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# IN WITH the NEW

Interior designer Eve Robinson and architect Rosamund Young create a Westchester residence with a sense of history—and a sense of itself

INTERIOR DESIGN EVE ROBINSON ASSOCIATES

ARCHITECTURE ROSAMUND YOUNG/THE YOUNG COMPANY

TEXT MARJORIE E. GAGE

PHOTOGRAPHY JOSHUA MCHUGH

## natural selection

Opposite: Traditional lines and natural materials link the newly constructed home to its context in a historic district of 1920s and '30s houses. This page: Metal-framed doors and clerestory windows connect the interior to the landscape. Judy Ross pillows on the Roman Thomas sofa. Side tables, Tucker Robbins.





**BUILDING A NEW HOUSE IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT PRESENTS CERTAIN CHALLENGES.** First, there are zoning ordinances and building codes to adhere to, specifying everything from maximum square-footage to minimum setback. And then there are the "unspoken rules"—local preferences for certain colors, rooflines, and gable shapes—that attract attention only when they have been broken, resulting in a structure that simply does not fit in to its surroundings. But this five-bedroom Westchester contemporary—brought to life by interior designer Eve Robinson and architect Rosamund Young—is a success story.

CONTINUED



**complete mobility**

Opposite: David Weeks chandeliers from Ralph Pucci serve as both illumination and art in the loftlike living space. Madeline Weinrib's "Climbers and Ramblers" rug anchors the sitting area. A TV retracts into the wall above the hearth. This page: The dining area's Claro walnut slab table and bench are from BDDW. *Falling*, by Neeta Madahar.

"WE DIDN'T SET OUT TO CREATE A MUSEUM REPLICA OF A 100-YEAR-OLD HOUSE.  
WE BUILT A HOUSE TO LIVE IN FOR 100 YEARS."



#### artful details

The limestone-tiled family room (this page) and kitchen (opposite) are canopied by the serpentine second-story balcony. Saarinen's Womb chair adds fresh color. Inset: The entry's floating shelf makes a modern statement.



Working with an experienced team of craftsmen and landscape professionals, Robinson and Young collaborated to create a home that balances the classic and contemporary, the innovative and the natural. "It was essential to these homeowners that the whole house be functional and welcoming," says Robinson. They needed technology, study areas, and flexible dining space. They also wanted wood-burning fireplaces, an open porch, and green spaces.

"They needed organization as well as beauty," says Robinson. Inside, the solution came in the form of contemporary furnishings that reflect the house's symbiotic relationship with the outdoors, calling on a natural palette and organic motifs to evoke a connection to the landscape. The same synergy between old and new, indoors and outdoors is reflected in the architecture.



# peace and pleasure

Main image: Designed as an oasis of color and texture, the porch functions as an outdoor living area. "It is a room—that just happens to be outside," says designer Eve Robinson.

A Barlow Tyrie sectional fabricated of woven powder-coated aluminum provides ample lounge space. Walters Wicker stacking chairs surround an extension table that "grows" to accommodate extra guests. Bamboo shades roll down to form a privacy wall. Four-inch-wide cedar planks finish the ceiling; stainless fans keep air flowing.

Top: A Japanese soaking tub, from William Garvey, floats in the first-floor master bath.

Below: The Zen-inspired water garden is visible from the library.





#### masterful mood

A vintage Pierre Guariche chandelier, from Pascal Boyer, suspends from the ceiling of the master library. Rosewood millwork brings warmth to the two-story room, used as a home office and grown-up retreat. Paul Mathieu Bianca Club Chairs, from Ralph Pucci, flank the bronze-paneled chimney wall. Painted wood-frame windows simulate metal. Rug, Tai Ping.



Classic building materials—cedar shingles, Yorktown granite, painted clapboards, half-round copper gutters, and bronzed metals—create a traditional exterior. Inside, Stucco Veneziano walls, blackened-steel beams, and metal railings form a timeless backdrop for big, open spaces that let light and traffic flow. "Without a respect for the location—a sensitivity to the period of the neighboring houses and the kinds of materials used locally—a new house will stand out like a sore thumb," says Robinson.

As Young puts it: "We didn't set out to create a museum replica of a 100-year-old house. We built a house to live in for 100 years." — See Resources.

#### step up

Free-form granite stepping stones create an informal path on the north side of the house. The façade's granite veneer continues all the way up the 30-foot chimney. Windows in the main wing follow the line of the rising staircase.