

SPECIAL FOCUS:  
**KITCHEN AND  
BATH DESIGN**

IN THESE CONNECTICUT HOMES, THE SPACES EVERYONE  
USES THE MOST ARE AS STYLISH AS THEY ARE FUNCTIONAL

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BY LISA E. HARRISON



**ARCHITECT:** Joeb Moore, Joeb Moore & Partners Architects  
**INTERIOR DESIGN:** Sally Markham, Sally Markham Design  
**BUILDER:** Prutting & Company Custom Builders



**CENTER OF ATTENTION**

◆ It's no surprise that the kitchen is the hub of this house both architecturally (the rest of the house pinwheels around the space) and in terms of its role as a family gathering spot. And there's no better place to congregate than at the commanding twenty-foot-long kitchen island. Architect Joeb Moore designed an open plan that incorporates familiar forms with a modern sensibility. He achieved this by contrasting more traditional elements, such as the high-gloss, gray, tongue-and-groove boards and the concealed European-hinge cabinetry, against contemporary stainless-steel appliances, countertops, and backsplash. A suspended ceiling that floats away from the perimeter is in keeping with the room's modern aesthetic, and concealed soffit lights provide a warm, glowing light. A gun-blue steel-finished gas fireplace makes a strong statement and adds literal warmth to the oft-used space.

DAVID SUNDBERG (ESTO 12)

**MARBLE MARVEL**

◆ Called upon to modernize an otherwise traditional colonial in Fairfield County, designer Mar Silver focused on materials. The goal in the kitchen—much like the rest of the house—was a neutral-colored, serene space that gets its visual appeal from the interplay of various surfaces and textures. Silver incorporated large expanses of white marble—note the kitchen island, the extended backsplashes, and sections of countertop—and balanced it with stainless-steel shelving, counters, and appliances. The floor-to-ceiling metal-clad windows are new; Silver chose to forgo window treatments in order to invite in the only pop of color: the lush, green outdoors. Layering various hues of wood, from the black-oak cabinets and custom-stained flooring to the primitive table and sculptural two-toned chairs, lends depth and texture. The end result is streamlined, efficient, and beautiful: the perfect recipe.



**DESIGNER:**  
Mar Silver,  
Mar Silver  
Design

HAYVA KOLBAS (2)



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JANE BELLES (2)

**LET THERE BE BRIGHT**

◆ Architect Louise Brooks flip-flopped the kitchen and breakfast rooms in this Georgian colonial, creating a lighter, brighter working kitchen that also serves as a prime gathering spot. In keeping with the owners' more formal aesthetic, Brooks went fairly traditional (note the moldings, ceiling coffers, and painted flat-panel cabinetry), while steering clear of stuffy. Clean lines, simple detailing, and a contemporary black-and-white color palette bridge the gap between traditional and transitional. The furnishings—backless stools belied up to the island and Danish-inspired chairs flanking the breakfast table—further modernize the room. Just opposite the island sits a wood-burning fireplace, beckoning visitors to get cozy and stay awhile.

**ARCHITECT:** Louise Brooks, Brooks & Falotico Associates  
**BUILDER:** Fox Hill Builders

**MODERN CLASSIC**

◆ Out with the old (traditional) kitchen and in with the new (more transitional) space. The main work area, once relegated to a corner, now sits front and center. A large island grounds the space and provides a central spot to prep and gather. Stylistically speaking, designer Emily Fuhrman wanted a kitchen that felt classic and timeless, yet featured modern touches throughout. As a nod to the latter, she incorporated elongated glass subway tiles, a contemporary faucet, and an undulating white-linen light fixture. For warmth and contrast, Fuhrman wove in various textures and hues, from the honey-colored floors and crisp, white cabinets to the dark walnut-stained island and two-toned stools. "Everything doesn't have to be matchy-matchy," she points out. "It's so much more interesting when you layer with textures."



**INTERIOR DESIGNER:** Emily Fuhrman, Sage & Ginger Interior Design  
**ARCHITECT:** Jack Bigosinski, PB Architects  
**BUILDER:** Jeff Stanley, J.R. Stanley Builders

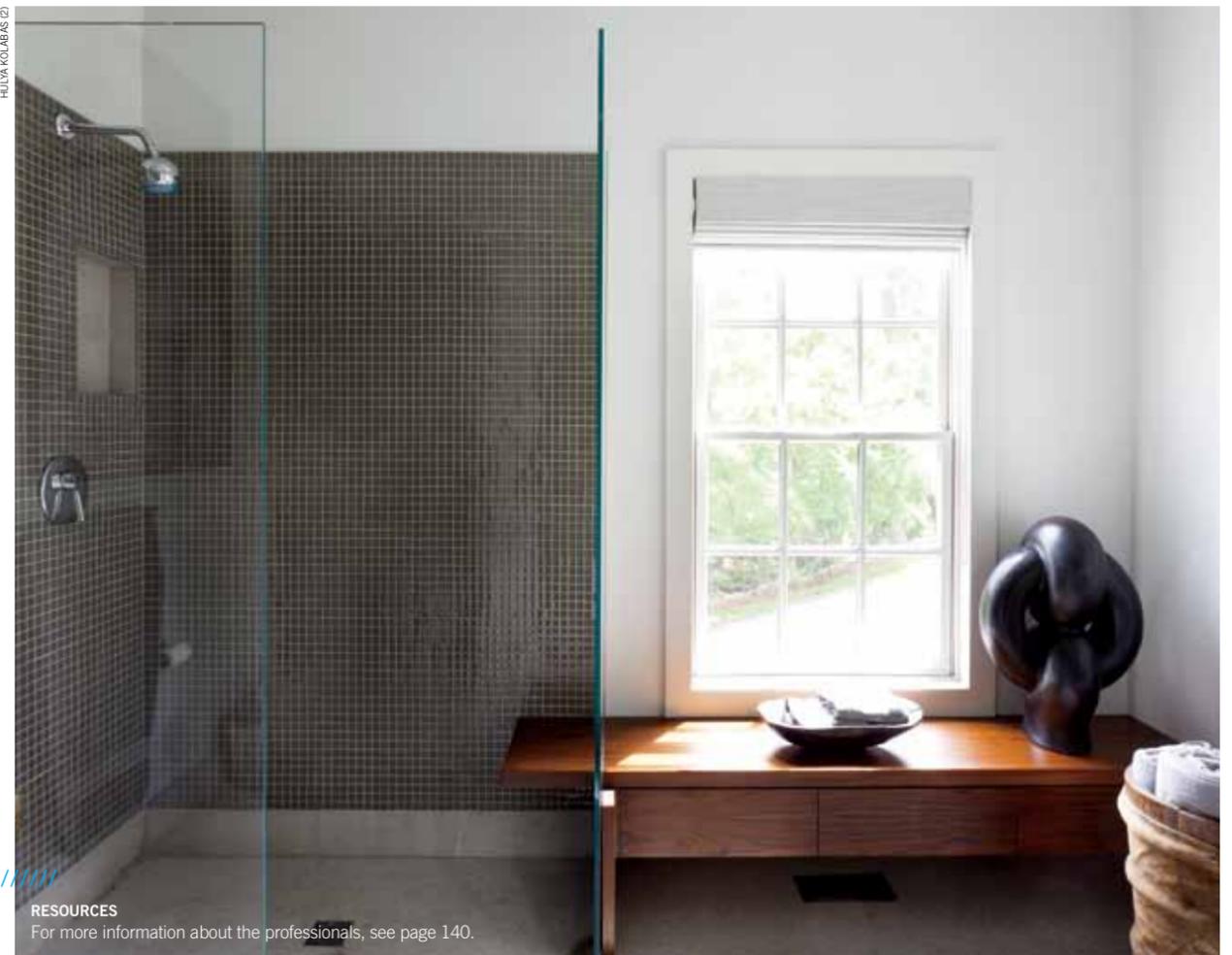
**DESIGNER:** Mar Silver, Mar Silver Design



**BATHING BEAUTY**

◆ Designer Mar Silver used the same language in this first-floor pool house/guest bath as in the home's kitchen (page 108), emphasizing form and texture over color. Once again she played with materials and how they relate to one another. Charcoal glass mosaic tiles provide a nice reflective quality that's grounded by the limestone floor. Silver opted for a glass-paneled edgeless shower to enlarge the space and then added touches that lend an organic feel. A built-in teak bench penetrates the glass and acts as seat, shelf, or storage. White window treatments fabricated from a natural fiber match the minimalist palette and allow the landscape beyond to shine. Silver finished her design with a conversation-starting metal sculpture. "I think art lives everywhere—even in the bathroom," she says. "It breathes life and energy into the room." •

HILYA KOLBAS (2)



**RESOURCES**  
For more information about the professionals, see page 140.