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COTTAGESGARDENS.COM | JUNE 2018



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PULL



A DOWNSIZING COUPLE IS DRAWN
TO A WALK-TO-TOWN WATERSIDE SITE

BY DAVID MASELLO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY TRIA GIOVAN

Rooms With Views The rooftop deck (OPPOSITE PAGE) of a new townhouse in Greenwich takes in direct views of the estuary and Long Island Sound beyond; a Janus et Cie bench is adorned with Janus et Cie throw pillows. In the foyer (THIS PAGE), photorealistic art greets visitors. See *Resources*.

Corner Table
(THIS PAGE) Pillows on a banquette in the breakfast room are crafted from Vaughan and Colefax & Fowler fabrics; chairs surrounding the Paul Ferrante table are upholstered in Colefax & Fowler fabric through Cowtan & Tout.

Kitchen Magic
(OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM) A spacious work island in the kitchen is complemented by Circa Lighting pendants.

Long View
(OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP) The estuary leads out to Long Island Sound. See Resources.



INTERIOR DESIGNER TIM BUTTON INSISTS that a view of the estuary at a recent townhouse project is far more compelling than that of whitecaps on an ocean or the more-serene surface of a lake. "I've been in houses that look out on what I call the 'relentless horizon' of an ocean," Button, a partner at Stedila Design, explains. "This house experiences a landscape that changes twice a day with the tides." Having seen it firsthand during his work on this four-story residence near downtown Greenwich, he notes that the estuary is populated by different birds and animals at certain times of day, and at other times, filled with a contemplative vista of water, beyond which lies the open expanse of Long Island Sound.

"Water was essential when we were looking for a new home," says the homeowner, who downsized with his wife from a much larger house in Westchester. "Before we had this townhouse constructed, I spent a lot of time at the site during low tide, just to make sure there wasn't that smell that can come with it. It smells fine here, fresh, maybe because the tide goes in and out so fast."

This is Button's third project with these clients, having designed the interiors for their former house and another residence in Florida. "I love new clients, but there's nothing like having clients who've been through this routine before," says Button. "It's always much more collaborative the second or third time around. It can be totally fun."

"For Tim, the keys to this project were that it needed to accommodate our art collection and the scale of the furniture from our other house, and take advantage of the water," notes the homeowner. According to Button, "We literally designed the structure itself and the arrangement of rooms around their art collection—wall space and sight lines were critical." The collection is notable for its dichotomy: Two genres seemingly compete for attention, yet ultimately complement one another. Pre-Columbian textiles, many easily a thousand years old, juxtapose with photorealistic paintings so eerily precise they appear to be photographs. "I'm always amazed that what looks modern—the textiles—is old, and what is modern—the paintings—looks more traditional and realistic," says Button.





Creative Arrangements (THIS PAGE) The formal dining room is adorned with an ancient, though surprisingly modern, Peruvian textile. The side chairs are upholstered in a Colefax & Fowler blue check from Cowtan & Tout. The flowers are by Winston Flowers. The carpet is from Stark.

Serene Space (OPPOSITE PAGE) The homeowner's office is defined by Hartman & Forbes wallcovering, a Paul Ferrante Odeon pendant, a Hugues Chevalier desk through Manifesto, and an antique rug from Stark. See *Resources*.





Living Well The living room walls are wrapped in Winfield Thybony hemp wallcovering. A Dessin Fournir Dreher chair is upholstered in Rogers & Goffigon fabric. The antique armchair is from Bernd Goeckler. GP&JBaker drapery-panel linen is through Lee Jofa. See Resources.



About the artwork, the homeowner says: “I can’t imagine having the ability to make either kind of art. Neither genre is mainstream, in terms of collecting, but both are beautiful.” So extensive is their collection that even the shaft of the townhouse’s elevator is lined with photographs.

In their former house, the couple entertained on a grand scale. Here, they plan on hosting parties on the rooftop deck, which Button designed with a working kitchen, fire pit and two seating areas. “Where we were once able to entertain a couple hundred in Westchester, we can now easily entertain 40 or 50 on the roof,” says the homeowner. “The client is very educated and was exacting in what he wanted,” adds architect Kevin Molnar, director of design for Gateway Development Group, which developed the group of townhouses, “so much so that he provided us with an actual count of his knives and forks

and plateware, so that we could make cabinets to accommodate exactly what he needed. It was an awesome experience to work with him.”

For the master bedroom, Button and the homeowner changed its orientation mid-construction, shifting the position of windows to embrace the watery vista. Again using furniture from the former residence, Button created an intimate and practical seating area in the room.

While most of the furnishings and artwork in the townhouse are from the former home, the function of the new space is decidedly different. “In the old house, the living room was the least-used room,” says Button, “and it was our intention to really get them to use it here.” With its water views and direct access to a stone terrace, the living room has quickly become the home’s center and the perfect spot to watch the turning tides. 🌟

Spa-like Setting (OPPOSITE PAGE) Natural light in the master bathroom is filtered by custom shutters and a Pierre Frey shade fabric that’s complemented by Schumacher wallpaper. A delicately shaped bench wears a Colefax & Fowler fabric. Akdo floor tile is through Rye Ridge Tile. See *Resources*.

Master Class (THIS PAGE) A sunburst lighting fixture through Objets Plus Inc/Daniels Barney adds drama to the ceiling of the master bedroom, where a pair of chairs wear an Oscar de la Renta fabric trimmed with Rogers & Goffigon cord. A custom Kerry Joyce bed is through Dessin Fournir. The drapery fabric is through Kravet. See *Resources*.

