

What Makes It Work

This seemingly simple composition by designer Alicia Orrick turns out, on examination, to be a web of carefully calculated balances.



1. Sharp contrasts of black and white—in the painted fireplace surround, in the mats and frames of photos on the mantel, and in the stools, table, and pendant light—pull together a graphic assembly uniting both curves and squares against the mellower wood tones of the background.

2. Sculptures by Patricia Udell on the central table are the room's finishing touch, and provide a perfect three-dimensional counterpart to the owners' notable collection of black-and-white photography.

3. An ensemble of circular forms plays off the rectilinear architecture, beginning with the central table and extending outward via cylindrical Lillian August stools and a hanging iron pendant light from Roman Thomas. Even the terracotta pots flanking the fireplace participate in the harmony.

KEITH SCOTT MORRISON

4.

Other repeating shapes operate in a similar fashion: paired Xs in the table base and at the bottom of the hanging light; rhythmic rectangles of nailheads on the stools, which echo the wall paneling and the vertical stitching of the light fixture's parchment shade.

5.

Overall, strong, simple, contemporary furnishings—such as the massive steel X-base table from Holly Hunt—are set in counterpoint to the room's more detailed, traditional oak paneling.

PROJECT TEAM

Interior design: Alicia Orrick, Orrick & Company, Greenwich, (203) 532-1188, orrickandcompany.com