

shoptalk

BY VERONICA SCHORR

THE LATEST DESIGN NEWS



above: Biagio Lucenti, proud owner of Lucenti Interiors. **left:** Neutrals brighten this living space featuring a Res Italia wood accent wall and FlexForm furniture.



top: Lucenti custom millwork closet systems keep you stylish and organized. **bottom:** An Ernestomeda K-lab kitchen is sleek and modern.

LA BELLA VITA

GREENWICH GOES INTERNATIONAL WITH ITALIAN LUXURY FROM **LUCENTI INTERIORS**

In the new Lucenti Interiors showroom, third-generation artisan Biagio Lucenti brings “the beautiful life” to downtown Greenwich. Offering custom millwork, an expanding selection of Italian brands exclusive to Lucenti Interiors in Greater Fairfield County (Ernestomeda, FLOS, Edoné, Pacini & Cappellini) and ever-attentive customer service, you won’t want to miss stopping by. Using in-house CAD drawings or floor plans and elevations from an architect, the Lucenti Interiors team can create any custom environment, for both residential and commercial projects.

If you do stop in, expect a warm Italian welcome. “Walking into the

showroom is like being transported to the center of all design in Milan,” says Lucenti. “My clients will experience the quality, luxury and representation of what the true Italian lifestyle is about, all while being guided by an authentic Italian wearing cutting-edge Italian fashions, oozing passion for the products and wildly gesturing through broken English. It doesn’t get better than that!” And indeed, it doesn’t.

The showroom is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday by appointment, but Lucenti Interiors is happy to accommodate anyone’s schedule. 124 East Putnam Ave, Greenwich; lucentiinteriors.com

PHOTOS: ADAM BLEIER PHOTOGRAPHY



above: Grayson De Vere's new storefront oasis offers a curation of eclectic finds and expertly styled vignettes.

Cool & Collected

GRAYSON DE VERE returns to Greenwich Avenue with flagship store opening

Interior designer Julia Grayson founded Grayson De Vere, aka GDV i.e., in London. Since its inception in 1998 as a design studio, Grayson De Vere has opened pop-ups from East Hampton to Greenwich and has expanded to offering interior elements as well as a full range of bespoke interior design services, project management and luxury staging.

GDV i.e. reflects Grayson's "innate sense of how best to feather one's nest on a stylish and sustainable level. The new flagship store is the perfect oasis for pure and sustainable design

and holistic wellness and beauty." Put simply: she wants your space to bring you joy, inspire radiant good health, and cultivate happiness.

With brands like The Organic Pharmacy, Sien + Co, Costa Brazil, natureofthings, and Rani Arabella, to name just a few, Grayson De Vere's shop has interior elements for the most discerning shopper. They even offer personal shopping experiences for clients—and comfy sofas to relax on, too.

88 Greenwich Ave, Greenwich;
203-661-0116; graysondevere.com



above, left: 100% organic, plant-based products by Saya, an Australian skin and bodycare company, and a fun Zebra Tray by AVF on the top shelf. **above, right:** Handmade wood serving bowls and cutting boards (in black) by LA-based The Wooden Palate.



SCANDI CRUSH

STOWED HOME COMES TO BEDFORD SQUARE

STOWED Home is best known for high-quality, Scandinavian-inspired furniture with clean lines and timeless design. Owner Elissia Sigalow created STOWED out of necessity: while redesigning her own home, she couldn't find furniture that met her standards for quality or personal design aesthetic. She soon began collaborating with artisans and craftspeople before establishing an upholstery plant. Shortly afterward, her "minimalism at its best" brand was born.

The showroom at Bedford Square highlights STOWED's commitment to elevated minimalism. "I just love that the spaces feel like you're walking into a European boutique. They provide a perfect home for our unique mix of seating. Truly, a Californian-meets-Nordic vibe," says Sigalow.

Handmade seating and modular furniture feature supple leather, natural wood, and European fibers. From benches and ottomans to upholstery and accent chairs, STOWED has pieces you'll take from your first apartment to your forever home. Sigalow's eye for style ensures that your space will be filled with no-frills luxury and high-quality pieces for years to come. 12 Elm St, Bedford Square, Westport, 203-349-5867; stowedhome.com



above, left: STOWED owner Elissia Sigalow. **above, right:** Minimalist spaces are practical and beautiful without being unrefined; hand-crafted woods and soft neutrals calm and delight the senses. **below:** A STOWED modular living space.



HOUSE BLEND

THE POST OPENS IN **WESTPORT** WITH ROOM-READY PIECES FOR EVERY DESIGN PERSONALITY



left: Wicker baskets and ocean-foam whites are waiting to be blended into a coastal space. **right:** Contrasting black and white pieces are the perfect combination for creating a modern “city” vibe.

City, country, coast; these three distinct styles represented in our towns are now available to shop at Westport’s latest home and gift destination. For owner Deb Placey, a Southport resident and former sportscaster, interior design started as a side gig but eventually morphed into a second career. With The Post, she has a place to share all her finds with her local friends and fellow designers. “Our unique space feels less like a store and more like the dreamy collab studio and hangout of a trendsetting designer. We invite you to stop in, peek around and disappear from the real world for a while,” says Placey. A lifestyle outpost for furniture, lighting and accessories, including linens and art, The Post carefully curates its selection with a focus on local items. Brands like Westport-based STOWED Home, Worlds Away, Bungalow5 and Kravet can be found among its stylish treasures. And the best part: you can take your products home with you the same day. Whether you want a space that screams salty air, welcomes wide-open spaces or feels edgy and industrial, The Post has everything you need. 1799 Post Rd East, Westport; 203-292-5700; thepostct.com



above: At The Post, you’re invited to “disappear from the real world for while.” Or, you can just disappear into this plush couch.

Private Tour

A NEW BOOK showcases gorgeous interiors from “Quintessence at Home With” lifestyle blog



above: An inviting interior—complete with a lounging Frenchie—from *At Home With Designers and Tastemakers: Creating Beautiful and Personal Interiors*.



above: Salk and Bewkes’ new book will be released in March by Rizzoli.

Susanna Salk and Stacey Bewkes are names synonymous with interior design; not only are they a successful design author and a photographer, respectively, they’ve garnered over one million monthly YouTube viewers of their beloved series,

“Quintessence at Home With.” Now, the design duo has taken their talents to the publishing world. *At Home with Designers and Tastemakers: Creating Beautiful and Personal Interiors* walks readers through the most stunning spaces featured in the series (including visits to textile designer John Robshaw and the West Hollywood home of chef Lulu Powers), with never-before-seen photography by Bewkes and suggestions from Salk on how to incorporate design elements from each home into your own environment. “Our goal from the beginning was to give design a voice,” Salk says. Whether it’s natural daylight and neutrals brightening a restored home, a colorful outdoor cabana or a rustic flower room, these designs demand to be seen (and heard).

At Home With Designers and Tastemakers: Creating Beautiful and Personal Interiors by Susanna Salk and Stacey Bewkes Photography by Stacey Bewkes; \$50 Rizzoli New York, March 2022

THE POST: JESSICA GORDON RYAN; BOOK: STACEY BEWKES



A STOWED Home bench, perfect for kicking off your boots, is a great addition to this rustic and modern mud room. Market bags by Calla Cane (hooks by Sawkill NYC) add functional whimsy.



INTERVIEW WITH CALLA MCNAMARA, CALLA CANE
PHOTOGRAPHER ELLEN McDERMOTT
STYLIST ANNA MOLVIK

NEW BALANCE

An antique FARMHOUSE gets a MODERN update



above: Natural light pours into the kitchen through Klar windows, adding beautiful contrast to the dark center island and flawless cabinets. The 16' island holds two ovens, a dishwasher and the main sink, as well as a seating area on the far end with stools by Sawkill NYC.



above, left: The sleek, masculine liquor cabinet is both functional and beautiful. **above, right:** The client's clever inset book nook is the perfect place to display cookbooks and pottery. Chair by STOWED Home. **right:** Fresh produce from the farm, including eggs and fruit, inspires cooking in this elegant kitchen.



What was your client's top priority? Nod Hill is a quintessential Connecticut farmhouse, including a detached barn, art studio, chicken coop, tree house and pond. The house is situated on a scenic Wilton Road speckled with vintage homes and old-growth trees. Homeowner Susanna Carrillo fell in love with this charming property but was living with the challenges an 1800s home brings: low ceilings, meandering floor plans, lack of natural light and leaky windows and walls that made the old part of the home unbearable in the winter and summer months. While the renovated portion of the home was more livable, it did not integrate well into the original structure and lacked the same charm. Susanna is creative at heart. She owned and operated an art studio for children called Paper Scissors Oranges, located in Darien, Connecticut, for a decade. She wanted a forward-thinking home that offered her a backdrop to play with art and accessories over time. Her home reflects her personality and is

filled with an eclectic mix of art, furniture and color. As a mutual friend once said, with Susanna you never have to color inside the lines.

How important was natural light for this renovation? We always design with the intention of bringing natural light into the home. It just feels good. The introduction of floor-to-ceiling metal windows allowed us to capture the light and the natural landscape. The kitchen and dining room are wrapped in glass, which allows the sun to gently track through the space throughout the day.

The contrast between the light and dark accents in your design is beautiful. What was the influence for this modern palette, given this is an antique home? The introduction of dark architectural elements and light textural materials allowed us to play with the juxtaposition of new

“The kitchen and dining room are **WRAPPED IN GLASS**, which allows **THE SUN TO GENTLY TRACK THROUGH** the space throughout the day.”

—CALLA McNAMARA, CALLA CANE



left: Custom-designed cabinets by Calla Cane, fabricated by Kramer Lane Construction, are finished in Black Satin. Serving boards from Black Creek Mercantile & Trading Co. are waiting to be adorned with farm-fresh goodies. The countertop is luxurious Black Granite.



and old in the home. We did some gentle nudging when it came to the dark kitchen cabinets and counters. We saw the opportunity to create a quiet backdrop for Susanna's colorful life. In addition to Susanna's creative eye, the day-to-day hauls of this small farm breathe life into the space: fresh chicken eggs, herbs and cut wildflowers contrast and warm the rich colors. We used a balance of dark and light to create a space that allowed her to effortlessly layer in her life.

What were the top priorities for the kitchen? Like most homeowners, Susanna viewed the kitchen as the heart of her home. She loves to cook and entertain, so this piece of the project felt important. She voiced that she was tired of her cluttered countertops and wanted to find a way to conceal her appliances and dishware. It was critical to her that this space felt comfortable and light-filled. In her previous kitchen, she struggled to find space to both cook and entertain. She wanted to make sure there was a defined seating space and workspace in the new kitchen. Working within the original footprint of the home, we were challenged to create additional working space without increasing the width of the room. We added three large steel-framed windows at the far end of the kitchen to capture natural light and make the space feel larger. The 16' island holds



opposite page, above: This kitchen nook is one of the coziest seats in the house. A bench by STOWED Home and a hand-thrown bell by Mquan adorn the perfectly placed window counter. **opposite page, below:** Marvin windows allow natural light to make the dining area feel larger than it is. The client's existing dining table is accented by Natural Wishbone and Black Era (at the head of the table) dining chairs from Design Within Reach. **above:** Inset cabinets are smart for storage and easy on the eyes. The client's glassware shines against the dark background.

two ovens, a dishwasher and the main sink as well as a seating area on the far end. The cabinetry conceals a coffee station with a marble countertop and pocket doors that allow Susanna to hide her most used appliances. The kitchen is entirely custom, including painted interior cabinetry and LED lighting to make the contents of the cabinet visible.

What was particularly challenging about this project? The living room was situated in the original part of the home. It was cold and leaky in the winter, which caused Susanna and her family to avoid spending time in the space. They were really interested in restoring this part of the house and adding a wood-burning fireplace to heat the home during winter. Susanna hoped that this could be a future gathering space but wasn't sure how to encourage movement from the kitchen to the living room. In reconfiguring the floor plan of the first floor, we felt it was important that the living room fireplace could be seen from the kitchen and dining area.

We wanted the living room to feel both connected to the main living area but also serve as a visual destination for guests. Another interesting challenge we faced was the ceilings, which were below 8' tall. We had to find creative ways to reinvent the interior space, yet still provide the modern amenities of a new construction build.

The inset cabinets and the interior glass paned walls are special touches that we really love. What made you include these bar and glassware storage areas? It is important to be creative and opportunistic when you are working on a renovation. You often find things in the walls that can hinder the design. We were pleasantly surprised to find a cavity in the living room wall that allowed us to create a glass storage cabinet. The glass partition walls are a great way to make a small space feel open and airy. Rather than closing Susanna into a small office, we designed the office to be displayed.

“The introduction of
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—CALLA MCNAMARA, CALLA CANE



left: A plush Living Divani sofa is the centerpiece of the living room, designed to be visible from the main living area to naturally encourage gathering. Throws by Jenni Kayne and Rosemary Hallgarten are ready for cozying up by the fireplace, which has a custom-designed wood holder by Calla Cane. Sculptures by Re Jin Lee add to the contrast of dark and light elements.



this page: The living room is a "visual destination" for guests and family members alike.

opposite page, above: Interior glass-paned walls create healthy boundaries (namely, to preserve the client's peace in her home office) without disrupting the main living area's light, airy and open feeling. The Lambert & Fils Beaubien sconce beside the painting is from Sunday Shop. **opposite page, below:** A moody, minimalist bathroom features lighting by Apparatus, a Restoration Hardware mirror, and a Watermark custom marble vanity.



To what extent did the surrounding landscape of Nod Hill influence your design choices?

It was important to us that we draw the natural beauty of the property into the space. The home had previously oriented away from natural viewpoints; we worked to open that side of the house and make it connect with the landscape. From the kitchen and dining room, you have views of the antique barn and pond.

What is your favorite component of this renovation? There were so many resources of inspiration to pull from during this project: from Susanna's personality, to the family's interests, to highlighting the serene and vast landscape of their property. It feels great to have brought new life into a space and to make it both practical and visually appealing in design and function. Susanna has remarked that her favorite part was the "reveal" after our install, to see her vision achieved by combining old elements with new.





What are you most proud of accomplishing with this project? We are most proud of the final floor plan. It is amazing how you can transform the look and feel of a space so dramatically by moving the right walls. I remember walking through the new space after it had been framed and thinking it felt really good. —INTERVIEW BY VERONICA SCHORR

Resources:

Designer & Architect: Calla McNamara, Calla Cane, Rowayton, CT & Solana Beach, CA; callacane.com

Builder: Kramer Lane Construction, Stamford; 203-515-8541; kramerlane.com



this page: The client's custom desk, designed by Calla Cane and fabricated by Kramer Lane Construction, makes working from home look more like working from a five-star hotel. Desk chair by STOWED Home. **opposite page, above:** White space sparkles in the primary bath, with mirrors by Rejuvenation, Apparatus lighting, and a custom-designed vanity by Calla Cane, fabricated by Kramer Lane Construction. Fresh-cut wildflowers from the farm complete this peaceful retreat. **opposite page, below:** Zellige tiling from Nemo Tile Co. creates a shimmery effect behind the client's irresistible soaking tub.

