



DESIGNER
SPOTLIGHT

CHARLOTTE BARNES

THE QUEEN
OF INTERPRETATION



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New England Hall of Fame Designer Charlotte Barnes is cherished by her clients for her innate ability to interpret their lifestyles into a seamlessly elegant fashion that looks timeless and collected, rather than decorated. Her interiors show an eclectic mix of contemporary and antique, with careful attention to detail blended with measured restraint. Never too much, never too little—Barnes strikes the perfect balance time and again.

It's no surprise that Barnes started her career designing Ralph Lauren womenswear with stints in New York and London. She began working on friends' houses, and her own, and before long developed a robust business now based in her Greenwich, Connecticut, design studio. Her work has been published internationally and she has created a 30-piece furniture collection aptly named Collection Charlotte Barnes.

GREENWICH, CT

For London-based clients with a house in the back-country section of Greenwich, Connecticut, the first order of business was to fill their desire for an abundance of light. Barnes worked with architect Judy Larson to add a kitchen and open up the 1960s house, allowing light to stream throughout. With the shell in place, Barnes designed an entire house in carefully nuanced shades of white as only a true expert can. The only exception was the library, which was the palest shade of gray with small details of white.

The clients had a number of very fine paintings which were shipped from London, and Barnes collaborated with art consultant Julie Reid to round out their collection. True to form, Barnes mixed beautiful antiques with contemporary pieces from her own collection. The result was a stylish and inviting house where her expat clients can enjoy summers and holidays soaking up light.





MATUNUCK, RI



For another family, long-standing friends with several shared collaborations, Barnes was determined to give them exactly what they wanted in their Matunuck, Rhode Island, summer house—a place where they could simply arrive and immediately enjoy themselves and each other without any fuss. The mandate was to create rooms that were old-fashioned and collected—not decorated.

A decisive moment was a trip to the Quadrille outpost in Hudson, New York, where they hit pay dirt and chose every single fabric for the house. With that behind them, Barnes spun her signature magic and layered in comfortable upholstery and quirky antiques, many of which she picked up at antiques shops in Locust Valley, New York.

What has transpired are magical moments where this family with three grown children, dogs, and friends, gather to simply be together in this charming house.





