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H O M E



SOPHISTICATED & STURDY

Lynne Scalo Creates Family-Friendly Home

BY DEBBIE DANOWSKI / CHI CHI UBINA



Creating an elegant yet practical environment for sophisticated adults who have children is a challenge many designers can't handle.

But not Lynne Scalo of Lynne Scalo Designs in Westport.

"I specialize in designing for young sophisticates who want a space that reflects their tastes yet is practical for their families," Lynne said.







Her talent in accomplishing this is obvious in a recently re-designed 10,000 square foot, 6 bedroom, 5 bath Sasco Hill home in the Southport section of Fairfield. Situated on several acres that provide partial water views, the house was originally built in the 1920s, remodeled to double the square footage a few decades later, and most recently re-designed when the new homeowners, who did not want to be identified, moved in a year and a half ago.

“The homeowners have a large family and several pets yet they are well-traveled and want that reflected in their home,” Lynne said. “Because they are so busy raising their family they didn’t have time to decorate their homes. They really needed to outsource the putting together of their home like many of today’s homeowners. Most people don’t have the time to make home décor their priority yet they want elegant and sophisticated living spaces.”

PREVIOUS PAGE LEFT: In the comfortable but stylish family room, a green gray sectional sofa designed by Lynne Scalo using her “kid-proof” fabric is positioned in front of a mahogany sideboard that is a family heirloom. Off to the side are French double doors that open to a slate patio. The zebra striped pillow, also designed by Lynne, provides a sophisticated feel to the room.

PREVIOUS PAGE RIGHT: An English leather-backed screen with an antiqued mirrored finish is positioned behind a round mahogany table in the entryway. To take full advantage of the architectural interest the mahogany staircase provides, Lynne had five hand painted English serpentine silver-leaf works of descending size created to complement the curve of the walls. Lynne paired a zebra-striped rug with the homeowners antique piano for a mix of modern and traditional. Flower arrangements are by Florabella.

LEFT: The soft white fabric of the matching sofas and *étagère* in the living room will not stain and will hold up to the wear and tear of children and pets. Beneath that is a custom-made Tibetan wool and silk blended rug in a cream color with a subtle pattern. All of the furniture in the room including the Lucite table was designed by Lynne Scalo.

BELOW: In another view of the living room, the fireplace and one of two French 1940s sterling silver chandeliers that Lynne found in Paris can be seen. Silk drapes in a muted shade of green cover two sets of French doors and provide a nice contrast to the white trim.







Upon entering the home, it is clear that Lynne has achieved her goal in meeting the homeowners need for both elegance and practicality. To the left of the entrance is an open and bright living room. Topped by two French 1940s sterling silver chandeliers that Lynne found in Paris, the room contains several slip covered white sofas positioned around a black-bricked fireplace.

“It’s kind of hard to keep the dogs and the kids off the furniture so the homeowner wanted something practical and durable in this

LEFT: Another Lynne Scalo creation, an iron and resin table is positioned directly in front of the fireplace and on a cowhide carpet. The fireplace screen, which Lynne also designed, is iron with a deco-inspired design.

ABOVE: In the eating area of the kitchen, a wooden table imported from England and Louis XV iron chairs with white vinyl cushions fill the eating area. Above the table are three nature-inspired etchings framed in welded-iron.



LEFT: A 1920s Chinese chandelier provides “a touch of Hollywood glamour” over the staircase in the entryway, according to Lynne. The English serpentine silver-leaf prints of various sizes can also be seen here.

RIGHT: A stunning iron and crystal chandelier tops an antique mahogany family heirloom table that is surrounded by chairs designed by Lynne in the dining room. French doors that lead into the entryway are also shown.

The chandelier adds a touch of Hollywood glamour to the area,

room and throughout the house,” Lynne said.

The fireplace is surrounded by four sets of French doors that match oversized windows on the adjacent wall. Silk drapes in a muted shade of green cover the windows and provide a nice contrast to the white trim.

The room has rich chestnut floors done in a dark matte stain as do most of the rooms throughout the house. The dark rich floors help to combine the traditional aspects of hardwood while adding a modern touch.

In addition to decorating the home, Lynne designed much of the furniture throughout the house. In the living room, she created all of the sofas and a Lucite coffee table. The soft white fabric

of the upholstery, which Lynne says is her trade secret, will not stain and will hold up to the wear and tear of children and pets.

A custom-made Tibetan wool and silk blended rug in a cream color with a subtle pattern completes the sitting area of the living room. Despite the light color of the rug, Lynne points out that it is nearly indestructible.

“The homeowners wanted a design that mixed pieces I found throughout Europe specifically for them, newly custom-designed furniture that I created, and family heirlooms that they had,” Lynne said. “We were able to pull of this together to create a sophisticated mix that the homeowners love.”

On the opposite wall across from the fireplace is a mahogany





The homeowners love nature and being by the water they feel very connected to the outdoors.

grand piano that is a family heirloom. Underneath is a cowhide rug that provides a modern contrast to the antique piano.

On the wall across from the piano is an antique mahogany grandfather clock, also a family heirloom. On the other side of the entry to the right of the door is an oversized iron 1850s French mirror that fills the entire wall.

“I brought the mirror back specifically for the homeowners. I knew it would fit with the design when I saw it,” Lynne said. “It fills this space nicely and reflects the light from the opposite wall to add even more brightness.”

Off to the right near the entrance is the dining room. Protected from the rigors of daily family life by French doors, the walls of the room are covered in Maya Romanoff gold leaf on silk wallpaper. An antique mahogany family heirloom table is the centerpiece of the room. The table is flanked by chairs designed by Lynne and topped by an iron crystal chandelier.

Underneath the table is a hand-loomed wool rug with a garden trestle theme. The light greenish blue color adds interest to the room while providing a soothing outdoors feeling that reflects the home’s proximity to the water.

On the wall to the left are matching re-additions of 15th century Venetian mirrors Lynne found in Italy. On the left wall underneath one of the mirrors is a matching mahogany sideboard also a family heirloom.

The most unique feature of the room sits between two oversized windows across from the mirrors. A peacock Lynne found on one of her trips adds a touch of whimsy and further cements the nature theme throughout the house. Perched on a vintage limestone pedestal, the peacock’s brilliant colors reflect the light to add brightness and interest to the room.

“When I saw the peacock, I knew it would be perfect in this room,” Lynne said. “The homeowners love nature and being by the water they feel very connected to the outdoors. The peacock reflects their interests in a unique yet stunning way.”

Outside the dining room directly across from the entrance on the opposite wall is a stunning chestnut and white painted curved staircase. To take full advantage of the architectural interest the staircase provides, Lynne had five hand painted English serpentine silver-leaf works of descending size created to complement the curve of the walls. The prints are topped by a strategically positioned skylight that adds brightness to the area and a 1920s Chinese chandelier.



LEFT: In the master suite, a custom-made hand-loomed wool rug with a shell design is positioned underneath a bed that Lynne designed. Mahogany nightstands flank the bed.

ABOVE: The most unique feature of the dining room is shown here. A peacock Lynne found on one of her trips adds a touch of whimsy and further cements the nature theme throughout the house. Perched on a vintage limestone pedestal, the peacock’s brilliant colors reflect the light to add brightness and interest.

“The chandelier adds a touch of Hollywood glamour to the area,” Lynne said.

At the bottom of the stairs, Lynne positioned an English leather-backed screen with an antiqued mirrored finish behind a round wooden table. To the left is a re-addition of an English serpentine table that matches the round one.

Off the living room is a small hallway that includes French doors out to the waterside of the yard. Off the hallway is a unique half bath with Osborne and Little leopard wallpaper, a soft grayish green stone vanity with large mirror and a soft sisal rug. A hot pink Chinese mirror made of crystal and iron adds color to the room while two unique hand-forged sconces with silk shades provide interest.

Two additional matching sconces are positioned outside the bath. The sconces are unique in shape and size, somewhat larger than most yet with an artistic flair and available exclusively at Lynne Scalo Designs.

“I can only take on a limited amount of clients each year.



LEFT: The walls of the dining room are covered in Mia Romano gold leaf on silk wallpaper that contrasts nicely with a matching mahogany sideboard, which is a family heirloom. The sideboard is topped by one of two re-additions of 15th century Venetian mirrors Lynne found in Italy.

RIGHT: In the master suite, a mother of pearl chest inlaid with mother of pearl, one of Lynne's re-additions at her store, is positioned in front of matching chairs designed by Lynne. The reverse teardrop lamps were also created by Lynne and are available at her store.



That's why having the store helps a lot. People can come in and see my furniture designs and the accessories in my store," Lynne said. "This way they can have a little piece of my design style in their homes."

And Lynne's style is definitely in demand these days. On January 1, she will open a larger design studio at 33 Jesup Lane in Westport. Moving from her store in Parker Harding Plaza, the new studio will double her space.

"I design a lot of furniture myself so I really enjoy having a retail showroom where the public can come in and see my designs and find things for their homes," Lynne said.

Just beyond side entry off the powder room is a comfortable yet stylish family room. A green gray sectional sofa designed by Lynne using her "kid-proof" fabric fills the room. In front of the sofa is

another Lynne Scalo creation, an iron and resin table positioned directly in front of the fireplace and on a cowhide carpet.

"Cowhide is indestructible," Lynne said. "Even though it's white it cleans up easily."

Above the fireplace is a flat screen television.

"I like showing technology in my designs," Lynne said. "There's a certain art to electronics that can be combined into the design of the house."

To create an elegant sophistication to the area, Lynne positioned oversized crystal hurricane lamps on the mantle. The fireplace screen, which Lynne designed, is iron with a deco-inspired design.

On the opposite wall is a mahogany sideboard that is a family heirloom. Off to the side of that, are French double doors



that open to a slate patio.

Stools from an eat-in-kitchen island fill the final wall of the family room. Once again, despite the light color of the cushions on the fruitwood bar stools that Lynne designed, they will withstand the rigors of family life. Made of wipeable vinyl, the contrast of the light cushions with the wood adds a modern sophistication to the area.

White cabinets, stainless steel appliances, white subway tiles, and white-honed marble countertops provide a contemporary feel to the large room. A wooden table imported from England and Louis XV iron chairs with white vinyl cushions fill the eating area. Above the table are three nature-inspired etchings framed in welded-iron.

Off the kitchen is a large pantry and mudroom. Just off the mudroom is side entrance.

On the upper level off to the left of the stairway is a playroom for the children. Once again, Lynne used sturdy fabric and a great deal of color. An oversized apple green sofa complements turquoise walls and a leopard-pattern rug.

ABOVE: Gold sunburst mirror, canopy bed and artwork combined with an antique end table and glass lamp create a soothing quest room.

RIGHT: The upper-level child's playroom shown here is a fun and brightly-colored room. An oversized apple green sofa complements turquoise walls and a leopard-pattern rug. Two end tables are topped by porcelain with platinum leaf lamps that were created from 1950s molds. The unique lamps are available at Lynne's studio. Above the sofa is a painting of gold fish by local artist BJ Hyde. Lynne commissioned the artist for this painting and houses his work in her studio.

Flowers by Ronny Carroll of Florabella in Greenwich, 203-561-8386

"We used leopard print rugs throughout the rooms on the second floor," Lynne said. "They're stylish yet with the pattern, you don't see stains."

Two end tables are topped by porcelain with platinum leaf lamps that were created from 1950s molds. The unique lamps are available at Lynne's studio.

Above the sofa is a painting of gold fish by local artist BJ Hyde. The bright colors add a nice touch to the room. Lynne commissioned the artist for this painting and houses his work in her studio.

On the same wall, Lynne positioned small circular silver leaf mirrors in groups to create visual interest and elegance. A chandelier from Italy with glass designed by Lynne provides further sophistication to the area.

White built-in cabinetry that houses toys, books, and electronics fills the opposite wall providing practical yet appealing storage.

Adjacent to the area is a girls' bedroom. Once again, color is the theme of the room. The walls are a pale yellow and sorbet-colored bedding from Fig in Westport top matching custom-designed plastic weave twin beds.

"When I designed the beds, I wanted something that looked sophisticated and stylish yet would hold up," Lynne said. "The plastic weave is visually interesting yet very durable."

Above each bed are matching dog-themed prints from England. Between the beds is a gold antiqued mirrored nightstand with white washed wood.

Just past this room is the master suite. A large closet fills one wall of the entryway into the room. On the floor is a custom-made hand-loomed wool rug with a shell design.

"It took six months for this rug to be made," Lynne said. "Being near the water, the homeowners love seashells."

Mint green cotton lined bedding tops a bed that Lynne custom designed. Mahogany nightstands, a fireplace, and a mother of pearl chest inlaid with mother of pearl, one of Lynne's re-additions at her store, complete the room.

Off the sleeping area are a master bath and a sitting area. The sitting room is done in a bold stripe with platinum stencil Osborne and Little wallpaper. A walnut lady's desk is positioned on the far wall to take advantage of water views. The room also includes a lattice-backed chair, fireplace and built-in shelving.

On the other side of the second floor is a guest room. A rouge lizard skin chest, hand forged iron four-poster bed and Tibetan modern rug give the room a relaxing feeling.

"In this room, I really wanted to mix all different styles that would go together," Lynne said. "It's a simple yet rich design."

According to Lynne, this design of this house works so well because it reflects the homeowner's tastes and preferences.

"I want all of my homes to look like a designer wasn't there," she said. "I'm going for a blend of simple but elegant and livable."



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