

# CTC&G

Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

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# ARTFUL LIVING

GRAFFITI GAINS GROUND | VENICE BIENNALE | GRACIOUS INTERIORS

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CONNECTICUT COTTAGES & GARDENS SEPTEMBER 2013 COTTAGES-GARDENS.COM

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Architecture and interiors work hand in hand in this sophisticated blend of city and country

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF MCNAMARA

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Galleries and collectors are recognizing that street art has evolved far beyond the writing on the wall

BY JAHMANE  
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Stamford designer Carol Brewer creates a home brimming with state-of-the-art technology and countless custom solutions

BY MINDY PANTIEL  
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BY DAVID MASELLO  
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PHOTOGRAPH BY BEN RAHN/A-FRAME INC.

From "In a New Light,"

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Ben Rahn/A-Frame Inc.



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WESTPORT SHOWROOM

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BETHEL SHOWROOM

1 Paul Street | Bethel, CT  
203.790.9023



CONTRIBUTORS

# CTC & G Faces



## Helen Klisser During

As an art advisor, curator, photojournalist and the Director of Visual Arts at the Westport Arts Center, Helen Klisser During is a woman of many talents. A typical day for her includes collaborative projects and trips to galleries—all to share her passion and insight into the art world. For this issue's "Takin' It to the Streets" (page 82), she caught a glimpse into the exclusive world of street art. **"I enjoyed hanging out with the talented crew and watching them work in silence,** while harmonizing in unison like jazz musicians."

## Foley & Cox

From Greenwich to the Gulf Coast, Mary Foley and Michael Cox are recognized for their style and versatility. This interior design firm creates distinct yet approachable interiors in residential homes, yachts and private aircraft. **"One of our favorite 'go-to' elements in our resource library has to be an antique brown brushed granite,"** says the duo. "We absolutely love introducing the stone to our new clients. We selected it for the bathroom countertop," featured in this issue's "Balancing Act" (page 64).



## Carol Brewer

Surrealist artist and Stamford resident Carol Brewer combined her passion for the arts and interior design in a thriving career. For 30 years, Brewer has created interiors that reflect her global travels. For this issue's "In a New Light" (page 72), Dubai's modern buildings inspired her design. **"I used the most state-of-the-art technologies—from the lighting systems to the movie theater,"** she says. "My clients gave me the creative freedom to custom design furnishings based on my trips around the world."

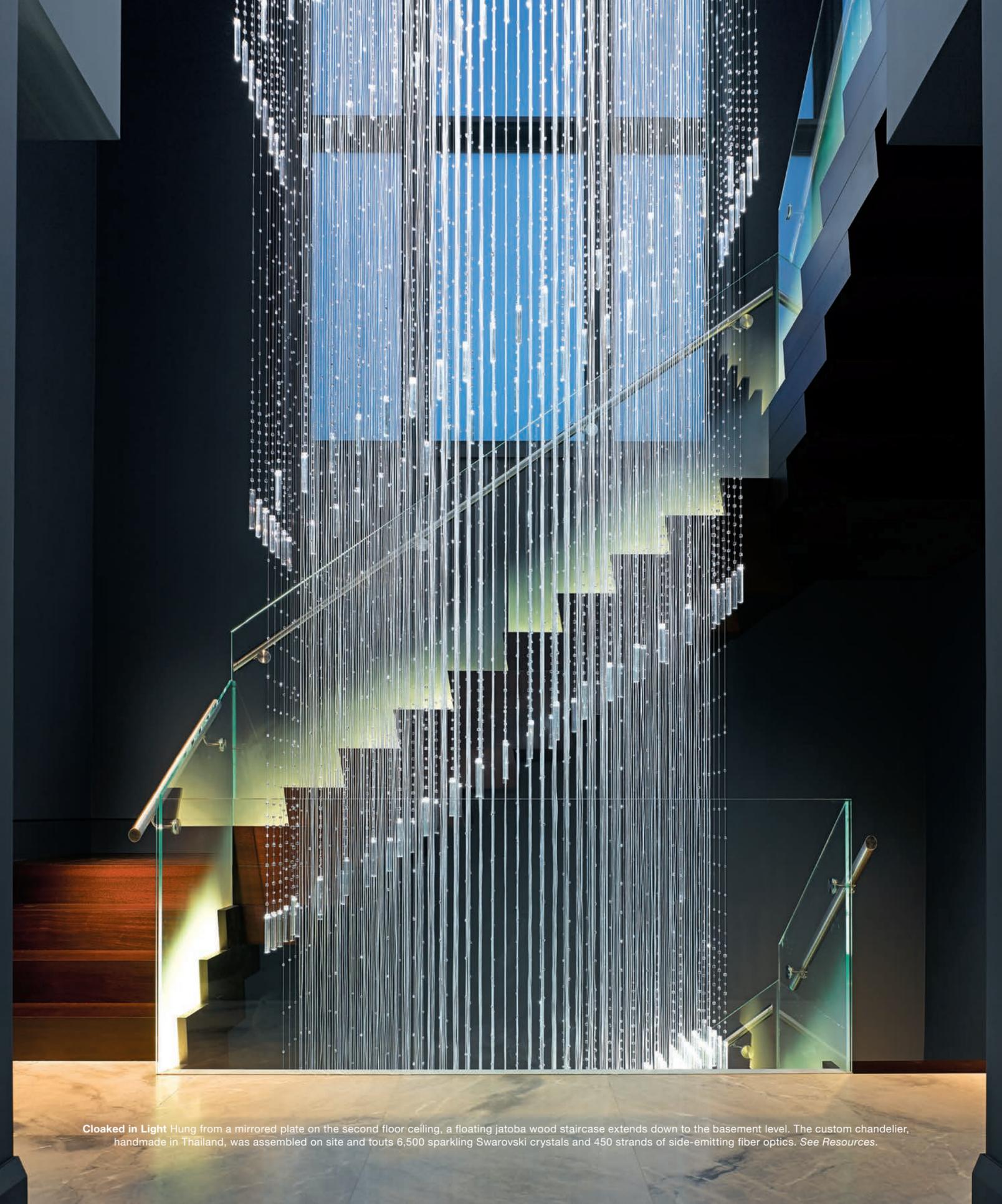
—Morgan Dancy

**Dining In** Carol Brewer designed the Corian and brushed stainless steel dining room table. The white-lacquered, wall-mounted buffet through Artistic Frame features acid-etched starphire mirror tops. Lighting is through G2J Design. Chair fronts are covered in Innovations Plush Pearl shimmery vinyl, the backs are covered in Knoll Katazome white upholstery with embroidered silver geometric designs. See Resources.

STAMFORD DESIGNER CAROL BREWER  
CREATES A FAMILY HOME BRIMMING WITH  
STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY AND  
COUNTLESS CUSTOM SOLUTIONS

# IN A NEW LIGHT

BY MINDY PANTIEL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BEN RAHN/A-FRAME INC.



**Cloaked in Light** Hung from a mirrored plate on the second floor ceiling, a floating jatoba wood staircase extends down to the basement level. The custom chandelier, handmade in Thailand, was assembled on site and touts 6,500 sparkling Swarovski crystals and 450 strands of side-emitting fiber optics. See Resources.



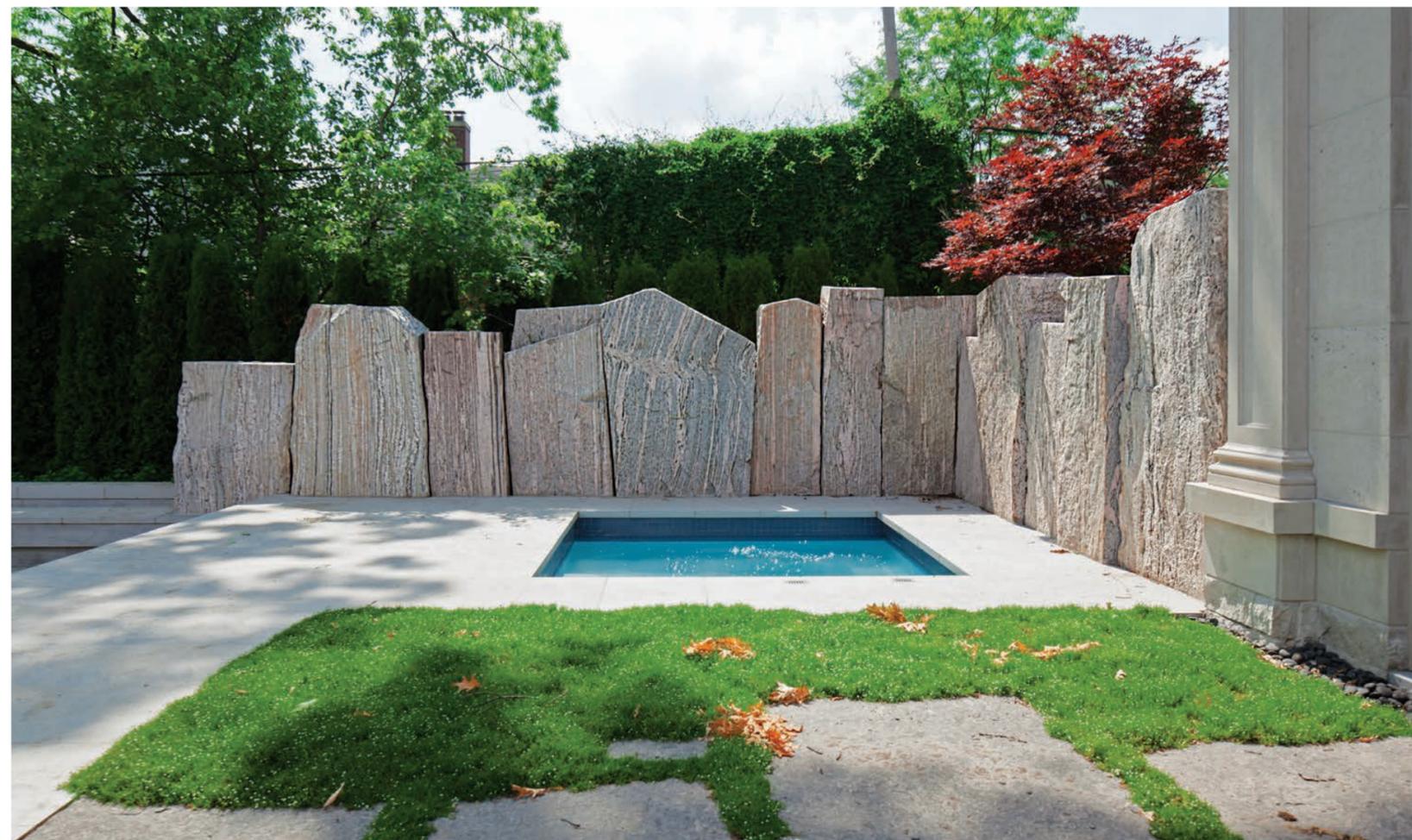
#### UPON APPROACH, THE TRADITIONAL RESIDENCE

clad in Indiana limestone nestles nicely in its well-established neighborhood. But don't be fooled by the formal colonnades and manicured landscape. Step inside, and the transformation to the brushed stainless steel asymmetrical benches and a spiral sofa reminiscent of a sexy red lipstick in the entry is akin to joining Dorothy on her abrupt shift from Kansas to Oz. Except you're in Toronto in the 14,500-square-foot home of a young couple whose wish list included modern interiors that would bend to the needs of a growing family.

After purchasing a double lot and tearing down an existing structure, the couple determined the only person who could help them realize their vision was Stamford-based interior designer Carol Brewer. "I had done a previous project with them and really understood the importance of customizing a home to who they are," says Brewer, who commuted from Connecticut to Canada for more than three years to get everything from the oversized French Gris de Savoie marble slab flooring on the main level to the plum-hued velveteen seating and mohair pillows in the home theater just right.

Drawing on her worldwide travels for inspiration, the designer infused every room with something memorable, starting with that eye-popping sofa. "I saw it in a hotel in Barcelona and immediately called the management to get the plans," says Brewer, a South African native who designed 42 pieces for

**Outdoor Living** On the outdoor terrace (ABOVE), the etched glass table and slate mesh chairs are from Richard Schultz Design's Mateo collection. Modular seating from Oasiq (LEFT) has silver-coated frames and is topped with Sunbrella cushions through Restoration Hardware. David Sutherland pillows are in assorted Perennials outdoor fabrics. The coffee table has a white powder-coated aluminum top, and the floor is Eramosa limestone. The rear of the house (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP) features mahogany-framed thermal windows from Tradewood. Eramosa stone pavers surround the hot tub (OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM), and massive slabs of Muskoka rock provide privacy. See Resources.





**Modern Materials**  
 (CLOCKWISE ACROSS SPREAD FROM TOP LEFT) The white lacquered custom cabinetry is by Daniel Popescu for Bilotta Kitchens of New York. The sink is Franke. The Gaggenau cooktops are along the wall with Glass Blanco backsplash tile from Porcelanosa. In the entry, etched tile mirrors hang above stainless steel benches. Six OrO wood benches with silver leaf by Oakville, CT, based Petta-Thompson complement the lighted domed ceiling in the anteroom and frame the dramatic red spiral sofa beyond. In the library, the Baker ottoman doubles as a coffee table. The sofa combines a sateen wool frame with corded velvet cushions, both from Donghia. Pillow fabric is from the Calvin Klein Home collection for Kravet. The white leather Spinnaker chairs are through Dennis Miller. A glass art installation by artist Freddy Chandra adds color in the library. Black crocodile Motivo by Caesarstone is the backdrop for the glass Vitraform sink in the powder room. See Resources.





“The glass mosaic mural in the pool area [a collaboration with architect Rene Gonzalez] was inspired by Monet’s *Water Lilies*.”

the house. “The metal on the exterior of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao gave me the idea to do brushed stainless-steel walls in the family room, and the glass mosaic mural in the pool area [a collaboration with architect Rene Gonzalez] was inspired by Monet’s *Water Lilies*.”

Brewer also joined forces with New York City-based lighting experts at G2] Design for an illuminating scheme that incorporates state-of-the-art technology. In the formal dining room, programmable, color-changing LED lighting and 15 handmade crystal raindrop chandeliers allow the owners to change colors to suit the occasion or their mood. “Their little girl loves purple. So on her birthday, the room glowed in violet,” notes Brewer.

But the tour de force is in the staircase, where the floating jatoba wood structure with LED-lighted balustrade is cloaked in 450 strands of side-emitting fiber optics with custom-made glass prism end pieces and features 6,500 Swarovski crystals. “In the last 40 years, nothing in the design world has changed like lighting,” says Brewer. “There are so many exciting things



**Cool Pool** An African sculpture cast from Cobalt stone (above) watches over the indoor pool where the glass mural is lit with cove lighting. (RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM) **Home Movies** A custom sofa and three chaises all covered in plum-hued velveteen Sunbrella fabrics provide seating in the dual level theater where the walls and panels are upholstered in gray tones. **Gathering Place** Shades of purple repeat in the family room, where the sectional topped in Donghia mohair velvet was inspired by Italian design. Pillows are covered in fabric from Designers Guild. The embossed leather and white lacquered coffee table doubles as an ottoman. A custom-dyed Tibetan mohair rug through Elite warms the marble slab floors. **Summer Nights** In the sunken patio area, the fire pit casts a glow on the glass sculpture garden. The wood slat fence by NAK Design Strategies is backed with bronze plate. See Resources.





**True Blue** A shimmering blue silk Phillip Jeffries wall covering, blue mohair velvet Knoll bench and ice blue lacquered cabinetry set a serene tone in the master bedroom. The dark-stained oak, wall-mounted headboard is inset with channeled white vinyl, and the oyster-toned embroidered silk/cotton blend draperies are Larsen. Pierre Frey velvet tops the Baker chairs. See Resources.



**En Suite** In the master bathroom (above), the vanity and tub deck are covered with Blue Cielo marble. The white lacquered cabinetry is designed by Daniel Popescu for Bilotta Kitchens. The swivel vanity chair wears Sudden vinyl from Maharam, and the radiant-heated floors are covered with slabs of Bianco Sivec marble. See Resources.

you can do with the current technology, and it's all so much more efficient." The energy-saving lighting is a small part of the environmentally conscious construction that features solar panels, geothermal heating, mahogany-framed thermal glass windows and radiant-heated floors. "The children love to be able to walk barefoot in the winter when there's so much snow outside," notes Brewer.

For continuity, the paint palette ranges from pale grays and blues to more dramatic dark charcoal. In the dining room, the brushed stainless-steel table bases with white Corian tops and chairs upholstered with shimmering white and silver fabric follow the established scheme, and the u-shaped family-room sectional sporting a luxurious aubergine mohair velvet complements the brushed stainless fireplace wall.

Like most homes, the kitchen is the heart of this one, and Brewer mixed white lacquer and Wenge cabinets with pure white quartz countertops. The custom barstools wear squid-ink shagreen vinyl. "Chic and practical," she says.

"When you spend as much time with a client as I did, you are able to tailor everything to suit—from how they function in the morning to how they work and play all day," says Brewer. "In the end, it's the difference between buying off the rack at Bloomingdale's or getting the kind of fit than can only come from a custom-measured garment." ✨



# Resources & More...

ITEMS PICTURED BUT NOT LISTED HERE ARE EITHER FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS OR HAVE NO ADDITIONAL DETAILS

(T) - Sources available through architects, interior designers and design professionals.

## Architects & Designers

**Building** (A&D), 150 E. 58th St., NYC, 212-644-2766, adbuilding.com.

## Decoration & Design Building

(D&D), 979 Third Ave., NYC, 212-759-5408, ddbuilding.com.

## Interior Design Building

(IDB), 306 E. 61st St., NYC, theinteriordesignbuilding.com.

## New York Design Center

(NYDC), 200 Lexington Ave., NYC, 212-679-9500, nydc.com.

### CORRECTION

In the June issue of *CTC&G*, in "Nantucket Nest," pages 64–69, the globe light in the kitchen (page 67) is from Vaughan Designs (T), D&D, 212-319-7070, vaughandesigns.com.

### BALANCING ACT

**Pages 64–71: Interior design**, Mary Foley and Michael Cox, Foley & Cox, NYC, 212-529-5800, foleyandcox.com. **Architect**, McKee Patterson, Austin Patterson Disston Architects, Southport, 203-255-4031, apdarchitects.com. **Landscape design**, James Doyle, Doyle Herman Design Associates, Greenwich, 203-869-2900, dhda.com. **Contractor**, Richard Koch, Davenport Contracting, Stamford, 203-324-6308, dvnport.com. **Pages 64–65: Living room: Sofa**, Roman Thomas (T), NYC, 212-473-6774, romanthomas.com, **fabric**, Holland & Sherry (T), D&D, 212-355-6241, hollandandsherry.com. **Table**, custom parchment cocktail table, Paul Ebbitts Lacquerworks, Inc., Bronx, 917-992-9087, pjebbitts.com. **Small table**, ivory tusk, Baker Furniture, Greenwich, 203-862-0655, bakerfurniture.com. **Paintings**, James T. Greco Art, 347-267-0535, jamesgreco.com. **Window seat**, Lore Decorators, NYC, 212-534-1025, **fabric**, Rogers &



**Marble Mix** The tub and vanity feature Blue Cielo marble and Dornbracht fixtures.

Goffigon Ltd. (T), D&D, 212-888-3242, delanyandlong.com. **Sculptures** (on tray), Mis En Scene, Greenwich, 203-422-0567, misenscenegreenwich.com. **Table lamp**, antique travertine Delphi, Foley & Cox Home, Hudson, NY, 518-828-3210, foleyandcoxhome.com. **Chair fabric**, white leather with stenciled zebra print on cowhide, Dualoy Leather, NYC, 212-736-3360, dualoy.com. **Page 66: Foyer: Console**, Christian Liaigre, NYC, 212-201-2338, christian-liaigre.us. **Pendant light**, Alabaster light fixture, Urban Archaeology, NYC, 212-371-4646, urbanarchaeology.com. **Page 67: Kitchen: Cabinetry**, Richard Kovacs, Sound Woodworks LLC, Milford, 203-877-2992. **Table**, Circa Antiques, Westport, 203-222-8642, circaantiques.net. **Chairs**, antique, Foley & Cox Home. **Chandelier**, Holly Hunt (T), D&D, 212-755-6555, A&D, 212-891-2500, hollyhunt.com. **Page 68: Kitchen: Sinks**, Elkay, through Klaff's, Danbury, 203-792-3903, Norwalk, 203-866-1603, klaffs.com, elkayusa.com. **Faucets**, KWC, through Bender Plumbing Supply, New Haven, 203-787-4288, Waterbury, 203-753-6884, benderplumbing.com, kwcus.com. **Range**, Wolf, through Aitoro, Norwalk,

203-847-2471, aitoro.com, subzero-wolf.com. **Refrigerator**, Thermador, through Aitoro, thermador.com. **Dishwasher**, Miele, through Vinci's Home Products, Greenwich, 203-869-1114, vincishomeproducts.com, mieleusa.com. **Library: Chair fabric**, Holland & Sherry (T). **Sofa frame and ottoman**, Keleen Leathers, Westchester, IL, 708-409-9800, keeleenleathers.com. **Sofa cushion fabric**, linen, Arabel Fabrics, North Miami, FL, 305-947-9808, arabelfabrics.com. **Pendant light**, Egg pendant, McEwen Lighting Studio, through Dennis Miller Associates (T), NYDC, 212-684-0070, dennismiller.com, mcewenlighting.com. **Page 69: Dining room: Table**, Hudson Furniture, NYC, 212-645-7800, hudsonfurniture.com. **Chairs**, Williams-Sonoma Home, NYC, 212-581-1146, williams-sonoma.com. **Chandelier**, Montreal, Wired Custom Lighting (T), D&D, 212-446-6025, wired-designs.com. **Page 70: Master bath: Bench and Rug**, Waterworks, Danbury, 203-546-6265, Greenwich, 203-869-7766, waterworks.com. **Page 71: Master bedroom: Ceiling light**, Girona hanging shade, Vaughan Designs (T), D&D, 212-319-7070, vaughandesigns.com. **Sconce**, polished nickel Veronique

Swing-Arm, Remains Lighting, Greenwich, 203-629-1050, remains.com. **Bed**, custom upholstered bed, Lore Decorators, **fabric**, Maharam, D&D, 212-319-4789, maharam.com. **Bedside table**, Williams-Sonoma Home. **Slipper chairs' fabric**, Rogers & Goffigon Ltd. (T). **Pillows** (bed), Frette, NYC, 212-988-5221, frette.com. **Guest bedroom: Headboard**, custom, Lore Decorators, **fabric**, Arabel Fabrics. **Window cushions**, Esther Calderon Interiors, Port Jefferson Station, NY, 631-525-1528, esthercalderon.com, **fabric**, C&C Milano, through Holland & Sherry (T), ccc-milano.com. **Bedding**, West Elm, Westport, 203-226-2311, westelm.com.

### IN A NEW LIGHT

**Pages 72–81: Interior design**, Carol Brewer, Carol Brewer Interiors, LLC, Stamford, 203-322-6977, carolbrewerinteriors.com. **Page 72: Dining room: Buffets**, white lacquered wall-mounted buffets with mirror tops, Artistic Frame (T), NYC, D&D, 212-289-2100, artisticframe.com. **Table top**, 72-inch square Corian in Glacier Ice, DuPont, through Ring's End, Darien, 203-655-2525, ringsend.com, dupont.com. **Table bases**, stainless steel, Artistic Frame (T). **Bench**, 50-inch with stainless steel