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Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

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*Celebrating*

# DESIGN

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**Simple Symmetry** The main block of the house is "very axial," say the architects, which affords a straight view from the foyer through the great room and porch to the pool. Two Edward Ferrell + Lewis Mittman benches covered in a Knoll Textiles felt flank the client's own table; the Bell Jar lantern is by Formations through Holly Hunt. Blue and white ginger jar is through English Country Antiques. See Resources.



# BLUE HEAVEN

CASUAL CHIC AND UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE UNITE IN THIS JAMES SCHETTINO ARCHITECTS AND LYNN MORGAN DESIGN COLLABORATION

BY JAMIE MARSHALL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH SCOTT MORTON



**Multipurpose Planning** The architects sited the new house (top) so that the independent garage structure (above) would buffer traffic noise and create room for an expansive courtyard in front and a large yard in the back. See Resources.





**Kitchen Magic** The coffered ceiling in the Christopher Peacock kitchen (top) features blue horizontal planking; the blue-and-white striped runners are by Magdalena York; orchids are by Diane James Designs. **Great Slate** (above) Instead of wainscoting, the architect put floor-to-ceiling paneling in the mudroom and low-maintenance slate floors. The Dutch doors let the couple keep an eye on their two dogs and vice versa. The console table is a Lynn Morgan design. See *Resources*.

### WHEN THE OWNERS OF A LARGE GEORGIAN

in backcountry Greenwich decided to downsize, they knew they wanted something that suited a less formal lifestyle. They turned to architect Jim Schettino, who had designed their original home, to help bring their vision to life.

"We had purchased a beautiful in-town lot with a lovely old house in 2006," recalls the wife. "We weren't sure what we would do with it." While they considered their options, they rented it out for three years. "The house's siting didn't take advantage of the beautiful setting, and it was in need of so much work that once they moved out, we decided to start over," she says.

Driving the design was their desire to have the master bedroom on the first floor. "The house I did 20 years ago was more traditional," says Jim, whose son James, a partner in the firm, collaborated on the home's design and construction. "This house is tailored to how they live now."

The clients wanted an open floor plan with rooms that flowed seamlessly, while still maintaining a country-house feel. "We kept the profile low," says Jim. "The second floor is under the roof with eaves that come down to the first floor." Though technically a center-hall Colonial, the front stairs are off the great room, which is a little unpredictable, according to Jim. Also unexpected, a covered breezeway from the back door to a dwelling that looks like a guest cottage but is actually a three-car garage.

Inside, a three-foot-wide recessed arch in the foyer opens into a spacious great room. To the left is a master suite with his and her dressing rooms and bathrooms, to the right is the kitchen, mudroom and family room. The



**Casual Dining**  
A pair of nickel-shaded pendants from Vaughan Designs hangs above the Christopher Peacock-designed mahogany-topped kitchen island. The counter stools, by Little Bird Furniture for Christopher Peacock, are clad in a Petite Zig Zag Quadrille fabric. See *Resources*.







**Crisp Palette** In the living room (ABOVE), blue-and-white graphic art by Brian Kammerer and antique white ceramic vases from Circa Antiques flank the mirror TV over the mantel. The sofas, covered in Perennials Sea Salt, the club chair, sporting Groundworks at Lee Jofa's Gazebo Blue, and the low cherry table are all Lynn Morgan Design. Patterned sofa pillows are through Cowtan & Tout; solid are Lilly Pulitzer for Lee Jofa. The custom lighting fixture is through O'Lampia. See Resources.

**Hull of a Story** The wooden hull inspired the warmer tones of the family room (LEFT) with its Phillip Jeffries grass-cloth walls, hand-screened curtain fabric and throw pillows from J.A. Design Studio. The sofa, covered in a Pierre Frey linen, cozies up to a David latesta coffee table; the swivel chairs are clad in Lulu DK; the side table is Barbara Barry for McGuire. See Resources.

**Through Views** With the home's open floor plan, the ground-floor rooms flow seamlessly into one another. The custom walnut Parc Monceau table is the focal point of the dining room, where LMD chairs are upholstered in fabrics from Rogers & Goffigon (solid). The blue hurricanes are from Treillage. See Resources.







doorway between the dining room and family room is a prime example of the bold but simple design elements. “Instead of an eight-foot door, we did a seven-foot door with transoms above it. That keeps the low profile and the open feel,” notes James.

When it came time for furniture and accessories, designer Lynn Morgan was mindful of the homeowners’ desire to keep the palette clean and simple. “I wanted to get rid of all the clutter we’d lived with for 21 years,” the wife says. Now, for instance, instead of having curtains with tassels, windows are dressed simply with panels or nothing at all. Instead of having silver-framed photographs covering the foyer table, it is graced with an antique ginger jar. Natural hardwood floors are covered with neutral area rugs; walls are painted white with high-gloss white trim. Knowing the client’s love of blue, Morgan introduced variations on the hue for visual continuity. “It’s really one big

room,” she says. “I wanted to keep everything in proportion. The whites and blues are restful but crisp and clean, traditional and elegant.”

To underscore the casual chic style, most of the furnishings are covered with indoor/outdoor fabrics. “Nothing about the house is precious,” says Morgan. “Every room is used.” The couple’s collection of maritime art fits the decor perfectly. In fact, it was a wooden half hull that set the tone for the family room, where the palette is a bit warmer and cozier than in the rest of the house, with grasscloth-covered walls and geometric print drapes.

As for the collection of photographs from the old foyer? The designer had them blown up, framed and hung on the walls of the master sitting room. Nearby, the master bathroom is a study in serenity, thanks to the marble floor and shell scallop chair. “We kept it very reflective and about as simple as it could be,” says Morgan. ✨



**True Blue** The master bedroom (ABOVE) is plush underfoot with a wall-to-wall carpet from JD Staron’s Nantucket collection. The bed is dressed in Matouk; the chairs and Country Swedish bench are done in Elizabeth Eakins linen twill. The master sitting room and master bathroom (TOP RIGHT) feature the same Circa Lighting glass chandelier, plus millwork and custom cabinetry by CJS Millwork. In the sitting room, the blue lacquer trim, Schumacher wallpaper and upholstered “Studio 54” pouf add a touch of glamor. **Warm Tones** Even the husband’s home office (RIGHT), with its dark wood paneling and owner-designed mahogany and glass desk, has a pop of maritime blue on the wall. See Resources.

