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Sweet Sanctuary

LAI D-BACK LUXURY IS WRAPPED IN A PALETTE OF BLUES, WHITES AND TANS

BY JAMIE MARSHALL | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GRUEN



Gathering Spots On the second-floor mezzanine (THIS PAGE), a Rogers & Goffigon fabric covers the sofa and a pair of chairs. The round side table is through Tucker Robbins. A woven bowl from Grayson DeVere Design tops an oak coffee table from Bungalow. In the sunroom (OPPOSITE PAGE), the banquet seat cushion is through Yardstick Decor and covered in a Holly Hunt fabric. The side tables are Dedon, and the handwoven area rug is by Elizabeth Eakins. See Resources.



FAMILY-FOCUSED, HAPPY AND BRIGHT.

These were the imperatives a single mother of four gave to interior designer Alicia Orrick when they met to discuss the design plan for her new home. "She was leaving a large house filled with antiques, photographs and family treasures," says Orrick. "It was beautiful and deeply detailed, but the client made it clear she was ready for a change."

"I wanted a very relaxed feel where you can go into any room and be comfortable there," says the homeowner, "a family home that is also a respite from our complicated world."

With that in mind, Orrick set out to bring a modern sensibility into the five-bedroom residence, set in a section of Greenwich near the water. "It was an important location," says Orrick, "because she was really clear that she wanted to bring the water and sky inside."

The house, built in 2000, had good bones. It just needed to be adapted to a more contemporary lifestyle. The client turned to architect Jonathan Graves of Imagine Architecture, with whom she had done two previous projects. The biggest challenge was the layout, according to Graves: "Our goal was to

maintain the warmth and comfort of a traditional home, while reconfiguring the existing layout to be more user-friendly."

To improve overall circulation, reduce "dark zones," and create a more open floor plan, Graves made several structural changes. "We reconfigured the main entry foyer, which felt restricted, and by removing the wall leading to the dining room, we created an open, through-house view to the backyard," Graves explains. In the process, he lowered the ceiling in the dining room, which made space for a semi-enclosed reading nook on the second-floor mezzanine. He also removed a wall between the library and living room, enlarged the kitchen by relocating the adjacent laundry and mudroom to the downstairs, reconfigured the master suite and transformed a screened porch into a sunroom with a curved window seat and stone fireplace. Dubbed the "night lounge" because it contains the family piano, it is the nexus of many joyful gatherings.

For the home's interior design, Orrick took her cue from the homeowner's desire to bring the outdoors in—while still maintaining a sophisticated vibe.

Got The Blues (OPPOSITE PAGE) The entry foyer features an antique chair from the homeowner's collection, which is upholstered in a Rogers & Goffigon fabric with Samuel & Sons trim. See Resources.

Kitchen Casual (RIGHT) A pair of Ann-Morris pendants center above the custom island. Holly Hunt counter stools sport faux leather seats. **Dining Delights** (BELOW) Chairs through Plantation Design with Holly Hunt faux leather seats surround a Formations table. The Ron Dier chandelier is through Zimmer + Rohde. Window panels are crafted from Rogers & Goffigon's Dazzle in Snowdrift. See Resources.





Easy Going In the living room (above), a Ferrell Mittman sofa, McGuire lounge chairs and Charles Stewart club chair all sport Holly Hunt fabrics. Two custom oak coffee tables are through Greenwich Custom Furniture. The floor lamp is from CL Sterling & Son. In the library (right), two game tables from Greenwich Custom Furniture are meant to replicate those owned by the client's grandmother. See Resources.

Light & Bright (OPPOSITE PAGE) The family room is designed with comfort in mind. Ferrell Mittman sofas are upholstered in Dessin Fournir fabric and sport assorted accent pillows from Yardstick Décor. The table lamps are through Bungalow. See Resources.





"We did this by using a palette of watery blues, cloud-like whites and tans that are reminiscent of sand," says the designer. Orrick continued the theme with an abstract photograph of water in the dining room and the striking blue in the family portrait, centrally placed over the living room fireplace.

Taking advantage of the abundant natural light, the designer painted all the downstairs rooms different shades of white. "They are very close in hue, creating long, light-filled views through the house. You move through the space continuously, but once you're in a space, you have a very subtle sense the room is different than the one you came through," she says.

Ebonized hard wood floors provide a dramatic backdrop for custom handwoven area rugs by Elizabeth Eakins, and furnishings are upholstered in simple fabrics for an uncluttered feel. The lack of pattern and accessories—other than a few artfully arranged accent pillows and works of art—is by design. "No chintz, no piping, limited built-ins," says the homeowner. "We spent so much time culling through my belongings before I moved, I did not want to bring more stuff in."

Sleep Tight (ABOVE, LEFT), A RH Teen bed wears Serena & Lily liners. The pendant is through Ay Illuminate. The Rosecore carpet is through Redi-Cut Carpets & Rugs. See Resources.

Neat Niche (ABOVE, RIGHT) The architect transformed a dormer on the second floor into a cozy window seat. The cushion is covered in a Galbraith & Paul print through Holland & Sherry. See Resources.

Cinematic Treasure (OPPOSITE PAGE) The movie room, styled by Hal Parent, features technology by Advanced Home Audio. See Resources.





As a refuge from the outside world, this is a home that invites togetherness, from the spacious island in the all-white kitchen and the airy, high-beamed family room to the library with its custom game tables and the downstairs entertainment area. "I didn't want it to feel like a basement," explains the homeowner. "There is no door that shuts it off from the first floor." Perhaps the biggest draw is the movie room, with its couch-style seating and fiber optic ceiling stars. "This was the most important part of the whole house for me," she says. "It's such a fun space. I needed to have it so my son would love to have friends over, and the other kids would come back to visit, which they did—even before the pandemic." •

Chic & Sleek In the master bedroom (left), a headboard with antique brass nailheads is upholstered in a Rogers & Goffigon fabric. A Cowtan & Tout fabric invites lounging on the chaise. In the master bathroom (top), a Vaughan ceiling pendant centers above a Waterworks tub. See [Resources](#).

