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Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

COTTAGESGARDENS.COM | JANUARY 2018

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Issue



# COASTAL FUSION

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EAST COAST TRADITIONAL MEETS WEST COAST CONTEMPORARY  
IN A TOTALLY TRANSFORMED GREENWICH HOME

BY ANNETTE M. ROSE-SHAPIRO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DURSTON SAYLOR

**Living Large** Interior Designer Kimberly Handler divided the living room into different seating areas. An antique Chinese altar table from ABC Home sits behind the oversized leather sofa from RH, creating a cozy spot in front of the fireplace with a screen from Arteriors. A sculpture from the Samuel Owen Gallery, *NY Times* by Paul Rousso, adds pops of color. Two vintage lamps from Trovare Home provide lighting for both sofas. The coffee table is from Lillian August. See *Resources*.





A MOVE FROM BEDFORD, NY, to Malibu, CA, led to a new appreciation for modern architecture for interior designer Kimberly Handler and her husband. After a year on the West Coast, they moved back East, where their children were attending school, and Handler put this knowledge into practice. On the outside, the Greenwich home, which sits on just under 10 acres, looks like a traditional Cotswolds cottage—ivy included—on the inside, it's anything but.

"In the past, we lived in traditional or transitional houses," says Handler. "I wanted to design this house to be neutral with pops of color and unexpected patterns." Sweeping changes were made, completely transforming the dated interiors of the 1933 home into a hybrid West Coast–East Coast design.

Since their kitchen is a key spot for entertaining and family time, Handler looked to Mollie Rhodes of Deane for a redesign, along with several other spaces in the house. Handler was still living in California at the time, but she conveyed her ideas to Rhodes and let her take over. "The biggest challenge was working with all the windows," says Rhodes. With only room for two wall cabinets, most of the storage is in the base cabinets. A peninsula was replaced with a quartzite-topped island, which opened up the room considerably. The ceiling's beams were painted the same black as the new island, with chic lighting and metal stools delivering an industrial vibe.

**Black & White** (LEFT) Bright white custom cabinetry by Deane and Blizzard quartzite countertops from Tile America complement the kitchen's painted black island. Stainless steel counter stools from RH and Caravaggio high-gloss pendant lights from Lumens add an industrial-chic vibe. A Sub-Zero refrigerator, Wolf ovens and a La Cornue range provide everything needed for cooking up a feast. **Cozy Cottage** (TOP) The Handlers were attracted to the Cotswold cottage feel of their new home. Floor-to-ceiling windows on both sides bathe the house in an abundance of light. See *Resources*.





**Eat** (LEFT) Demetrius wallpaper from Thibaut's Bridgehampton Collection makes a bold statement in the kitchen eating area. Vintage Thonet dining chairs from 1st Dibs provide casual seating, while a work by Gian Garofalo from Samuel Owen and giant cherry sculptures from Arteriors add pops of color. **Drink** (ABOVE) A custom wine fridge anchors one end of the kitchen. Handler, Mollie Rhodes from Deane, and Heritage Vine collaborated on its design and construction. **Play** (BELOW) Sunroom seating is a mix of black leather Laurent chairs from Arteriors and Lucite chairs from One Kings Lane. The backgammon table is through Oomph Home. See [Resources](#).



**Think Pink** (TOP) The formal dining room's wallpaper and antique Chinese sideboard is offset by 1950s dining chairs from the Local Vault that Handler reupholstered in magenta velvet and Kelly Lynn Kimball's *Life Unfinished* from Saatchi Art. An Arteriors chandelier is made of adjustable chains. **Sing The Blues** (LEFT) This built-in by Deane in the living room has a custom high-gloss blue finish with shagreen door panels. The chair is through Bernhardt Furniture. See [Resources](#).

But the star of the kitchen is the wine storage. Handler declares it a piece of art—constructed of shower-door glass, stainless steel racks, a cooling unit and lighting. “Why have it in the cellar where no one ever sees it? No one spends any time down there,” says Handler. This was a first for Rhodes, but she’s getting more requests for this type of wine storage, since it can be easily customized for any space.

An informal dining area is steps away with a banquette, boldly patterned wallpaper and equally bold artwork, which is backed by a family room with a fireplace wall of custom built-ins by Deane. This flows into a window-lined sunroom, where backgammon is often played, and the family dogs love to track the local wildlife. “This is the main artery of the home,” says Handler. “We spend all our time between the kitchen, dining area and family room.”

Windows also stretch the length of the long rectangular living room. Here, Handler divided the space with an antique Chinese altar table to create two separate seating areas with back-to-back leather sofas. One faces a gas fireplace topped with large-scale contemporary artwork, the other faces blue high-gloss custom built-in cabinetry by Deane, which houses a large-screen TV that disappears behind a framed mirror when not in use. The adjacent formal dining room also underwent a transformation with an antique Chinese sideboard, emboldened by chairs upholstered in magenta velvet, a chandelier of draped and intertwined chain and a graphic wallpaper.





Handler is adept at using wallpaper in unexpected ways, such as the Kate Spade for Kravet pattern on the master bedroom ceiling, which brings movement and dimension to the otherwise neutral room. In the master bathroom, an old Jacuzzi tub was swapped out for a sleek, ultramodern Waterworks soaking tub, while Jonathan Adler lighting draws the eye upward. Rhodes redesigned his-and-hers master-bedroom closets into one large, more functional unit with layers of creative storage.

At the end of the day, working from separate coasts was never a barrier to success: Rhodes appreciated Handler's decisiveness, while Handler gave Rhodes plenty of freedom with materials and design. And their shared love of color also united the two designers. "Kim knows when to be neutral and when to bring in the color," says Rhodes. "She takes chances and jumps in with both feet—knowing that if she doesn't like something, she can redo it." 🌟

**Welcome Home** (OPPOSITE PAGE) Handler replaced the traditional banister with glass to open up the home's entry and added a Blue Antelope runner by Prestige Mills from Carpet Trends. Lamps from Juliska sit atop a concrete-top entry table alongside a lit sculpture from Cocoon, with a photo of Vail, Colorado, by John Richter above. Ochre's Pebble chandelier draws the eye upward. See [Resources](#).

**Calm And Cool** (TOP) The master bedroom is a serene retreat, with chairs from RH and an ottoman from Arteriors. A simple chandelier from Circa Lighting offsets the Kate Spade wallpaper from Kravet that adorns the ceiling. **Take A Soak** (RIGHT) A Waterworks Colette soaking tub has pride of place in the master bathroom. Jonathan Adler's Rio chandelier illuminates the high ceiling, while Javiera Estrada's photograph *Reverie #4* from Saatchi Art adds color. See [Resources](#).

