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HOBBI
AWARDS

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Transitional Moments (THIS PAGE) "Everything on the right side of the house is new," notes architectural designer Louise Brooks. Architectural details (OPPOSITE PAGE) and Urban Electric sconces repeat on the home's gracious front and side entrances. See *Resources*.



DUTCH



HOUSE

A HISTORIC RESIDENCE IS TREATED TO A SENSITIVE RESTORATION THAT'S TRUE TO ITS ORIGINAL STYLE, YET PERFECTLY SUITED FOR MODERN FAMILY LIFE

BY MINDY PANTIEL | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JANE BEILES



Blue Heaven The front door (THIS PAGE), painted in Benjamin Moore's Hale Navy, is complemented by a console from Oomph—the mirror and Lucite bench are also from Oomph; the ceiling fixture is from Urban Electric; the wall covering is Phillip Jeffries' Sea Breeze. In the main hall (OPPOSITE PAGE), Hickory Chair benches wear Schumacher velvet in royal blue; the rug is custom through JD Staron. See Resources.



SOME BUILDINGS are hard to ignore. Take the stately Dutch Colonial graced with iconic mansard rooflines elegantly perched on a New Canaan hillside. Architectural designer Louise Brooks certainly took note. “I’ve been driving by that property for 25 years, and I’ve always wanted to get my hands on it,” she says. Lucky for her a young couple with three children had similar feelings and chose Brooks and her architect partner, Vince Falorico, to restore and update the historic structure, which ended up a star of the 2018 CTC&G-sponsored New Canaan Cares Home Tour.

“I was drawn to the history, and my husband loved the views,” says the wife, who shares that the original 1926 residence burned to the ground and a replica,

completed in 1941, eventually took its place. “Our goal was to have a home that was true to the original style, but we have hockey players and lots of kid activities going on so it needed to be comfortable for family life.” But comfortable was not a code word for unsophisticated, and interior designer Kerry Hanson worked hand-in-glove with the architects and Justin Meneguzzo at Yankee Home Builders to preserve the bones, while imbuing the interiors with classic elegance and a freshness in keeping with the vitality of its occupants.

Outside, a new slate roof, shingles replacing old siding, and layers of paint stripped from an existing brick and stone tower enlivened the building. The decision to enclose an existing front porch to improve the traffic flow, however, was a game changer. “We then brought a new porch forward and matched the pillars on the front to the fluted baseless columns on the back,” explains Brooks,



Culinary Heartbeat (OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP LEFT) A Lacanche range in armor blue dictates the kitchen color scheme where the Moroccan mosaic tiles from Greenwich Tile & Marble are custom colored to match. Design Within Reach bar stools line the Glassos quartz counters from Everest Marble; the island pendant is from Circa Lighting. In the bar area, Waterworks' brass hardware complements cabinetry painted in Farrow & Ball's Stiffkey Blue. Children's artwork brightens walls lined with photo rails just outside the kitchen. **Subtle Hues** (ABOVE) Custom flat-panel cabinets are painted in Benjamin Moore Silver Satin. Antique wood beams and oak floors add warmth to the space. See *Resources*.



Purple Reign (ABOVE) In the living room, a pair of occasional chairs swathed in lilac mohair velvet by Rogers & Goffigon balance the walls painted in Farrow & Ball's Pelt and similarly toned custom sofa. Love seats by interior designer Kerry Hanson face off across a coffee table from Bunny Williams Home. The area rug is through Stark. *See Resources.*

noting details on the garage, porte cochere and master suite additions were meticulously matched to the main residence for a smooth transition. After gutting the interiors and updating electronics and other home systems, the rooms were scaled to better meet current living standards, while a new crisp molding package provided a bridge to the past. “The architecture is historically seamless with the modernization coming through the artwork and furnishings,” Brooks says.

Accordingly, it was the purple and indigo tones in a painting by artist Jasmina Danowski and a blue Lacanche stove that delivered the road map for how the rooms would hang together. “They purchased the painting at a local gallery right before work started on the house, and it became an immediate reference point,” says Hanson, who along with the owners, determined the artwork’s prominent dining room placement. Other spaces—the entry hall with its sea-inspired grasscloth wallcovering and royal blue velvet benches, for example, play off that palette. Even the front door is blue.

But the painting’s most notable side effect is in the living room, where a rich shade of eggplant distinguishes the walls and some of the furnishings. “It was

a leap of faith,” admits Hanson about her bold response to the homeowner’s desire for a warm and cozy space intended to draw people in during the winter months. At the same time, the designer’s measured hand created a delicate dance of dark and light with a plush purple sofa balanced by upholstered pieces in lighter fabrics and a soft gray carpet.

The result was just what the wife envisioned. “I wanted something really dark, and this space can be dressed up and sophisticated or feel just right for hanging out with our family,” she says.

In the kitchen, designed to accommodate post-game celebrations and adult entertaining with equal ease, the Moroccan backsplash tile and butler’s pantry cabinets perfectly complement the commanding French range. Meanwhile, the powder room swathed in a lively Hermès wallpaper reminiscent of coastal flora continues the dialogue with the rest of the house.

“I like that there’s a balance of color throughout and that nothing feels over saturated,” notes Hanson. “But most importantly, the house is definitely a reflection of the owners—classic, warm and not overly formal.”



Family Friendly (ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT) Tile floors from Greenwich Tile & Marble and Urban Electric pendants distinguish the mudroom. Hermès wallpaper brightens the powder room; sink, sconce and mirror are from Waterworks. Circa Lighting chandeliers illuminate the kitchen dining area, where Design Within Reach Eames chairs surround a custom table through Old Mill Road. **Art Of Dining** (BELOW) A Jasmina Danowski painting from Heather Gaudio Fine Art establishes the color palette for the dining room and the entire house. *See Resources.*

