

# EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN

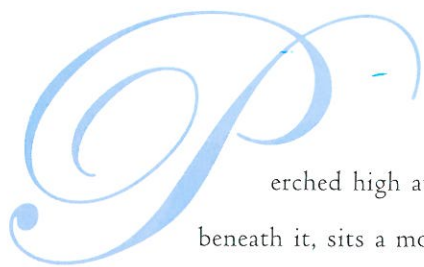
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2012







# FOR LOVE OF FAMILY



erched high atop an old farm field, with spectacular views of the surrounding valleys beneath it, sits a modern day home designed to celebrate what really matters in life; family. Filled with life, laughter and a generous dose of love, it resonates with the joy the family gets from the treasured time they spend together within it. Truly a collaborative effort, this magnificent “sanctuary” came to life with thoughtful interiors by Weston interior designer, Robin McGarry, understated architecture by Wilton architect, Rob Sanders and clear direction from “dream clients” who worked with them every step of the way.

---

STORY BY KATIE KEATING

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JANE BEILES



This modern day home embodies all the charm and characteristics of the classic Connecticut farmhouses that inspired it.

**OPPOSITE** Perched high atop an old farm field, the property includes well-stocked vegetable and flower gardens, providing much of the produce that the family uses in their daily meals.







Against a neutral backdrop, a hand-knotted, vegetable dyed carpet grounds the furnishings adding warmth and color to the space.





Warm reds, crisp blues and soothing neutrals make up the color palette in this comfortable family room. A rich mix of texture and finishes was used in the design of the family room.

porch allows the homeowners to take full advantage of the 270 degree views of the surrounding landscape and provides “easy flow” to the outdoor living spaces. Working with the foundation and fireplace of the original 3,800 square foot building, “the new home includes six bedrooms, a children’s study/art room and an office on the second floor”. The original four car garage was “repurposed into an exercise room and pool cabana for the new pool”. In addition to the new 8,100 square foot home, the property also includes an observation tower, separate garage/barn, orchard and vegetable garden.

“Sophisticated, yet unpretentious”, the interiors of the home had to be “lovely, comfortable and child friendly” for Pam and Harrison DeStanfano’s family of six. It also had to be canine friendly as no room is off limits for their beloved dog, Buca. The neutral palette in the light filled living room provides a perfect canvas for both the colorful artwork gracing the walls and the brightly colored ceramics dotting the shelves of the built-in bookcases. A vegetable dyed, hand knotted rug has been used to ground the furniture arrangement in the room, adding subtle color to this elegant design. McGarry noted that “as the art of hand knotting becomes harder to find, examples like this one and like those seen in the entry hall, family room, formal dining room and kitchen, will perhaps become sentimental family heirlooms”.

Removing walls between the family room and kitchen united the spaces and created better circulation between the two rooms. The generous seating arrangement provides ample space for both family and friends and has been centered in front of the cozy fieldstone fireplace. Organic in feel, the welcoming arrangement offers a mix of textures and finishes, with warm reds, crisp blues and soothing neutrals. Both husband and wife have a strong appreciation for antiques and wanted to





In the dining room, cove lighting lifts the eye up and provides ambiance during formal gatherings.

**OPPOSITE** Considered to be the heart of the home, this well appointed kitchen provides the stage for family and friends to gather and watch as Dad, an avid chef prepares meals using home grown produce from their gardens.





*The dining room can comfortably accommodate twelve or more during holidays or large family gatherings. Cove lighting above lifts the eye up and creates a beautiful sense of ambiance during those special meals.*

acquire some additional pieces including a pair of mirrors, wood carved chairs, a chest and ceramic pottery just to name a few. A whimsical framed Dr. Seuss print looks out into the family room, perhaps best summing up the homeowners' "attitude toward life here; keep things fun and light".

"The kitchen is definitely the heart of this home," said McGarry, where the family can congregate and watch as dad, an avid chef, prepares their favorite meals using fresh produce grown outside in family's well-stocked garden. The room boasts professional style appliances, custom cabinetry in a painted finish, "Character" grade random-width white oak wood flooring and an over scaled center-island, equipped with an additional prep sink and topped with rich granite. Counter stools at one end provide a ring side seat for the children to watch dad create his culinary

masterpieces. With amazing views of the outside property, the breakfast nook with its round table and custom banquette offer a casual spot for informal meals. Just outside the breakfast nook, one section of the covered porch offers an outdoor dining area, perfect for taking in a beautiful setting summer sun. A butler's pantry provides additional storage and serving space and is a perfect transition from the kitchen to the dining room.

The dining room can comfortably accommodate twelve or more during holidays or large family gatherings. Cove lighting above lifts the eye up and creates a beautiful sense of ambiance during those special meals. Deep blues and reds make up the color saturated carpet that provides a regal stage for the formal dining table and chairs. A more contemporary light fixture illuminates the table below.

The master bedroom offers a tranquil



escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Soft blue walls and clean white accent trim set the tone for the owner's pair of antique Audubon prints and windows dressed in robin's egg blue embroidered linen draperies. Cove lighting again casts a warm glow above the space. McGarry has married painted pieces with richly stained case goods to complete this restful design. The upholstered headboard and footboard add to the luxuriousness of the space.

Though designed in contemporary times, this classic New England farmhouse and those who live within it take their cue from earlier times when life was simpler and revolved around both heart and hearth. As summer eclipses into fall and the crimson setting sun begins to mirror the changing colors in the valleys below, this well grounded group can take comfort in each other's company, the family they call their own. ■

---

*Katie Keating is an interior designer and freelance writer and can be reached at 203.339.5820 or [katiekdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:katiekdesign@yahoo.com)*



**ABOVE** In the breakfast area, a custom banquette offers cozy seating and a peak outside to outdoor dining space.

**LEFT** Wrap-around porches offer 270 degree views of the property and valleys below.





## RESOURCES

Interior Design

**Robin McGarry, ASID**

11 Riverfield Drive

Weston, CT 06883

203.454.1825, ext 10

robinmcgarry.com

Architecture

**Rob Sanders Architects, LLC**

Rob Sanders, AIA

436 Danbury Road

PO Box 132, Wilton, CT 06897-0132

203.761.0144, rsarchct.com

**ABOVE** Serenity reigns supreme in this soothing master bedroom.

**LEFT** Quiet restraint in a sunlit corner.