

interiors

MAGAZINE





NEW ENGLAND | REMIX

DESIGNER: LYNNE SCALO

TEXT: "DE" SCHOFIELD

PHOTOGRAPHY: TIM STREET-PORTER





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LYNNE SCALO AND HER CLIENT MET BY CHANCE WHEN the wife wandered into Scalo's Westport showroom to get ideas for her new home. "She loved everything she saw on display and we got on famously from the outset," Scalo recalls.

For the Connecticut-based designer envisioning a space is an artistic pursuit, where technique melts into absorbing, nuanced interiors—each "take" a well-defined snapshot. "My forte is the process of collecting, editing, placing and refining," Scalo states confidently. "For me, every project is all about the mix and the soulfulness of the home and its owners."

When Scalo arrived, the new shingle-style manse was nearly complete. The two-story structure, designed by custom homebuilder Walter J. Mattera of Westport-based Mattera Construction, is the permanent residence for the wife (a mother and philanthropist whose passion for rescue greyhounds ensures there are always at least two dogs in the household) her executive/entrepreneur husband and their six-year-old son. "This is a well lived in family home that balances modern spaces with a sense of traditional fine living," says Mattera.

"Design is a very personal process that evolves by really getting to know how a person lives and wants to live," Scalo says. Her beguiling-with-an-edge aesthetic gives the home a chic attitude, like the musical equivalent of a rock legend covering an old favorite.











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IN THE MAIN ENTRYWAY, THE PHILLIP JEFFRIES SILVER-LEAF basket-weave wallcovering poses an organically glamorous backdrop for a stately walnut Biedermeier secretary and Scalo's take on a classic wingback chair dressed in glove-soft café au lait leather. The ceramic plate is a reissued piece from the 1930s whose circular pattern plays nicely in its display with two vintage charcoal works of art by B. Hyde. Accentuating the home's double-story grandeur, a one-of-a-kind triptych with a repetitive Art Deco motif comes into view at the foot of the stairs, while a fanciful silver chandelier tames the formality of the space.

The worldly mix continues in the living room. "In a large salon, it's always challenging to compose lots of places for private conversations and group discussions," Scalo explains. Her custom tufted settee is artfully placed before the window next to a small Lucite table and vintage table lamp. A corner grouping provides a practical spot to chat and rest a drink, countering new and old in the form of a sculptural, Gehry-esque stacked storage/table placed with a gilt Chippendale mirror.

The room is grounded by Scalo's updated rendition of an English Chesterfield-style sofa clad in a soft, silvery low-pile fabric that is poised beneath a meditative abstract landscape by Indian artist Shivani Dugar. The cocktail tables by Oly Studio were crafted in disparate finishes of aluminum and shell, imparting a textural surprise that continues in the drama of white-and-silver-splashed hide rugs. Near the fireplace, a tableau of deep-seated armchairs embellished with hand-painted pillows and a French reproduction accent table (like those Coco Chanel favored in her salon) hold court with a Lisa Kennedy painting and a Klismos chair made of woven leather and brass.







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THE DESIGNER'S FRESH TAKE ON THE CLASSIC NEW ENGLAND farmhouse kitchen pairs glossy white custom cabinetry and dark hardwood flooring with a twenty-first-century palette of stainless steel and marble. In the dining area, Scalo anticipates the practical while sparing none of her well-cultivated opulence. Circling the custom metal table, a set of chairs from Julian Chichester are upholstered in soft lavender damask—a graceful moment in her signature neutral palette—with nailhead trim, all illuminated by a pendant. "Balance is key, making everything easy on the eye," Scalo states, citing the energy of the base and curved tabletop that mimics the architectural detailing in the arched entry to the luminous family room. Here custom sofas and armchairs were dressed in silvery-toned fabric, adding a touch of lightness that counters tactile finishes and exotic accent pieces like the African headdresses, and a bench upholstered in Mongolian lamb's wool. The cocktail table, wrapped in bright red leather, is a Scalo original.

THE LIBRARY FEATURES A STRONG, MASCULINE VIBE

the designer describes as her "own take on a Mad Men theme." Dark and handsome, the meticulous millwork and intricate architectural detailing enhances the mood: All the wall surfaces and woodwork were refinished in a special technique resulting in a rich blend of striated shades from chocolate to ebony. The mahogany-and-nickel desk is a custom piece based on a 1930s design, and Scalo conjured the room's palette after being inspired by artist Lisa Kennedy's painting—the tufted orange leather desk chair and sleek turquoise-clad side chairs feature prominently.

By contrast, the master bedroom is serene. Osborne & Little wallpaper in a botanical print reinterprets a classic Connecticut floral in offbeat shades of gray and white. The room's focal point, a four-poster mahogany bed by C. R. Currin framed by matching mirrored side tables, is placed within view of a traditional marble mantel fireplace. Scalo designed a cozy nook, placing a tufted English-style sofa dressed up with a real fur throw, sinuous black-lacquer accent tables and an elegant candelabra fixture at an offbeat angle. Along the side wall, the undulating shapes of a silver-finished dresser by Julian Chichester complement a lush gold-toned photo of an ancient fresco done by C. Hughey.

"This is my art form," Scalo summarizes. "I approach a project as I would a sculpture, and try to create an energy as well as elegance and ease. My aim is to create a timeless scene that looks great now and twenty years from now. It's a new modern, worldly point of view, but informal and sophisticated." ■ *Lynne Scalo, Lynne Scalo Design, 203 222 4991 lynnescalo.com*



