

MADE ANEW

A SHINGLE-STYLE HOUSE IN WESTPORT IS UPDATED WITH AUTHENTIC ELEMENTS AND A SENSE OF COMFORT.

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INTERIOR DESIGN / LINHERR HOLLINGSWORTH, LINHERR HOLLINGSWORTH, LLC
ARCHITECTURE / JIM DENNO, JIM DENNO DESIGN
HOME BUILDER / JOHN DESMOND, JOHN DESMOND BUILDERS,
AND SCOTT EVARTS, S&W BUILDING REMODELING, INC.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / GLENN TICEHURST, BENEDEK & TICEHURST

My aesthetic is based on quality,” says designer Linherr Hollingsworth, “but I want to know my clients first. Their energy has to be there.” It was this mindset that resulted in the successful renovation of a young family’s contemporary shingle-style residence in Westport. Having seen Hollingsworth’s work in a magazine, the homeowners approached her to lead the design aspect. “Right from the start, we had a wonderful communication,” she says. “An interested client makes for the best project. And these clients had a vision.”

Their goal was to create more authenticity for their home, which was relatively new and built in a classic New England style. Carefree comfort and proper use of space were also important, as the owners often host extended-family members. Hollingsworth began with the children’s rooms, designing each space with input from each child about the color palette. Then came the public spaces. “The goals were directed at function; aesthetics were second,” Hollingsworth says. “The clients wanted rooms to be relaxed and comfortable, but they had to function seamlessly.”

Architect Jim Denno found ways to adjust the structure so it worked for the family and injected characteristics of its inspired design. “We kept the shingle style going, adding a bay window overlooking the rear view along with new fireplaces, trim and an elevator,” he says. “We also opened walls, coffered ceilings and made the spaces more to scale.” The changes are noticeable immediately from the entryway, which Denno reworked with a curving stair that feels more sympathetic to the home’s architectural style. Here, Hollingsworth added a Chinese alter table adorned with tribal artifacts and blue-and-white ceramics, a bronze

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Hervé van der Straeten pendant and sconces from Maison Gerard and a custom hand-knotted navy leather rug. “The most interesting part of the project was bringing Linherr and Jim’s vision to life,” says general contractor John Desmond, who led the construction. “Custom moldings, doors, windows and cabinetry all went into this project.”

Throughout the main living areas, Hollingsworth juxtaposed feminine and masculine elements, such as the dining room’s antique French chandeliers and custom walnut table. “I have an insatiable love of all things vintage and finding the right piece,” she says. In the living room, she paired a bronze coffee table of her own design with sculptural French stools in what she calls “a soulful mix of modern and ancient.” The subtle approach continues in the family room, where the designer injected a relaxed vibe with a grouping of swivel chairs near a window at one end and an entertainment area with a television at the other. “It was essential to create a casual space where everyone could visit together yet still be close to the kitchen,” she explains. A subdued palette of ivories and browns with touches of blues pervades the home, warming in the master bedroom with melon hues. Designed as an intimate escape, the space features a sitting area, French doors that lead to a balcony and a mechanized TV lift built into the underside of the bed.

Although the residence exudes a low-key atmosphere, the technology is anything but. “We installed a Crestron electronic system, so it’s a smart house now,” says builder Scott Evarts, whose firm also oversaw bathroom renovations, the build-out of a wine cellar and a new roof. The kitchen houses integrated appliances, including an induction cooktop milled into the counter. “It’s like a commercial kitchen,” Evarts says. “The owners have every high-end gadget in there.” Hollingsworth developed a cohesive layout for the space, which took 17 months to complete, maximizing usage by creating “stations”: a prep island, a baking island and a coffee area. “It was problem-solving in an artful way,” she muses. “Now, it’s the equivalent of two kitchens.”

The final stage of the renovation took place on the grounds, which received a pool, a chipping green, a paddle court and a kitchen garden that landscape architect Glenn Ticehurst structured to add authenticity to the house. “There’s a formality to this design,” he says. “We used the existing grading to create walls, steps and terraces, and we added traditional plantings like hydrangea and Guinevere crabapples to create interest throughout the year.”

Outside and inside, the new design speaks to the intended style of the house as well as the approachable elegance and ease of the homeowners. “We take tremendous pride in creating a positive lifestyle for our clients,” Hollingsworth says. “Here, they can always feel transported, as if on vacation.” ■



Designer Linherr Hollingsworth set out to create a welcoming aesthetic in the foyer of a newly renovated Westport home. To do so, she used a classic palette of ivory and navy with a custom hand-knotted rug by Studioart complemented by the warm tones of a vintage Chinese table and a hand-wrought bronze ceiling fixture by Hervé van der Straeten.

Hollingsworth grounded the living room with an antique Sultanabad rug from J.D. Staron. Jonas made the custom sofas—upholstered in Donghia and Rogers & Goffigon fabrics with Samuel & Sons cording—and armchairs, which wear a Holly Hunt textile. The Jacques Adnet floor lamp is from Birmingham & Co. in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, and the 1930s sconce is from Avant Garden. The console is from Lars Bolander.



In the breakfast room, a Gubi pendant from Design Within Reach hangs above a table and chairs from Poliform. The Conrad shades are integrated with the home's Crestron system. The windows, as throughout the home, are from Jeld-Wen Windows & Doors.



Above: The custom kitchen, designed in collaboration with Christopher Peacock, features integrated Gaggenau and Sub-Zero appliances, a Miele coffee system and Vivreau water-filtration systems. The prep island incorporates a Kallista sink and a Blanco faucet, both purchased at Klaffs.

Left: Hollingsworth outfitted the kitchen's prep island with a Julien sink and a Blanco faucet from Klaffs. Shoreline Painting & Drywall finished the cabinetry with a Fine Paints of Europe satin lacquer.





For cozy nights watching movies, Hollingsworth placed an L-shaped Camerich sofa, a Bernhardt bench upholstered in a Kravet mohair and a Minotti chair at one end of the family room. The Patricia Urquiola coffee tables are from Moroso. A Serge Mouille scone hangs next to a work by Donald Sultan from ARC Fine Art.

At the window end of the family room, the designer opted for Minotti swivel chairs and a Marco Acerbis coffee table from DDC. The chandelier is from Apparatus, and the window shades are Conrad. All the pillows, by Plaza Park Interiors, wear Linherr Hollingsworth fabrics for Kravet.





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Custom sofas, upholstered in Maharam velvet from J&P Upholstery, and a Kravet coffee table anchor the seating area in the master bedroom. The custom tufted bed wears Kravet velvet and is flanked by 1960s Italian mirrors from John Salibello, where Hollingsworth also found the Gio Ponti chandelier. The custom duvet and shams are Donghia, as are the draperies. Schumacher's Kisho sisal covers the walls, and the carpet is from Doris Leslie Blau.

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