

## SERENDIPITY 2021 DESIGN INNOVATORS



## Statement Kitchen MARE DESIGN

maredesigngreenwich.com

The kitchen is the first thing you see when you walk into this home so it was very important to the homeowner that it make a fabulous first impression. Although kitchens are typically a more casual space, the homeowner loves to entertain so Christin Engh, founder and principal designer of Mare Design, wanted to give the dining area a bit of glam. She merged her Scandinavian-influenced design sense with a bit of glam to create a décor that is truly unique. "A dramatic chandelier over the table represents the client's personality and bring the wow factor she asked for," says Engh. The minimalist cabinetry and white palette draws the eye to the beauty of the luxurious lighting. "Details like the dramatic veining in the kitchen backsplash and the luxe accents of the polished nickel lighting help to integrate the kitchen and dining spaces with a cohesive palette that takes it to the next level," says Engh. "These details also pop against the clean white backdrop in a way that allows you to appreciate them more fully."

## Inspirational Palette RINFRET LTD

rinfretltd.com

Inspired by the snowy mountain views of this Vail, CO, residence, Cindy Rinfret of Rinfret, LTD designed an elevated primary bathroom that provides a relaxing setting to begin and end the day. The homeowner had worked with Rinfret on a number of homes in the past and returned to her expertise to design a stylish modern mountain escape. A crystal chandelier is the focal point of the room and elegant soft sheers frame the window. "The bath has beautiful mosaic tile that sparkles like the snow outside," says Rinfret. The organic lines of the bath and curvy bolster pillows on the seating emphasize the architectural symmetry and modern lines of the dual showers. "Oftentimes, bathrooms are an after-thought when it comes to furniture, window treatments and lighting, but I like to take the approach that a bathroom should be designed as a room and not simply a utilitarian space," adds Rinfret. "The palette here is serene with layers of white that reference the landscape."





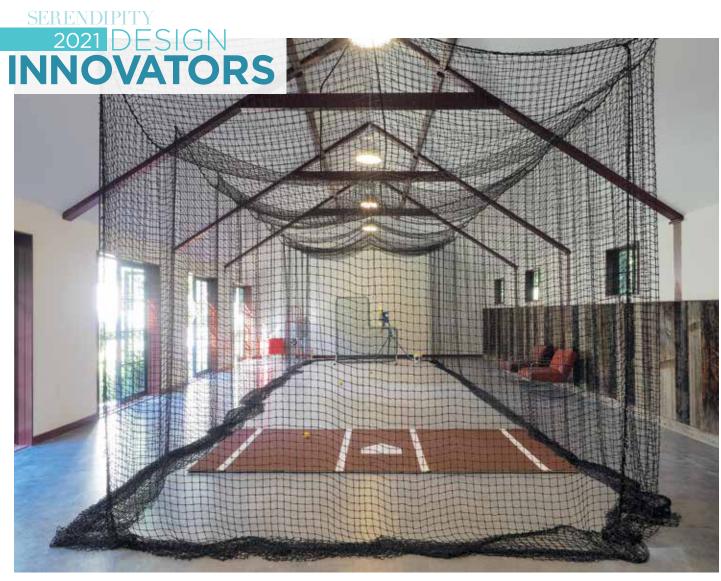


#### **Continuity of Design** BARRETT OSWALD DESIGNS

barrettoswalddesigns.com

Reimagining an existing space is, in many ways, more challenging than starting from scratch, particularly when a home has nearly a century of history behind it. But in renovating this 1924 classic colonial in Greenwich, CT, Barrett Oswald, principal designer and partner of Barrett Oswald Designs, elegantly weaved the home's historic charm into its future design. The anchoring element was the owners' expansive art collection. "We approached the house as a 'frame' with its original broad oak floors as a base and detailed moldings as a border," says Oswald. "Each room combines classic and natural textures such as hand-dyed linens, jute rugs and grasscloth wallcoverings infused with a contemporary color scheme to add interest and dimension to our 'canvas." The final product: a work of art.



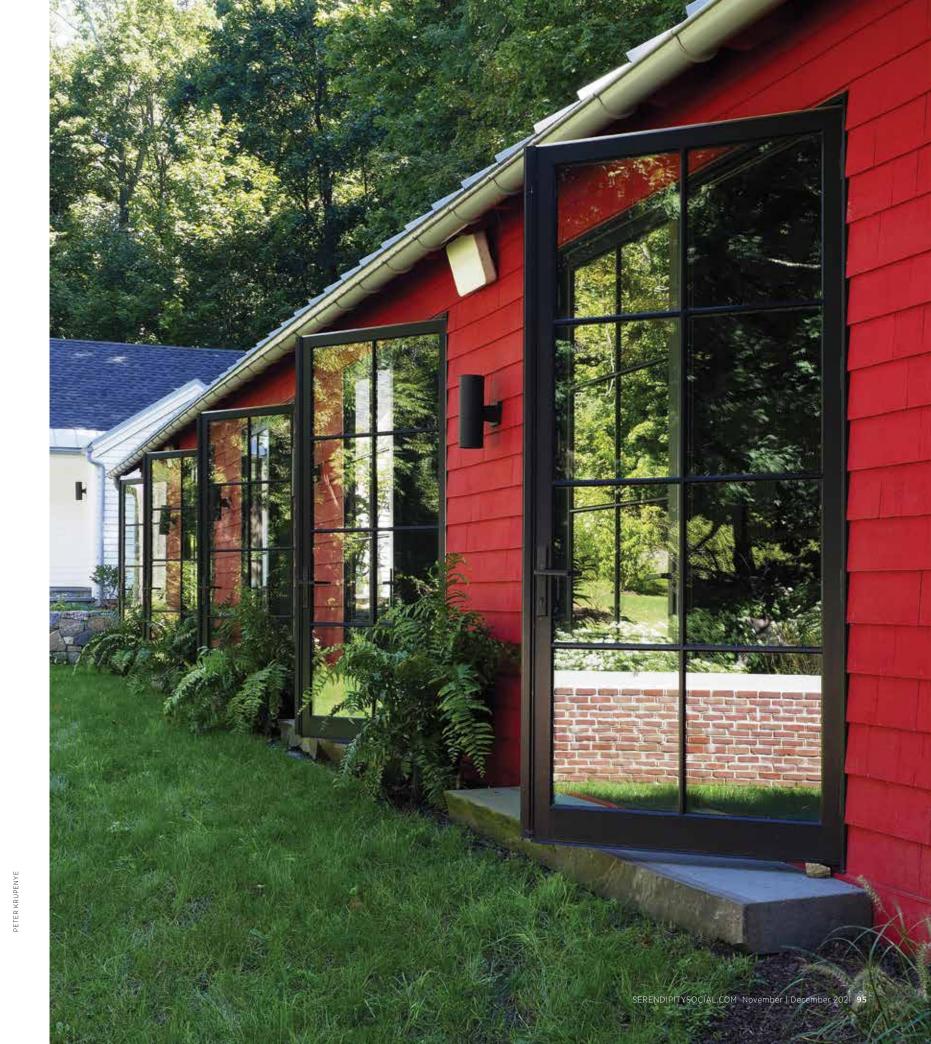


#### **Multi-functional Masterpiece** CAROL KURTH ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS

carolkurtharchitects.com



How do you create a multi-purpose space from a deteriorating old barn? Carol Kurth Architecture + Interiors designed this all-weather barn for a family with three children spanning infant to teen and a broad range of interests. "The indoor batting cage is the primary use of the barn," says Kurth. "However, the plan is open so as to be flexible for multiple activities, from indoor sports to large scale entertaining to arts studio for the clients' large-scale artwork." Kurth mastered the design concept by prioritizing context and proportion of the interior and exterior in relation to the main house and other structures on the grounds. The firm preserved the footprints of several existing structures on the property and developed a material palette of reclaimed barn siding indoors, crisp clapboard and standing seam metal roofing outdoors, so the new space integrates seamlessly on the property. It's all about serving the family's spatial needs, adds Kurth. "Creating a structure that serves a wide range of purposes might seem a simple proposition, however that simplicity comes with considerable detail and design process."





## Mood-setting Bar THE LEWIS DESIGN GROUP

thelewisdesigngroup.com

The Lewis Design Group was given carte blanche when designers were directed to transform a sleepy existing bar in this Upper East Side apartment in Manhattan. "Oftentimes the best rooms are the ones where the designer has the space to create something truly unique and exciting," says designer Barbara Lewis. What better source for inspiration than the glam of the "Mad Men" days of the late '60s in Manhattan. The homeowners were keeping the bar but Lewis freshened it up with mischievous monkey wall paper that sets the tone for celebrations and a vintage cane banquette from Paris recovered in reds

and animal print. Mid-century bar accessories add to the Old New York vibe. "This is a place for those of us that embrace the sentiment that it's always 5'oclock somewhere, and that life is short and every moment should be enjoyed," adds Lewis.



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#### **Small But Mighty Renovation DEANE**

deaneinc.com Transforming a small, dated kitchen into a modern jewel with lots of storage and lots of brightness was all about maximizing space. Buffy Goodwin, designer at DEANE, ran the cabinets to the ceiling and made a hood wall a major focal point. Two tall towers at both ends bring the eye up, emphasizing the ceiling height. "Although the space is small, it feels quite grand," says Goodwin. "This project was an aesthetically important renovation to an otherwise functional but basic kitchen. The clients wanted a modern, serene space." DEANE hid the appliances with paneled refrigeration and freezer columns, mirrored with stacked, flush inset Miele beverage station and speed oven to create a calm elegance. Imperial Danby marble countertops and waterfall edge island are counterbalanced by a backsplash in Dynasty White Italian Carrara marble. Hector Finch pendants in antique brass with gray, hand-blown Murano glass compliment the custom, brushed stainless steel hood, with satin brass and polished nickel rivets.







### Blending Form & Function HERMAN MILLER

hermanmiller.com

It's the ultimate goal of any designer to create something that is not only beautiful to live with but enables you to live more fully, comfortably or luxuriously. It is with all these things in mind that Herman Miller created the Cosm chair, designed by Studio 7.5. The completely "dipped" chair comes in an assortment of lively colors and is the first automatic chair that follows natural movements of the human body. An auto-harmonic tilt mechanism provides the ideal tension for feeling supported when sitting upright or relaxed when reclining—as if you are suspended in space. The arms cradle the elbows while still allowing you to pull right up to a table. "The idea was to think about creating a unique experience," says Amy Smith, director of high performance task seating at Herman Miller.







#### Playful Kids' Suite

#### **D2 INTERIEURS**

#### d2interieurs.com

This bedroom in pops of blue and lime green was part of a two-year renovation of a lakeview 30-acre estate on Lake Lillinonah in Bridgewater, CT. "The house was designed to revolve around magnificent water views of the lake," says Denise Davies, founder and principal of D2 Interieurs. The only directive was to make each room family and pet friendly, and use blue as an accent. The result is a fun, youthful suite that the kids won't grow out of too quickly. "Having children can inspire the decor to be bold, magical and colorful and when done well, the rooms have longevity as little ones grow," says Davies. She kept the bones of the room timeless: bed, rug, furniture, desk and window treatments. "A clean aesthetic meets organic details throughout."





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### Engaging Playroom SMART PLAYROOMS

smartplayrooms.com

When Karri Bowen-Poole was called on by a Riverside, CT family to design a play space for three young children, including one with sensory needs, they held nothing back in doing an engaging basement redesign for little minds and hands. "When I design a space, I always gear our playroom design choices to the oldest as we want to make sure the space is inviting and engaging for at least the next five years," says Bowen-Poole. One wall is a rock wall; swings and monkey bars hang from the ceiling, an abstract "playhouse" lets the youngest child play pretend and a Lego station provides entertainment for all. She adds: "The result was a screen-free space that engages the kids and grows with them over the years."