

EAST COAST

HOME

+ DESIGN



\$5.95 Nov/Dec 2011





FEATURES

36 Coastal Comfort

BY KATIE KEATING

Architect Ira Grandberg and Builders James Higgins and Foster Lyons of Coastal Point Construction team up to create an elegant waterfront residence in Belle Haven, Connecticut.

52 Modern Masters

BY KATIE KEATING

East Coast Home + Design uncovers the passion of Architecture in this in-depth conversation with the creators of the beautiful structures that surround us.

70 Familiar Territory

BY KATIE KEATING

Interior Designer Elissa Grayer and Architect Doug Wilk of Mitchell Wilk Architect renovate a classic East Coast colonial with a modern flair in Rye, New York.

DEPARTMENTS



Cover Photo: Michael Biondo

10 Editors Letter

18 Audubon

22 In The Field

26 Melange

82 Kitchen Cookbook

88 Hidden Treasures





EAST COAST HOME + DESIGN

Number 53

Editor-in-Chief

Matthew J. Kolk
mattkolk@me.com
203-820-1092

Managing Editor

James Eagen

Contributing Writers

Elizabeth Ervin, John Hannon, Katie Keating,
Stephanie King, George Krawiec,
Shelly Linder, Cameron Martin,
Christina Roughan, Karen Williams

Contributing Photographers

Michael Biondo, Orion Bishop, Tria Giovan,
John Gruen, John Hannon, Neil Landino, Mark La Rosa,
Tim Lee, Daniel Milstein, Janice Parker,
Durstun Saylor, Jonathan Wallen

Graphic & Web Design

Steve Wargo
swargo1@mac.com

Publisher

Shelley E. McCormick
shelley_mccormick@yahoo.com
203-545-7091

Corporate Counsel

James F. Walsh, Esq.

Distribution

Man In Motion

East Coast Home + Design
111 Forest Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06824
Fax: 203-286-1850

East Coast Home + Design is published six issues per year. To subscribe: www.echomeanddesign.com; Subscriptions: one year, \$28; two years, \$50. Back issues can be purchased at www.echomeanddesign.com. For editorial inquiries: Editor, East Coast Home + Design, 111 Forest Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06824 or e-mail: mattkolk@me.com. For advertising inquiries: Please call Shelley McCormick at 203-545-7091. Reproduction whole or in part without permission is prohibited. All projects described in this publication are for private, noncommercial use only. No rights for commercial use or exploitation are given or implied. The opinions expressed by writers for articles published by East Coast Home + Design are not necessarily those of the magazine.



BARTELS PAGLIARO ARCHITECTS, LLC

Roger Bartels, AIA Christopher Pagliaro, AIA Nicholas A. Sajda, AIA
www.bartels-pagliaro.com



November/ December

Architect Ira Grandberg and Builders James Higgins and Foster Lyons of Coastal Point Construction team up to create an elegant waterfront residence in Belle Haven, Connecticut. East Coast Home + Design uncovers the passion of Architecture in this in-depth conversation with the creators of the beautiful structures that surround us. Interior Designer Elissa Grayer and Architect Doug Wilk of Mitchell Wilk Architect renovate a classic East Coast colonial with a modern flair in Rye, New York.



Gently curved stone walls envelop the property and separate it from the cool waters of Long Island Sound.



COASTAL COMFORT

STORY BY KATIE KEATING

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL BIONDO

The artful landscape design of the property blends both new and mature native plantings.



Time seems to take on new meaning as the holidays draw near and yet another year comes to an end. We've put away our summer playthings and readied our homes for what winter may bring. It's a time to reflect, and a time to give thanks, and a time to appreciate all that lies before us. While some may sadden to see the last glimpses of crimson and gold swept from their lawns, others embrace the warmth of a smoldering winter sun setting through a naked grove of trees as it bids the day goodbye. Nature takes its cue from the shortened days and dropping temperatures as it proceeds to overwinter and so too, must we, as we move inside to the warm embrace of family and the comfort of our homes.

RIGHT Varied window styles create visual interest on the façade of the house.

ABOVE Twin Gambrel style roof lines reach to the sky revealing classical architectural details below.





The goal in selecting stone was to make the home appear as if it had been there forever.

"The home was designed to capture the spirit of early 20th century New England Gambrel homes without appearing formulaic."





A warm welcome waits for all at this coastal Connecticut home.

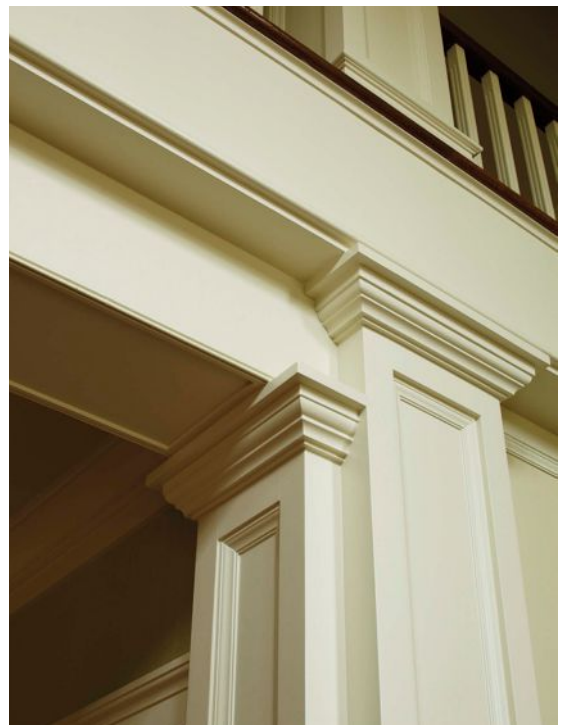


The well equipped kitchen exudes warmth with beautifully detailed cabinetry and millwork.

BELOW & OPPOSITE "Interior details were reflective of many stylistic details, complementary to the style of the home".

Bringing her family together comfortably was paramount when it came time for one Greenwich, Connecticut homeowner to build her new home. With six grown children and a multitude of grandchildren, the design of the home had to allow ample room for each family member and also provide an intimate living environment for her when they were not in residence. To accomplish this task, she enlisted the help of Mount Kisco, New York based architect, Ira Grandberg, AIA, of Grandberg and Associates, to develop a program that would meet both her day to day needs as well as ensure her privacy when others came to visit. Known for his attention to detail in creating custom homes and estates, he worked in collaboration with the successful building team of Foster Lyons and Jim Higgins from Coastal Point Construction of Cos Cob and interior designer, Barbara Epifanio, formerly of Sandra Morgan, to create this warm and inviting family retreat.

Located in the Belle Haven section of Greenwich, the new home was "designed to capture the spirit of early 20th century New England Gambrel homes", said Grandberg. Designed to "optimize and capture se-







lected vistas of Long Island Sound”, the home’s southern water views are protected by overhangs or pergolas. The intent was to create a home that looked like it had been there “forever”. Grandberg also added that “the interior and exterior trim was responsive to traditional detailing in these traditionally styled period homes.” While their client relied on the expertise of her design team for the design of the interior spaces, she was very involved in the design process for the outside of her home. “Craftsmanship was very important to her, especially when it came to the stone work on the façade and surrounding exterior spaces,” according to Jim Higgins. Creating a low-maintenance landscape design

was also a priority. Having come from a home with more formal landscaping, she desired a more organic, natural plan that complemented the coastal nature of her property and also gave her access to a small cutting garden. In addition, the homeowner wished to retain the mature oaks by the water and incorporate the magnificent magnolia trees into the front of the home’s landscape design. For this portion of the project, she relied on the talents of Riverside landscape architect, Susan Cohen, ASLA.

As previously mentioned, one objective in designing the interior spaces of the home was to create intimate living within the ten thousand square foot structure.

To accomplish this, Grandberg located the master suite on the first floor, creating one level living for the homeowner. The second floor offers her family six bedrooms and a centrally located common area with an overlook deck looking out onto the water. While beautifully detailed staircases connect each level, access to each floor may also be gained via a four stop elevator. To provide his client with another connection between the first floor private zones and the public spaces on that

The light filled breakfast room and family room were designed to take full advantage of the surrounding property and water views.



And though the coastal waters off this Connecticut home may run cold, those inside will be warmed for years to come in the comfort and beauty of this timeless family home.

level, Grandberg located the library on the same axis as the master suite and designed two sets of pocket doors to separate them. One set leads from the entrance hall to the library, the other from the library to the master suite. This design enables the homeowner to use the library privately should she desire by closing that outer set of doors to the hall. Should that not be required, they can be left open, thus al-

lowing that space to become part of the arrival hall.

A second objective was to provide an easy transition for his client from her old home to the new one. Many of the public rooms are similarly sized to those in the client's previous home, intimate not overpowering. In an effort to "maintain the fabric of the original home", interior designer, Barbara Epifanio reused her cli-

ent's beautiful area rugs and was able to reformat the client's extensive collection of early 19th century American antiques

Southern views of the property are protected by overhangs or pergolas.

Large covered terraces add additional entertaining space, blurring the lines between indoor and outdoor living areas.





Second story balconies provide added opportunities to take in water views.



Doric columns provide a strong anchor for this outdoor entertaining space.



The second story common area spills out onto the spacious covered balcony overlooking the coastline.



Ornamental grasses frame a meandering path leading to a peaceful folly at water's edge.

OPPOSITE With panoramic views of the Sound, this Greenwich home stands proud and true to its architectural roots.



to fit easily within the spaces of this new home. In the sun filled kitchen/family room, “the prevailing thought was to bring the natural beauty of the landscape in”, according to Epifanio. “The tall grasses and ferns outside the home are reflected in an inviting, comfortable interior,” she added. This is noticeable in her choice of fabrics and finishes for this space. The yellow greens and cream of the “Saranac” fern print by Cowtan and Tout bring soft color to the chair and ottoman upholstery while window treatments in oatmeal colored linen by Rogers and Goffigon, Ltd frame the windows. All upholstered pieces have been “reclaimed” and “recycled” adding to the charm and nostalgia of the family room. A “Gracie Stripe” cotton area rug by Elizabeth Eakins grounds a round traditional Guy Chaddock dining table and chairs and provides a slice of casual elegance to the space. The celadon, cream and yellow fabrics play off nicely against

the warm tones of the natural wood stain finish of the cabinetry and hardwood floors. The lines between the home’s exterior surroundings and light infused interior spaces seem to blur with the help of the home’s many windows.

The sun seems lower in the sky this time of year, casting shadows against a sleepy landscape. Ornamental grasses wearing feathery plums rustle in the chilly breezes coming off the water. As November slips quickly into the month of December, this house will swell with children and grandchildren enjoying the sounds and scents of joyous holiday celebrations. And though the coastal waters off this Connecticut home may run cold, those inside will be warmed for years to come in the comfort and beauty of this timeless family home. ■

Katie Keating is an interior designer and freelance writer and can be reached at 203.339.5820 or katiekdesign@yahoo.com

RESOURCES

Architect
Grandberg & Associates
 Ira Grandberg, AIA
 117 Main Street
 Mount Kisco, NY 10549
 914.242.0033
grandbergarchitects.com

Builder
Coastal Point Construction
 Foster Lyons
 Jim Higgins
 108 River Road
 Cos Cob, CT 06807
 203.661.1107
coastalpoint.com

Susan Cohen Landscape Architect
 7 Perkley Lane
 Riverside, CT 06878
 203.637.0113
susancohenlandscapes.com