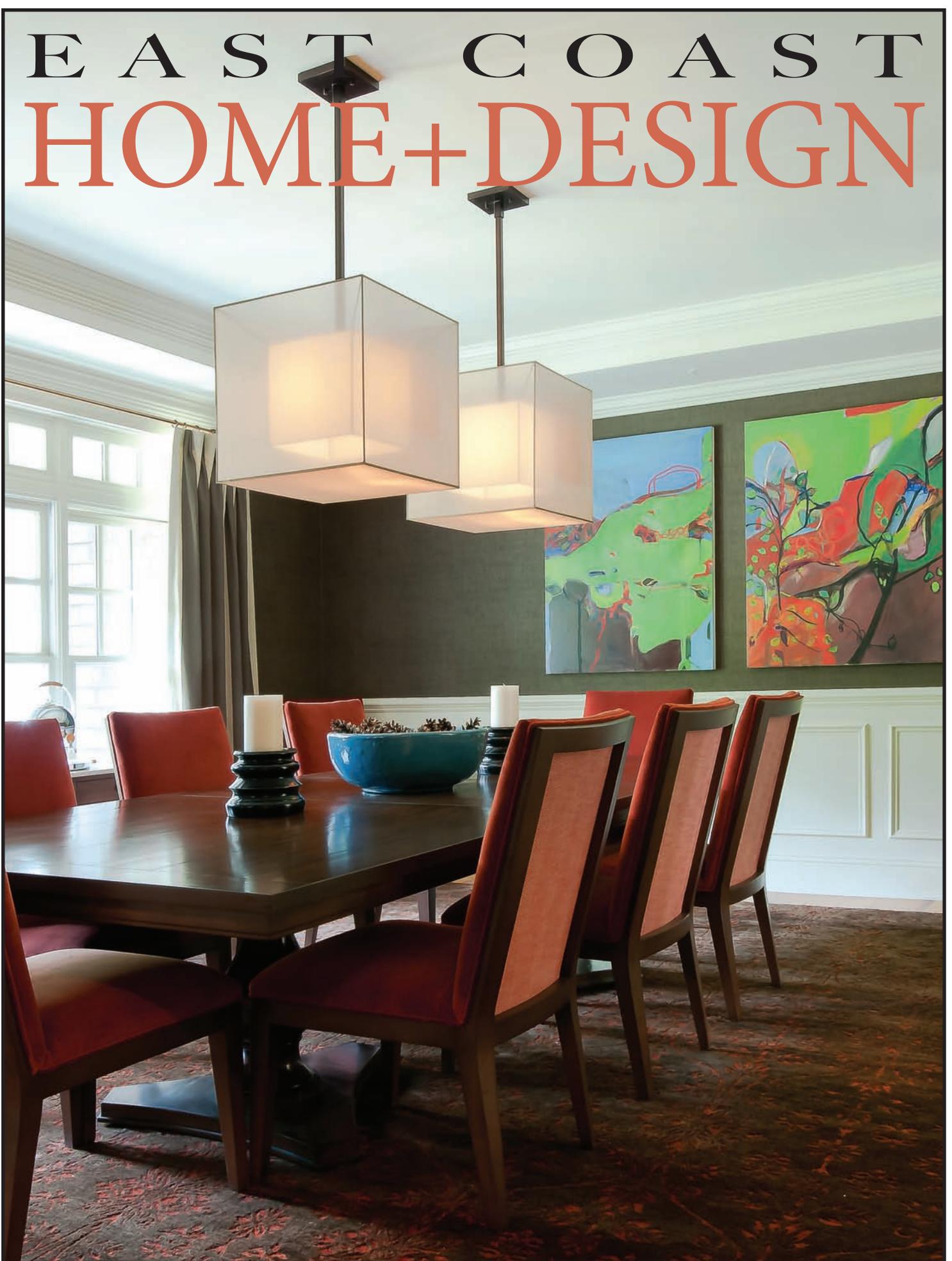


EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN





Interior designer, Robin McGarry combined contemporary chandeliers with a rustic dining table and upholstered chairs resulting in a space that has a more transitional feel. Modern artwork introduces vibrant color to the space.

OPPOSITE Crisp white wall paneling helps define the lower level of this two story entry hall. A vegetable-dyed, hand knotted runner from Nepal adds color with its Art Deco lotus-style pattern.



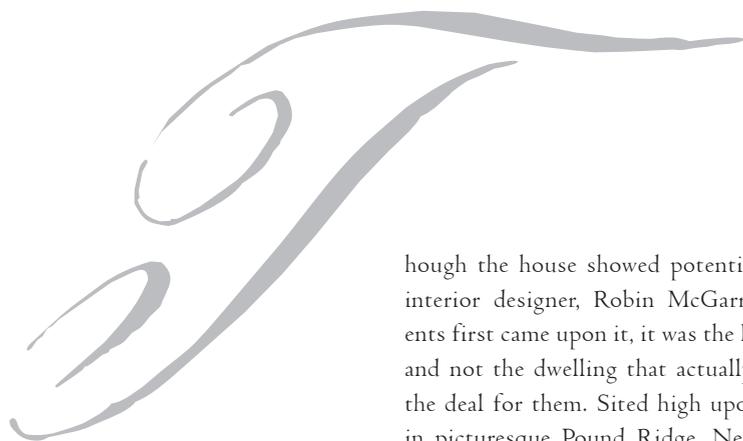
Finding the Perfect Fit

STORY BY KATIE KEATING

PHOTOS BY JANE BEILES



Creating a dividing wall with a cased opening enabled the designer to maintain “open communication” between the kitchen and family room while allowing each space to take on a personality of its own.



though the house showed potential when interior designer, Robin McGarry’s clients first came upon it, it was the location and not the dwelling that actually sealed the deal for them. Sited high upon a hill in picturesque Pound Ridge, New York, the beautiful setting boasted spectacular

views and acres of bucolic land surrounding the house. “However, the home wasn’t working for the active family of five, she said and she needed to reevaluate how to restructure the spaces and alter the interiors to fit their personalities and needs.” “The biggest challenge McGarry said she



Warm wood beams define the area and create a coffered look to the once unadorned ceiling in the new family room.

faced, was addressing the proportions of the combined kitchen, breakfast and family room space.” At fifteen feet wide and fifty-five feet long, it lacked the architectural interest and gracious detailing that define the vast body of Ms. McGarry’s work. To accomplish this feat, she introduced a dividing wall between the kitchen and family room areas. A cased opening was created to maintain open “communication” between the spaces. McGarry worked in conjunction with Norwalk builder, R.J. Aley to transform the spaces.

While the existing kitchen cabinets were left intact, the working space and informal eating area were “subtly delineated” by constructing a new serving counter, complete with bar stool seating and additional storage cabinets. By shifting some windows and exterior doors, McGarry was able to add the large informal banquette her clients had requested. The most dramatic change to the space came about with McGarry’s transformation of the family room. Warm wood beams define this area and create a cof-

fered look to the once unadorned ceiling. A stone fireplace framed by windows now anchors an exterior wall. Transoms above the windows and French doors lift the eye up and create a sense of verticality in the space. Full length drapery panels dress the windows and soften the transition between window and wall. A large scale sectional sofa offers ample seating when entertaining a crowd. The vegetable-dyed hand knotted Mahai-inspired Pakistani carpet that grounds the furniture arrangement, as well as other rugs seen through-





Less formal in feel, the living room's arrangement of leather club chairs and round ottoman create the perfect venue for casual conversation.



Natural light floods the first floor powder room through the round window in the room. A contemporary Thibault wallcovering with a circular pattern echoes the theme in this "spirited room".



A new home office was created above the garage and gives the busy working mom of three a quite space to collect her thoughts and organize her active family.

Throughout the home, McGarry has used pattern and texture to fit her clients' casual lifestyle.

out the home were sourced through Alix Unlimited. Contemporary, with just a hint of rusticated charm, this inviting space will shine for years to come.

The entry hall is another area in which McGarry employed architectural elements to transform the space. Crisp white wall paneling now defines the lower level while the custom, oversized “sculptural chandelier” helps create a greater sense of scale. Contemporary themed art work adds a pop of color to the space. The vegetable-dyed, hand knotted runner from Nepal reads more Art Deco with its lotus-style pattern.

A rich brown textured wallcovering sets the tone in the dining room and seems

juxtaposed against the creamy bone colored wainscot paneling surrounding the room. The rustic dining table is illuminated from above by a pair of contemporary chandeliers. Upholstered dining chairs add to the transitional feel of the room. The subtle coloration in the hand-knotted Tibetan rug unifies the color palette.

At the request of her clients, Ms. McGarry took a different approach when it came to designing the formal living room. More library like in feel, she centered four leather clubs chairs around a round ottoman, placing them in front of the stone fireplace. Custom designed quarter sawn and fumed oak cabinets house the audio/

visual equipment as well as the homeowner's turntable and “vintage” vinyl record collection. Primarily neutral in tone, the space is warmed by the saturated colors in the area rug that floats the furniture arrangement. Natural light floods the room through well dressed windows.

With access to a sunny deck, the master bedroom is enveloped with soothing tones. Soft blues and warm neutrals accent the room creating a sense of calm and serenity. The tray ceiling adds architectural interest and gives the room its grander sense of scale. The custom upholstered headboard designed by McGarry adds a little Hollywood glam to the room. The ottoman and inviting club



chairs were also custom made to Ms. McGarry's specifications and appear more transitional in style. The patterned carpet covering the floor is a Masland design. Embroidered linen draperies frame the windows and add a bit of "romance" to the window wall.

Above the garage, McGarry designed office space and a custom desk to give this busy working mom of three a proper "control central" to manage the daily activities of her athletic family. Warmed by natural light, this cheery spot offers her a quiet place to collect her thoughts and plan her day.

Throughout the home, McGarry has used pattern and texture to fit her clients' casual lifestyle. Natural fabrics read organic and family friendly. No longer do her clients look to the surrounding property as the main attraction. McGarry has given

them the home of their dreams and an inviting refuge to come home to at the end of a hectic day. ■

Katie Keating is an interior designer and freelance writer and can be reached at 203.339.5820 or katiekdesign@yahoo.com

Serenity reigns supreme in this soothing master bedroom. Soft blues and cool neutrals set the tone.

OPPOSITE A custom headboard and sumptuous fabrics add a little Hollywood glam in the master bedroom.

RESOURCES

INTERIOR DESIGN

ROBIN MCGARRY, ASID
 INTERIOR DESIGN
 11 Riverfield Drive
 Weston, CT 06383
 203.454.1825, ext 10
robinmcgarry.com

CONTRACTOR

R.J. ALEY BUILDING CONTRACTOR, LLC
 185 Wilton Road
 Westport, CT 06880
 203.226.9933
jaley@rjaley.com



