aesthetically, the kitchen shines with dark accents punctuating classic white cabinetry, while a metallic mosaic backsplash adds unexpected shimmer. Natural materials have a starring role in unexpected combinations: the waterfall island counter intersects with the warm walnut bar-height seating area, and the unlacquered brass hardware (chosen before it became trendy) adds warmth throughout the space. Carol notes how each element echoes another: “The light fixture dome reflects the curves of the chairs, which mirror the arch of the faucet. Everything tells the same story, just different parts of it.”

A shining example of holistic design, the project extended beyond the architectural scope to include even the smallest details. The design team selected everything down to the plates and flatware, ensuring that even casual table settings maintain the space’s sophisticated yet playful aesthetic. “Not everybody’s going to go with a fun dish, but it makes a difference,” Carol says, reflecting on how each decision responds to the homeowners’ personality while maintaining the design’s cohesive vision.

The success of such detailed work required exceptional collaboration between designers and contractors, particularly given pandemic-era challenges. Weekly site visits ensured that every detail, such as mosaic tile placement and paint finish, met exacting standards. The result is a space that exhibits how thoughtful design can turn misfortune into opportunity, creating a home that is both thoroughly modern and deeply personal. ♦

Resource: Architect: Carol Kurth Architecture + Interiors; Carol Kurth, Principal; Bedford, NY; 914.234.2595; carolkurtharchitects.com. **Builder:** Legacy Development; Chris Yaroscak, Co-founder; White Plains, NY; 914.273.4511; legacydeveloppentllc.com.

MELISSA ADAMS





What began as a simple request to repaint cabinets evolved into a representation of how small, thoughtful changes can revolutionize a space. These seasonal Florida residents needed a transformation of their 20-year-old, builder-grade kitchen, and designer Melissa Adams used a combination of thoughtful upgrades, changes and innovation to prove that you don't need always to "go big or go home" to achieve stunning results. "They went from asking how cost effectively we could do it to really seeing how it could impact their daily life, and investing themselves in making it something they wanted to experience," explains Melissa, the owner of Adams Interior Design. This evolution in thinking led to solutions that prioritized organization and functionality while creating an upscale aesthetic that makes their northern home as appealing as their southern retreat. The challenge was a common one for kitchens: small appliances. Covered with coffee makers, ice makers, mixers and blenders, "the counters were cluttered with elements of convenience, and I endeavored to give their kitchen back to them," Melissa explains. The innovation was a simple one—a place for everything. Full-height cabinetry and pullout drawers in the pantry now house everything, including small appliances and cleaning supplies,





showing how proper storage can transform daily life.

The material selections strike a balance between modern and timeless, and are a stark shift from the existing finishes. White and dark gray painted maple cabinetry replaced medium-toned wood, while handmade-look tile backsplash adds warmth. The MSI quartz countertops and polished nickel hardware with opalescent milk glass pendants contribute to the elevated yet approachable aesthetic.

These thoughtful details elevate the space beyond its semi-custom origins. Cabinet side panels create a built-in look, while an expanded island doubles the homeowner's previous workspace. A new exterior-vented hood tackles cooking odors, and the switch to gas cooking opens up new culinary possibilities for the family.

"It's incredible what you can do with good people working together," Melissa reflects. "This kitchen now serves as an aesthetic and experiential blueprint for the home's future evolution." For these empty nesters rediscovering their home's potential, the small but practical improvements in design, layout and materiality have made a significant impact, collectively adding up to a transformative experience. ♦

Resource: Designer: Adams Interior Design; Melissa Adams, Owner; Hopewell Junction, NY; 917.886.6666; aidesignny.com.

DIANE DUROCHER





When Boston empty nesters decided to relocate closer to their grandchildren in New Jersey, they faced a common challenge: how to blend their traditional roots with modern needs in a space-restricted townhouse. It is here that Diane

Durocher of Diane Durocher Interiors created a thoughtfully crafted kitchen that proves innovation isn't always about flash—sometimes it's about finding sophisticated ways to make life easier.

“Convenience and functionality were the main considerations,” explains Diane of this galley-style transformation. But within the townhouse's strict limitations—appliances had to remain in their original locations—the team found creative ways to revolutionize space. A narrow island, designed to echo Boston's traditional furniture aesthetic with its distressed walnut finish and turned legs, houses everything, including a recycling area and a strategically placed knife drawer adjacent to the cooktop.

Innovation reveals itself in subtle but significant ways. The Thermador wall oven features a left-side hinge and lower installation height, eliminating the need to stretch over a conventional drop-down door—a thoughtful adaptation for the petite homeowner. Dish storage, positioned at counter height near the dishwasher, anticipates future needs while maintaining current





convenience. These aging-in-place considerations are so elegantly integrated that they read as luxury rather than accommodation. Materials here tell a story of calculated restraint. Glazed gray porcelain tiles, installed vertically, create an illusion of height in the horizontal space. Creamy white perimeter cabinetry provides a serene backdrop for a dedicated coffee bar, where floating walnut shelves and a distressed walnut base to echo the island add warmth and accessibility. The Shaker door style bridges Boston tradition with modern sensibility, while quartz countertops deliver durability without compromising sophistication.

In this kitchen, technology integration prioritizes invisibility. Smart home features controlled via phone allow the owners to manage everything, such as lighting and climate control, without disrupting the kitchen's zen-like atmosphere. Even practical elements like faux leather dining chairs represent thoughtful innovation—offering sustainability and durability while maintaining comfort and style. “It’s a curated, sophisticated blend that comes with time,” notes the designer, describing how different styles harmonize through careful attention to palette, shape and scale. This kitchen proves that true innovation isn’t about incorporating every new trend—it’s about creating spaces that thoughtfully adapt to life’s changes while maintaining their timeless appeal. ♦

Resource: Designer: Diane Durocher Interiors; Diane Durocher, Lead Designer; Ramsey, NJ; 201.825.3832; dianedurocherinteriors.com.

JOHN A. LEONTIOU





Thirteen years can change everything—especially in kitchen design. When Form Ltd.’s team returned to a Larchmont, NY, home more than a decade after their original installation, they found their clients not only asking for an update, but for a complete reimagining of how their kitchen could function.

“Our client was willing to make a real change,” explains John Leontiou of Form Ltd., describing a transformation that went far beyond surface updates. Where a barely used bar area once stood, a zero-clearance gas fireplace now creates a gathering spot, topped with a recessed flat-screen TV that brings modern entertainment into the heart of the home. This shift reflects a broader evolution in how we view kitchen spaces—not just as places to cook, but as central hubs for family life.

The island tells its own story of thoughtful innovation. Rather than defaulting to a single material, the team created distinct zones through clever material choices. A work surface of three-centimeter Potomac marble transitions to a dining area crafted from American black walnut with a natural finish. “This makes the counter a much softer material to eat and work on,” notes John, demonstrating how function can drive material choices without compromising aesthetics.

The kitchen’s serene neutral palette, interspersed by satin brass hardware, creates a holistic sense of calm that infiltrates the space. Even the ceiling participates in the narrative, with original exposed ceiling joists modified to harmonize with the new design. Globe glass pendants strategically replaced recessed lighting, and glass-paneled cabinets work together to maintain brightness throughout. Perhaps most significantly, this renovation showcases how kitchen design has evolved to prioritize flow and connectivity. The new layout improves





access to the eating area, patio and family room, creating seamless transitions between spaces. Where there might once have been distinct zones for different activities, the kitchen now serves as a fluid space, where cooking, dining, entertainment and family life naturally intersect. This transformation represents more than just an aesthetic update—it's a testament to how our relationship with kitchen spaces continues to evolve. As technology advances and lifestyle needs change, the most successful kitchens are those that can adapt while maintaining their essential role as the heart of the home. ♦

Resource: Designer: Form Ltd.; John A. Leontiou, Co-owner; Greenwich, CT; 203.869.6880; formlimited.com.



JOSHUA A. DOONAN





In an era of instant meals and quick solutions, this New Hampshire kitchen celebrates traditional practices and the art of taking time. Built around a magnificent Lacanche range, the thoughtfully crafted space showcases innovation that—rather than abandoning tradition—finds a new way to honor and support its natural evolution.

“She really loves baking with her daughter,” explains Joshua Doonan, a designer at Crown Point Cabinetry, describing how his client’s passion for generational cooking was a key factor in designing this kitchen. “The range was the starting point, and everything else had to work around that.” This devotion to craft inspired an ingenious merger of old-world charm and modern technology, where even the countertops play an active role in the baking process.

A dramatic stone backsplash and monumental range hood necessitated what Joshua describes as “structural gymnastics” to install—especially considering that a spa-like master bathroom sits just on the other side of the wall. Dropped beams, strategically placed to conceal necessary support, create a sense of rhythm in the space, while making the modest ceiling height feel unexpectedly lofty.

While the range and hood play the starring role, the centerpiece island wins for best supporting feature. Think radiant floor heating, but reimagined for baking. Through a revolutionary concept, Joshua, along with interior designer Meghan Collins of Creative Spaces and contractor Andy Smith of Northern Estate and Home Management, brought a heated island countertop to life. This invisible detail allows dough to proof directly on the counter while the homeowner con-

tinues working, transforming what could have been merely a work surface into an active participant in the baking process. The adjacent lowered baking station, tailored specifically for rolling pins and mixing bowls, creates an ergonomic workspace that brings everyone together at perfect height.

Materials tell their own story of tradition meeting modernity as wild cherry cabinetry—chosen specifically for its character and movement—will age gracefully and develop in its richness over time. The Carlisle parquet flooring, laid in generous 36-inch squares, adds sophisticated texture while making the space feel larger than its dimensions would suggest.

Even storage solutions blend old and new thinking. A hidden pantry, discovered by rounding a corner, reveals a rescued stained-glass window that bathes additional prep space in colored light. This unexpected touch transforms what could have been only functional storage into a magical moment that connects past and present.

The space itself is more than just a kitchen—it’s a moment that honors the timeless art of baking, while quietly welcoming the technology that will make the process even more joyful. As Joshua notes, “It’s not about speed; it’s about making traditional processes better.” The design is evidence that sometimes the most innovative approach is simply finding new ways to do timeless things well. ♦

Resource: Designer: Crown Point Cabinetry; Joshua A. Doonan, Designer; Claremont, NH; 800.999.4994; crown-point.com.





KAREN BERKEMEYER



In a home that speaks the language of upscale rustic living, soaring wood ceilings and dramatic black beams provided the perfect backdrop for one family to break from conventional kitchen design wisdom. Rather than defaulting to trendy or traditional aesthetics, they embraced bold choices that bridge modern sensibility with mountain charm.

“They definitely wanted more modern,” explains designer Karen Berkemeyer, describing clients who envisioned a space that would uniquely fit within their mid-century modern home. Karen delivered with a design that marries unexpected elements: cabinets in a sophisticated gray tone, with a warm brown undertone, framing a massive island in navy blue, and a striking copper hood that ages gracefully against a geometric tile backsplash.

While aesthetics was of the utmost importance, function drove many of the decisions within the kitchen. The island, spanning an impressive 14 feet, required careful material consideration. While natural stone may have been an option, Karen instead introduced a stunning Corian countertop that mimics concrete and required no seams in the expansive surface.





The design team faced unique challenges with the home's dramatic architecture. A window at the corner of the kitchen limited upper cabinet space, so the design team opted for modern, floating shelves for functionality, without compromising natural light. On this same wall, the soaring ceilings offered no natural stopping point for a backsplash tile. To frame the tile, the crown molding from the cabinets continues along the wall—an elegant detail that unifies the space while respecting the architectural character.

Similarly, with such an open concept, storage required equal innovation. Karen employed a corner pantry with a sophisticated swing-out system that “transformed three feet of storage space into six feet to maximize capacity,” she says. At the island, in lieu of trendy waterfall edges, Karen designed end panels that would hide chair bases and also provide a concealed location for island outlets to be placed.

The design shows how thoughtful contradictions—including a natural copper hood meant to patina over time, adjacent to pristine and modern cabinetry, and the vibrant blue island set against the earthy natural materials—can come together for a cohesive and elegant solution. By embracing the uniqueness of the space and the modern vision the clients had for their kitchen, Karen delivered a space that is equally modern and at home in its mountain setting. ♦

Resource: Designer: Karen Berkemeyer Home; Karen Berkemeyer, Owner & Principal Designer; Westport, CT; 203.454.0032; karenberkemeyrhome.com. **Builder:** Domus Constructors; Christopher Shea, Owner; Norwalk, CT; 203.852.6789; domusllc.com



THE HOUSE THAT ROARED

A compact Westport home blends coastal luxury with practicality.

conversation with **PETER CADOUX** ♦ written by **MERYL SIEGMAN** ♦ images by **KIRT WASHINGTON**



The backyard, featuring a pool with porcelain pavers, playful water features and an outdoor shower, is remarkably private and secluded, unusual for homes in the Compo Historic District.

A Historic Setting for Modern Design

The oceanside community of Compo-Owenoke Historic District in Westport, CT, is a fabulous place to visit if you're interested in early 20th-century resort architecture. Developed between 1910 and 1940, the community is a treasure trove of Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival and bungalow-style homes. Covering 154 acres, its grid-like road layout has resulted in mostly small lots, but its fantastic ocean views make up for the lack of palatial grounds.

Blending Tradition with Innovation

It is in this charming historic setting that Westport's Peter Cadoux Architects recently built a sophisticated coastal Shingle-style home with a modern classic aesthetic that is totally in sync with the region's architectural heritage. Founded in the early 1990s, the company has established itself as one of the most prestigious architectural firms in New England. Its principal, Peter Cadoux, is known for his signature aesthetic that encompasses many styles and scales that consistently blend design integrity with present-day practicality and modern technology. His background in both architecture and fine arts have equipped him with a design sensibility that transcends all aspects of his projects.

Armed with a background in designing coastal homes and a complete fluency in the regulatory process required for oceanfront properties, Peter took the diminutive lot size in stride, knowing that the zoning regulations would dictate the building parameters. "All the regulatory influences on these projects are included in every design we do, maximizing the





“I love practical design that nurtures my architectural spirit. I try to be efficient in everything I do—I don’t like wasted space.”

PETER CADOUX, PETER CADOUX ARCHITECTS





sun, light and views, while remaining in compliance with local codes,” he says. “This house is no exception.” Peter set out to build a modern-day masterpiece that meets all the requirements of sophisticated, luxurious living, while keeping it scaled down to the necessary size.

Maximizing Space, Minimizing Waste

“I love practical design that nurtures my architectural spirit,” Peter remarks. “I try to be efficient in everything I do—I don’t like wasted space. I’ve been designing homes for a long time, and I continue to learn every single day from my clients and projects, bringing that knowledge to every subsequent project I work on.” It is easy to see how this cleverly designed house is the very incarnation of everything Peter has learned from the past, taking his experience and expertise another step forward into the future. It is an energy-efficient, built-to-last home, equipped with the most advanced smart technology available.

Peter understands that evolving lifestyles and advancements in technology have reshaped the way we live and our relationship with our homes. He tailors the size of each house to meet the unique needs and preferences of his clients, with a focus on maximizing functional spaces and minimizing underused areas. Through intentional design and careful planning, Peter creates homes that seamlessly blend indoor and outdoor environments.

When clients approach Peter Cadoux Architects for a new design, they should not be surprised if the result is either a home that meets all their requirements but is smaller than initially envisioned, or a design that fulfills their space needs while offering additional features they hadn’t expected. The homeowners are inevitably thrilled with all that the bespoke but practical design brings with it, including an

“TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF FAMILY GATHERINGS, HOMES THAT CAN COMFORTABLY ACCOMMODATE A SMALL FAMILY WHILE ALSO PROVIDING SPACE FOR EXTENDED STAYS FOR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS ARE HIGHLY VALUED BY MANY OF MY CLIENTS,” SAYS THE ARCHITECT. THE BUNK ROOM IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF THIS THOUGHTFUL AND VERSATILE DESIGN.







improved quality of life and a home that is both elegant and functional.

Having it Both Ways: Ocean Views and Backyard Bliss

This 3,000-square-foot home, sited on a mere .17 acre, certainly packs a punch. Its three levels featuring a gourmet kitchen, four bedrooms and three bathrooms are conveniently serviced by an elevator. All this splendor is topped off by a grand roof deck equipped with a lounge area and a spot for exercise or yoga. “This particular location has very dramatic views that we incorporated into the design of the house, as you can see in the roof deck and the floor-to-ceiling glass we used on the lower levels,” says Peter.

While many homes in the Compo District boast those fabulous views, this one features a very private backyard as well. “We designed the house to have both private spaces and open views.

It’s very unique for the area,” Peter explains. “You can look out at the water and enjoy the view, or escape to the backyard oasis, which completely secluded.” This sliver of heaven features a swimming pool, barbeque and lounging area, and small yard, all meticulously landscaped by Peter’s wife, Sally.

Built to Last: Practical Materials for a Coastal Environment

“Practicality is not just about being efficient in how you design a house,” Peter says. “You have to be sensitive to how the particular home is used.” He explains that he designs sustainable houses based on

The indoor/outdoor space on the first floor opens the home to a secluded pool area and acts as an informal pool house.

The outdoor surfaces are a mixture of ceramic and marble, chosen for their elegance as well as their durability. The ceramic pool terracing never feels hot to the touch and is completely stain resistant.



the project's location and on the needs and lifestyle of his clients. "The ocean environment can be harsh so, in this case, we used materials that will last and cutting-edge technology that will withstand the coastal elements," he says. What looks like natural wood, for example, is a composite material that will not rot over time. If the house floods as the result of a major storm, he explains, it will release the floodwaters, causing minimal damage.

Outdoors, the design team chose composite materials that can withstand harsh elements but are nevertheless stunning, such as the ceramic pool terracing, which doesn't stain or ever feel hot to the touch. The house itself is constructed from wood and steel, but its entire first level has full-height poured concrete walls that extend to the floor of the second level. As Peter says, "It can be hit with a bulldozer, and it won't go anywhere."

"We designed a house that offers the livability of a four-bedroom home with incredible views of the ocean and an extremely private backyard," Peter continues. "This entire package is sited on a small piece of property and requires little or no upkeep. It was built for longevity without the fuss of the maintenance required for larger homes. This is an important factor, considering that people are often away from home for long periods of time."

Multifunctional Spaces for All Seasons

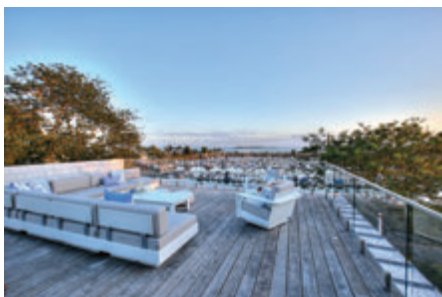
An outstanding example of Cadoux Architects' ingenious design for





“We design in the spirit of livability and lifestyle, because how people live and use the rooms are such important considerations,”

PETER CADOUX, PETER CADOUX ARCHITECTS



supremely comfortable yet efficient living is the “Grotto” room directly off the pool and yard. This multipurpose room features a bifold glass door and windows with large-format screens that can be opened during the summer to create a covered pool lounge. During the colder months, Peter explains, the windows covering the openings convert the room into an area that can be used during the winter as well. “These multifunctional spaces are a key element that we like to include in our designs when appropriate,” he says.

“We design in the spirit of livability and lifestyle, because how people live and use the rooms are such important considerations,” Peter says. While an open plan in which one room opens up to another may make the space appear larger, it often does not provide for privacy or an escape room.

Living Large in a Small Footprint

“While I’ve been fortunate to design many magnificent, larger homes, efficient designs should always be prioritized. For instance, consolidating a 6,000-square-foot home into 5,000 square feet, or a 5,000-square-foot home into 4,000 square feet, and so on, allows for thoughtful use of space,” says Peter.. “The size of my designs is always relative to my clients’ needs, but with efficient planning, they can include features they might not have thought possible.” ♦



Resource: Architectural and Interior Design: Peter Cadoux Architects; Peter Cadoux, Principal; Westport, CT; 203.227.4304 ; cadouxaia.com. **General Contracting:** HSL Building Company; Norwalk, CT; 203.557.4433; hslbuilding.com .

PROFILE

CLEAN CUSTOM COUTURE

conversation with **Maria Matluck** ♦ written by **Shehla Lucanera**



In the fiercely competitive field of elite interior design, designer Maria Matluck brings a portfolio of valuable expertise that is essential when executing a high-budget, luxury design project. Maria grew up immersed in the world of masonry, construction and building, and became comfortable with the vernacular and building concepts at a young age. At age 15, she began working after school for a construction company, and her appreciation for fine design, architecture and construction developed into a passion.

After graduating from college with a bachelor's degree in accounting and then receiving her CPA, Maria advanced quickly in finance and accounting. But her innate love of creativity brought her back to the world of design. With her sophisticated understanding of elevated design, years of experience in finance, and hands-on knowledge of construction, Maria founded Maria Matluck Construction Consultants.

For more than 15 years, the firm has offered project management and full planning services, including luxury renovations, additions and custom cabinetry. "I used to order my cabinets from Canada for my kitchen designs," Maria says. But out of sheer necessity and her inability to find exactly what she wanted for her clients, she began working with fine local artisans and designing her own cabinets. "I'm in control of the design, and the process is streamlined," she says. Her custom cabinetry is on display in the showroom of the luxury appliance retailer Aitoro Appliances in Norwalk, CT. Maria's accounting and management experience ensures that each luxury project adheres to a financial plan, with each client's investment spent wisely to create the best end result. "I develop a total budget for the client," Maria says. Her solid grasp of costs and expenditures helps put the client's vision into a solid, actionable and practical time frame. Some of Maria's clients say it is rare to find a designer who is gifted with artistic talent and also has a mind for business and budgets. "I have a great handle on the design side, construction side and budget side," Maria says. Her proficiency in balancing high-end projects while producing stunning interiors has gained her firm considerable acclaim.

Maria's exquisite portfolio features beautiful transitional interiors, crisp modern kitchens, stunning luxury bathrooms and other winning designs. The timeless custom cabinets she designs are perfectly tailored to each client's unique needs and are made of the finest materials, including walnut wood that features distinctive grains for the ultimate in elegance.

Maria works with a select team that labors tirelessly to help her client's vision come to life. She and her team are accepting select clients for luxury remodels or new builds, using their extraordinary and numerous talents to make homeowners' dreams come true. ♦

Resource: Maria Matluck Construction Consultants, Maria Matluck, Founder and Owner; New York, NY; 203.858.7762; mariamatluckcc.com.



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