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The Long View Skylights (THIS PAGE) deliver sunlight to the front porch; the New England fieldstone mix on the home's exterior walls and the flamed granite flooring are through O & G Industries Earth Products Showroom. Landscape design (OPPOSITE PAGE) by Robin Kramer of Robin Kramer Garden Design complements the home built by Gardiner & Larson Homes. See Resources.



A NEW CLASSIC

A GRAND COLONIAL REVIVAL WITH CONTEMPORARY FLAIR

BY CATRIONA BRANCA | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELLEN MCDERMOTT



REMINISCENT of grand turn-of-the-century summer cottages that dot the New England coastline, this Colonial Revival-style home by architectural designer Judith Larson of Judith Larson Associates (built by Gardiner & Larson Homes) commands an inviting presence on its Greenwich estate. “Colonial Revival actually encompasses a broad range of rooflines and fenestration—gambrel, hipped, gabled rooflines,” says Larson. “Most original Shingle Style homes were built during this period, and many of them got pretty funky looking. Typically they had a front-to-back center hall and more open room layout—unlike homes built previously—to allow for breezes to flow through the house. I think that this period of architecture—with its wraparound porches, open and carved rafter tails, sloped eaves, diamond light window muntins, stone cladding on the lower half—is not often replicated.”

Most of the house—including the cabinetry, paneling, interior trim—was designed and in progress when it was bought by Amy and Brian France, part of the family that founded NASCAR. “The clients had two special requests,” notes Larson. “One was for the glass balustrade in the foyer hall, and the other was to have the joined master bath made into a separate his/her bathroom. They also took what was originally designed as a separate bedroom and made it an extra-large ‘her’ dressing room.”

On a recommendation from Larson and Realtor Robin Kencel of Compass, the homeowners hired Greenwich-based designer Charlotte Barnes to complete various areas of the house, including finishing details, decorative elements and custom paint colors. “I worked closely with the builders and painters, and custom mixed literally every color. I added a little of this to a little of that, they are truly beautiful in person,” notes Barnes.

In the foyer, an elegant staircase “floats” in front of a series of windows overlooking the backyard and immediately sets the tone for the inside of the home.

Grand Entrance The main stairwell (THIS PHOTO AND OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP LEFT) features custom glass panels with a nickel frame and a leather-wrapped handrail; the finial is from McKinney & Co. John Pomp sconces (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP RIGHT) complement custom wall paneling by Renaissance Millwork. Custom sidelights (OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM) designed by Judith Larson and manufactured by Le Page Millwork through Weed & Duryea flank a custom mahogany Dutch front door by Upstate Door supplied by Hatch and Bailey. See *Resources*.



Dine-In Style (THIS PHOTO) Tom Dixon lighting illuminates a table from 1stdibs surrounded by chairs in a playful Fortuny fabric. **Kitchen Cachet** (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM) Pendant lights from Circa Lighting are suspended above the kitchen island, which is topped by quartz from Aurea Stone. In the pantry, a Kallista faucet through Plimpton & Hills Waterware Showroom is complemented by the custom mosaic tile backsplash from Greenwich Tile & Marble. See *Resources*.



Living Well (THIS PAGE) In the living room, custom swivel chairs wear a Cowtan & Tout velvet, while the daybed is dressed in a Lee Jofa fabric.

Detail Oriented (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM) In another part of the living room, a Sam Glankoff print hangs on a mirrored wall above a custom sofa. A Paul Ferrante coffee table has a bronze Dutch metal leaf frame. Pierre Frey wallpaper lines the walls of the children's art room, located on the lower level; the teepee is from Crate & Barrel. See Resources.



Suite Dreams (THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) In the master suite, a PlexiCraft bench sports a cushion in a Fortuny cotton; the bedside lamp is through John Rosselli Antiques. In the sitting area, custom Liz O'Brien swivel chairs flank a table topped by a Christopher Spitzmiller lamp. In "her" master bath, a shower is lined with a mosaic using blue Macuba and blue Celeste polished marble with stainless steel inlay tile through Tile & Stone Techniques; tub is Victoria + Albert. Mirrored panels through Dimensions in Glass complement a custom vanity. **Splash Landing** (OPPOSITE PAGE) The pool is by Shoreline Pools. See *Resources*.



"The glass staircase and leather handrail allowed for the house to feel a bit more modern," says Barnes. "Architect Judy Larson seamlessly worked it in, so that it feels like 'forever' and not something that anyone will tire of over time."

Barnes knew of the perfect punctuation for the newel post. "We work a lot with McKinney & Co. in London, and when a staircase can handle it, we love to add her newel post finials," says Barnes. Well-considered lighting complements the stairwell's millwork. "We wanted something that was exciting with some strength, but wouldn't take away from the paneling that Judy designed," says Barnes. "The mottled glass on the chandelier and sconces did just that."

Throughout, the designer created spaces that are clean, modern and timeless, yet comfortable for a family with young children. "The client loves the modern aesthetic, so they preferred not to have any antiques or vintage things," says Barnes. "For me, this was an exciting challenge because we are often known for our 'traditional but not' mix of antiques, vintage and new furnishings. This is a brand new house for the family, we had a total blank slate to work with."

Creating that blank slate is something at which Larson is adept. "As this was a home built on speculation, I had to think of what most of my clients like," says Larson. "This included a large kitchen with a huge island, open to the family area, children's homework area, covered porch, etc." Kitchen cabinetry details

echo a diamond shape that's also found in the windows. "I always like to have a design motif or detail that is replicated throughout a bit—it unifies the design," says Larson. "And Charlotte found a light for the dish pantry ceiling with a similar angular diamond shape!" A mosaic tile backsplash running through the kitchen and pantry also complements the architectural elements.

The kitchen opens up to a family room and a breakfast room, where a rattan Palecek pendant is juxtaposed with a contemporary table and chairs. In the dining room, chairs sport a Fortuny fabric complemented by a metallic sideboard and an Ellis mirror from the Charlotte Barnes Collection. "We love all the reflections in that room," says Barnes. Reflections continue in the living room, where a Sam Glankoff print hangs on a mirrored wall above a custom sofa. "We mirrored the large wall with squares, which created a lot of drama and brought the two areas of the living room together," says Barnes. Here, custom swivel chairs wear an inviting Cowtan & Tout velvet. "All selections needed to be soft, comfortable and durable," says Barnes. "The clients are extremely family oriented and wanted everyone to be able to enjoy all the rooms."

According to the designer, the family's favorite room is the colorful children's art studio. "But the best part is that the house is really used by the entire family, and from our perspective there is nothing better than that!" says Barnes. 🌟