

F A I R F I E L D C O U N T Y

H O M E



\$4.95 October 2008

0 9 >



0 74470 23559 0



White . magic

Lynne Scalo creates a spellbinding Westport interior

Lynne Scalo loves white. She appreciates the variety of its shades. She admires the way it can make any interior look like a gallery space, showing off through juxtaposition the objects of a home. She respects the challenge it poses to her as a designer. Pinpointing the right white for a space is a difficult process, yet Scalo is always awed by the results. Following an instinctive artistic sense, she searches and finds the perfect shade of white when called to do so in any given room. Then she lets white do its magic trick: adding light, making colors pop, creating serenity and grace.

This sensitive, powerful usage of white is part of Scalo's signature style. Luxurious custom-designed furnishings and brilliant application of texture also mark Scalo's work. The Westport-based designer says, "At this stage of my career, most people come to me because of my signature style, and I try to interpret my clients' requirements through my own aesthetic sense. When I work with clients, the relationship is very personal. I get to know what people like by getting to know them, and when I choose artwork, fabric, wall color or wallpaper, it's not for me. It's what I know they're going to like. I choose the best of what they're



ABOVE A mother-of-pearl jewel by Lynne Scalo Design sparkles in a hallway. Painting is done in peacock blues, golds and greens.



LEFT Platinum-leaf wallpaper above white wainscot in the dining room provides a quiet sheen behind a Venetian mirror. Mother-of-pearl inlaid console by Lynne Scalo Design.







“You have to know people and understand what they will respond to as beautiful. It’s a very intuitive, personal process,” says Scalo

going to respond to as beautiful. Most of the time I show a client one thing, and it’s spot-on because I understand that person.”

Scalo has been developing this highly intuitive and personal approach for almost a decade. A world traveler with an extensive background in the fine arts, she brings sophistication to all of her clients’ homes and to her retail location Lynne Scalo Design. Offering only bespoke items, many of which Scalo herself designs, it is more of a gallery than a shop. Business continues to flourish. In 2007, Lynne Scalo Design received a Best

of Year Award from *Interior Design* magazine. She developed a new custom lighting line, and was featured in the September 2008 issue of *Interiors* magazine. At the time of this interview, Scalo was preparing for a trip to Paris, where she planned to decorate one client’s apartment then shop for artwork and other home goods with another. These are just two of her many faithful clients. Another referred the owners of a 2006 shingle-style home—exclusively designed and crafted by Andy Frank Builders of Westport—who trusted her to make their handsomely proportioned house look fabulous.

LEFT Family room features framed maps of Paris, custom leather armchairs, petrified-wood stands.

ABOVE View through living room into dining room shows open floor plan by Andy Frank Builders. Coffered ceilings are painted white for emphasis.



TOP LEFT
Shagreen table in the sunny sitting room by Lynne Scalo Design. Artwork by Fontaine.

FAR RIGHT The peacock served as inspiration for accent colors in an otherwise neutral living room.

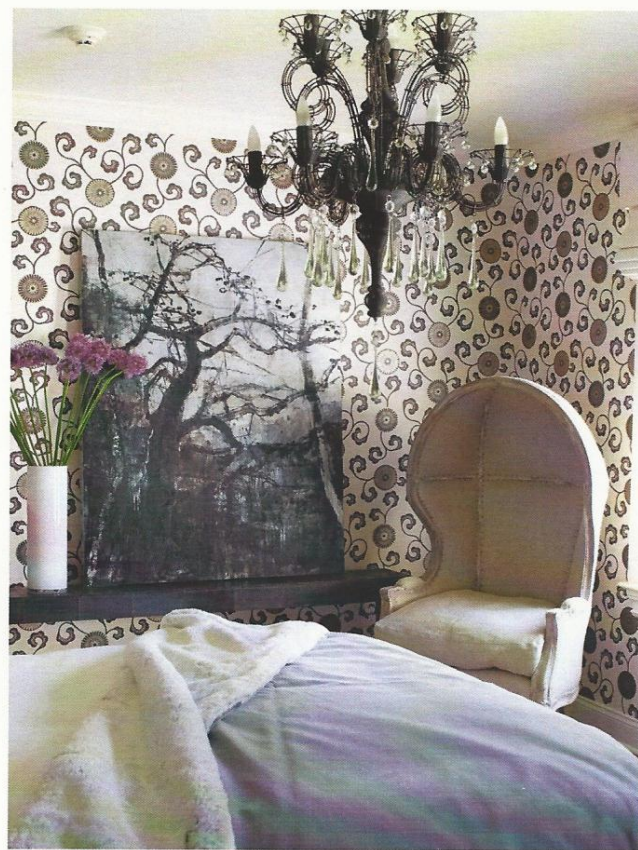
Keeping most of the walls white maintains visual equilibrium and fosters continuity, but it isn't boring

Knowing that the owners preferred neutrality, Scalo went to her well-loved whites. Not only would keeping most of the walls white maintain a visual equilibrium, but it would also foster a continuity from room to room. For Scalo, however, neutral would not mean boring. Along with contrasting tones of white, she carefully cultivated a diversity of textures and chose lively color schemes for accenting. She also filled the dwelling with high-end furnishings from various time periods, mixing styles expertly for interest and liveliness. Scalo endeavored to create a holistic design; every room is meant to feel like a part of the greater whole. Step into any portion of this house, and location is clear. If this house were a story, each room would be a paragraph within that story, preserving voice and adding detail while serving the larger meaning and purpose.

The peacock mounted on the wall of the living room inspired the dotting of colors throughout this space and beyond. Displayed against a white wall, the bird's hues are striking. Scalo says of this piece, "Sometimes in design the goal is to find that 'wow' moment. Nature has the best colors. The combination of colors in the peacock forms the most magnificent palette that was ever put together." Curtains of silk in the living room are done in a soothing, rich green. Silk velvet pillows add deep peacock-blue, and pop against organic oatmeal-colored linen furniture. Touches of amber and black outline objects of beauty: sculptural hand-hammered copper lamps from Lynne Scalo Design, angled armchairs from England, an inviting chaise from Italy, a black chest from Paris. A hand-carved mirror from Venice hangs on a wall to effect what Scalo calls a "graphic feeling." All be-







Italian Scavo light fixtures were crafted through an ancient process. When hot and molten, the glass was rolled in sand for an exquisite dappled finish. These fixtures give a wonderful depth above the countertop and custom bar stools, which are covered with a modern pearlized vinyl. Similar colorization in the lights and stools unites the space, while contrasting old and new presents intrigue. Also intriguing are the wooden-gourd vases on the hand-planed English cherry table. The ornate patterns in the grains of the wood are similar to the details of the graphite sketches hung against white walls. Yet despite this detailing, overall lines in the kitchen remain clean. Scalo says, "I like simplicity, but I like a space to be interesting. The hardest part of design is to keep it edited, yet keep it dynamic. The world is so cluttered. I like interiors that are restrained, with objects that are interesting to look out."

This theme is continued in the family room off the kitchen, where framed maps of Paris, custom leather chairs, petrified-wood stands and a 1940s-inspired coffee table done by Lynne Scalo Design in mother of pearl—its shimmer recalling the living-room peacock—keep things undeniably dynamic. Comfort is not sacrificed for beauty here. This is a room where all are welcome. Sofa designs are neat and simple, and the sofas themselves are large enough to stretch across and delightfully squishy.

While the family room offers a casual, fun comfort, the master bedroom provides comfort through serenity. Scalo found classic sconces during a trip to Paris. A Chippendale settee covered in silver linen is incorporated into the room through color harmonization. A white Mongolian fur pillow on top of the settee contributes texture and compelling juxtaposition of style. Raw-silk curtains are ecru-colored; their ample, flowing fabric serves to soften the sharp angles of the many windows in the room and filter the sunlight.

LEFT Warm wood provides a compelling contrast with shades of white in the retro-style bath.

ABOVE Inspired by a trip to Paris, this guest room features a canopied French chair, chandelier from Belgium and Edwardian-like wallpaper.





LEFT Various shades of white and cream bring lightness and serenity to the master bedroom. A Mongolian fur pillow sits atop a Chippendale settee.

A sitting room adjacent to the master bedroom has loads of billowing curtains for the same reason. They are done in Crème Brûlée velvet and meant to envelop all those who enter the space. Small additions of color—an African basket, well-placed floral arrangements, a painting—are vibrant within the white room. Once again, Scalo has mastered the art of employing white.

“White is an extremely important design choice because each shade of white that you pick creates a different feeling and mood,” Scalo notes. “Degrees of change within that white palette need to be meticulously well thought through.”

Within the walls of this contemporary Andy Frank home, a well-thought-through story is being told though Lynne Scalo’s interior design. Each room is a powerful paragraph of white, each paragraph part of a carefully edited narrative, and every white subtly different and absolutely alive. ■

RESOURCES

Lynne Scalo Design

23 Jessup Road
Westport, CT 06880
203-222-4991
www.lynnescalos.com

Andy Frank Builders

1175 Post Road East
Westport, CT 06880
203-226-0714
www.andyfrankbuilders.com