

# CTC & G

Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

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## THE Architecture ISSUE

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Extensive renovations unify the layout of a historic Fairfield County home

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BY MINDY PANTIEL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH SCOTT MORTON AND ERIC RICHARDS

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PHOTOGRAPH BY

KEITH SCOTT MORTON AND ERIC RICHARDS



*From "House of Blues," page 104.  
Photograph by Keith Scott Morton and Eric Richards*

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PRODUCED BY CATRIONA BRANCA

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### Meet the Architect

*John P. Franzen*

BY SHARON KING HOGE

**Shingle And Stone** A new Shingle-style home by Shope Reno Wharton is complemented by a custom blend of granite and fieldstone from O&G Industries. Tuuci pool umbrellas offer pops of color alongside RH chaises at the edge of the pool by Meehan & Ramos Pools. See Resources.

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# HOUSE OF BLUES

A REFINED PALETTE AND A FOCUSED TEAM  
APPROACH DELIVER LIVELY AND FRESH DESIGN

BY MINDY PANTIEL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH SCOTT MORTON AND ERIC RICHARDS



*Fun.*  
*Playful.*  
*Sexy.*



**T**HESE ARE NOT WORDS often associated with traditional homes, especially those on estate-sized lots in prestigious neighborhoods in Fairfield County. But they are apt descriptors for many of the details interior designer Amy Aidinis Hirsch included in a classic Shingle-style home to keep the interiors lively, fresh and appropriate for a young family. In the dining room, geometric wallpaper with a hint of silver and a lacquered ceiling elevate the space. "It nearly twinkles," she says about the evocative dining quarters. Moving to the largely navy blue billiard room, the broad band of "super happy yellow" fabric that rims the alpaca drapes pops, and in the breakfast nook, the glass light fixture is reminiscent of Champagne bubbles.

**Living Well** (THIS PHOTO) A seating area in the living room boasts a Barbara Barry sofa from Heritage Home Group covered in a Donghia velvet and lounge chairs wearing a Pollack velvet. Vintage steel-frame Milo Baughman chairs wear a Rogers & Goffigon fabric. Rug is from Stark. **A Step Up** (LEFT) Doyle Herman Design Associates transformed the landscape with a terraced solution. **Blue Heaven** (BOTTOM LEFT) In the breakfast room, a round Bellissimo table from Randolph & Hein is surrounded by chairs that wear Cortina Leathers' Athene Cobalto. The custom Bocci light fixture is through Room. See Resources.





**Pattern Play** Surfaces by David Bonk wallpaper lines the walls of the dining room (ABOVE). Flowers are through Green of Greenwich. **Fresh Air** A Kingsley Bate sectional in the screened-in porch (LEFT) is upholstered in a Perennials chambray through David Sutherland. Carpet is from J.D. Staron; coffee table is through David Sutherland. See Resources.

**Mixing It Up** In the billiard room (OPPOSITE PAGE), a Jiun Ho coffee table is flanked by a sofa from Finished in Fabric in a Holly Hunt fabric and a Studio Van den Akker Rosso Club chair in Maharam's Compartment fabric. Silk and wool rug is from Stark. See Resources.

According to Hirsch, these moments exist and succeed because they are grounded in a traditional shell that provides a secure backdrop for such unexpected interjections. "It's the paneled walls and moldings that allowed me to push the envelope," she says. And it was architects Jerry Hupy and Don Aitken of the prestigious firm Shope Reno Wharton who created the thoughtful framework that acknowledges its surroundings. "Given the neighborhood, we couldn't build a Richard Meier box, and the property lent itself to a long horizontal building in keeping with Shingle style," says Aitken, noting the dormers, gables and sweeping verandas are emblematic of the local vernacular. "We also designed the house so all the rooms including the bedrooms would have views of the beautiful property."

But the rolling 2.4-acre site with its swimming pool and tennis court wasn't always so. "Nothing on the old property had been maintained, and the site work presented a major challenge," recalls builder Jim Hoffman of Sound Beach Partners, who, along with Doron Sabag, was the owner's first hire; they also brought the architects and designer to the project. Hoffman credits landscape architect James Doyle of Doyle Herman Design Associates with organizing the back of the property with a series of



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**Above It All** A John Pomp chandelier from A. Rudin is made of hand-blown sculpted glass pendants with canopy and wires in oil-rubbed blackened steel. Consoles are from Desiron; table lamps from Circa Lighting. See *Resources*.



**Kitchen Cachet** (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP) Counter stools in the kitchen wear a cobalt Holland & Sherry leather. An elegant polished nickel chandelier is from Remains. Faucet and pot filler are Dornbracht. **Wow Factor** (OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM) A Waterworks faucet and a vanity made of polished Striato Olimpico stone elevate the powder room. See Resources.

**Master Class** (RIGHT) Sleek nickel lamps from ABC Modern and sconces from Lightology illuminate the master bedroom. The bench was re-upholstered in a Holland & Sherry fabric. Duvet is from Francine Home Collection. **Entry Point** (BELOW) A bench in the mudroom is from One Kings Lane. Bolster linen is through Quadrille. See Resources.



terraced granite steps that now lead to a flat grassy play area and the tennis court below it. "He managed to place the tennis courts at the bottom of a second hill and almost out of sight," Hoffman adds.

Meanwhile, the entire team collaborated on ways to balance a modern aesthetic with a traditional structure starting in the two-story entry where the glass railing meets paneled walls. The idea continues in the living room, where in lieu of a heavy coffered ceiling, the lap profile trim boards articulate without being overwhelming, and windows here and throughout are picture framed. "There are no sills, and everything is kept taut and tight," says Aitken. And about their simplified approach to the millwork, Hupy adds, "We did that so Amy could bring life into the rooms with furnishings and other things, similar to what they do in an art museum."

For her part, Hirsh continued shaking things up with strong doses of pattern and a "50 shades of blue" palette that "carries your eye from place to place." Things begin quietly in the living room,

where the neutral furnishings take a back seat to the commanding view. "This is a simple space, so we used the rug as a statement piece," says Hirsh, noting selections from the homeowner's modern art collection spike the walls with color. Midnight blue accent pillows on the sofa connect with the azure tones on the dining room wallpaper visible through an opening in one direction, and the navy that dominates the billiard room is discernable on the other side. In the kitchen, counter stools sport cobalt leather, cerulean cushions top the sunroom seating, and high gloss periwinkle cabinets in the butler's pantry ("They were Doron's idea," says Hirsh) add to the spectrum.

While the deft use of blue keeps things energetic and youthful, it's the combination of a strong modern statement with an underlying traditional foundation that tells the real story. "It was our job to honor both," says Hirsh. "And the team's edited approach to both the architecture and the interior design helped accomplish that goal." 🌟

