

# Connecticut COTTAGES & GARDENS

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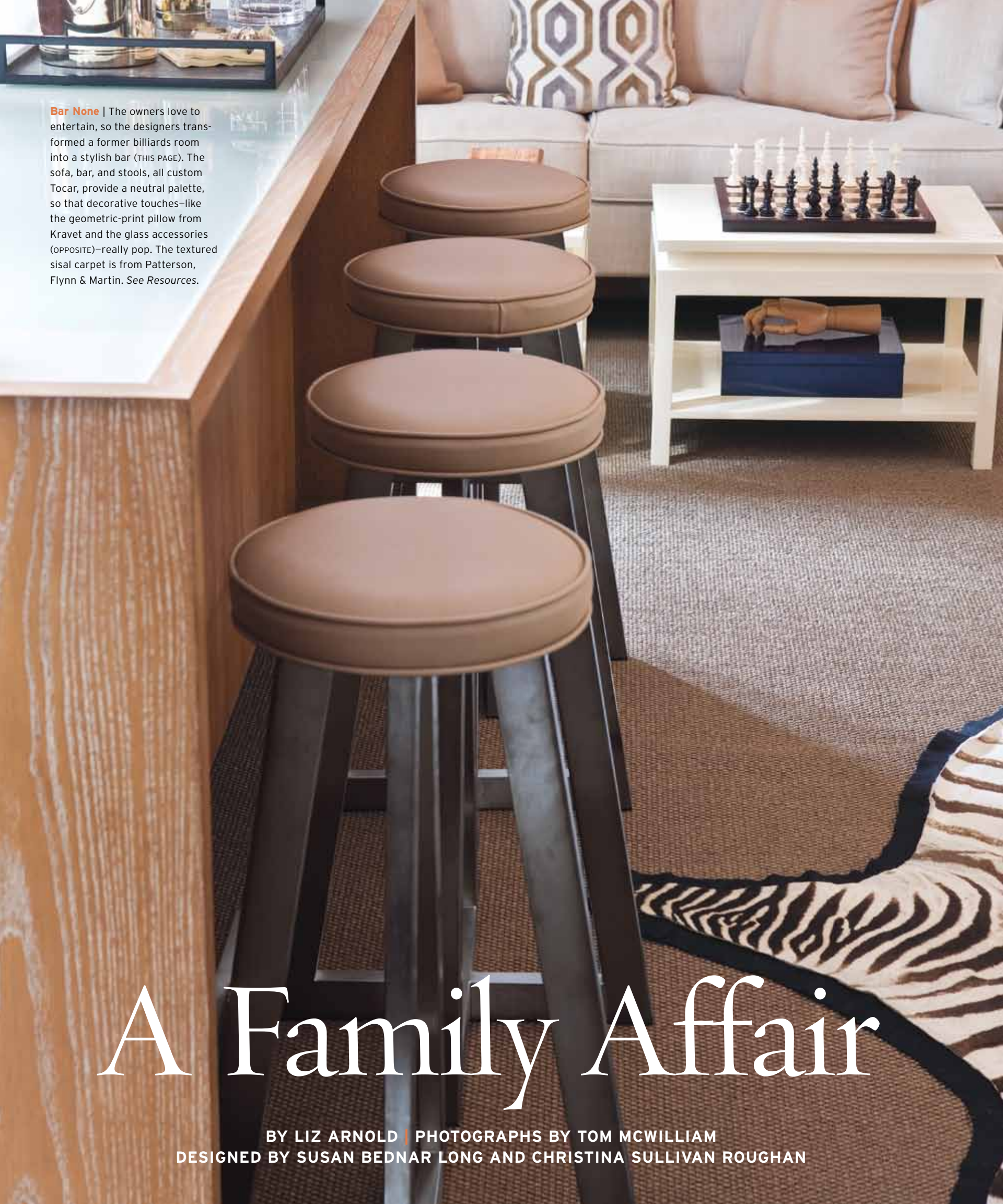


## Signature Style

BEST DRESSED HOUSES FROM GREENWICH TO LITCHFIELD



FOR A YOUNG COUPLE AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN, A LAKEFRONT HOME IN GREENWICH GETS A NEW LOOK—ONE THAT COMBINES TIMELESS CLASSICS WITH MODERN TOUCHES



**Bar None** | The owners love to entertain, so the designers transformed a former billiards room into a stylish bar (THIS PAGE). The sofa, bar, and stools, all custom Tocar, provide a neutral palette, so that decorative touches—like the geometric-print pillow from Kravet and the glass accessories (OPPOSITE)—really pop. The textured sisal carpet is from Patterson, Flynn & Martin. See Resources.

# A Family Affair

BY LIZ ARNOLD | PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM MCWILLIAM  
DESIGNED BY SUSAN BEDNAR LONG AND CHRISTINA SULLIVAN ROUGHAN

## THE FRENCH CHATEAU-STYLE RESIDENCE IN GREENWICH WAS A PERFECT FIT FOR A YOUNG FAMILY RELOCATING FROM NEW JERSEY.

The two-story brick house, built nearly a hundred years ago on lakefront property, boasted good bones and classic structure. It had large, open living areas for relaxing or entertaining, and five bedrooms—plus five baths and two powder rooms—to comfortably suit three kids, as well as guests. But the residents wanted it to feel more modern and fresh. When they came across the work of Christina Sullivan Roughan and Susan Bednar Long, who partnered together until recently as Tocar Interior Design, they knew they'd found the solution. The team was known for mixing traditional with modern, a look that the wife exhibits in her personal style, says Roughan. "She'll wear Prada with a J. Crew t-shirt and look fabulous. She has great taste, and she wanted the house to represent who they were as a couple."

The first area of focus was the family room. High ceilings, millwork, and ornate framework contributed to a grand, but fussy, atmosphere, so Roughan and Long took it down a notch by removing some of the decorative corbels and simplifying the walnut beams. They lightened the walls to contrast with the dark wood for a more contemporary feel, rearranged overhead lighting for a better delineation of space, and oriented seating areas so they angled towards the fireplace, the television or the windows. Cozy fabrics, in a palette of ivory and taupe with a hint of blue, help temper the serious architecture. "Every fabric has some kind of texture or interesting weave," says Roughan. "It makes it feel more homey."

Adjacent to the family room, and raised several feet, is a onetime billiards area the designers transformed into a bar. The homeowners love to entertain, and the elevated, open room fits about a dozen people. Roughan and Long customized the space, designing a glass-topped, cerused-oak bar and stainless-steel swivel stools covered in child-proof Naugahyde. Ivory lacquered side tables and a zebra-hide rug are glamorous counterpoints to the sisal carpet.



**Family Time** | The kitchen's open space is conducive to casual get-togethers (ABOVE). The custom counters are topped with CaesarStone; the pendant lighting is from Niche Modern and the walnut dining table is by Tocar. **Looking In** | The modern interiors play off the home's more traditional French Chateau-style architecture (BELOW LEFT). **Easy Living** | Entertaining is a breeze on the outdoor terrace just off the kitchen (LEFT). See Resources.



**An Elegant Mix** | An Edward Wormley-style sofa and custom chairs done in Hinson twill, lend an air of elegance to the living room (ABOVE). The chevron-patterned carpet is by David Hicks for Stark; the Ikat on the cross-legged bench is by Kravet. **Nice And Easy** | The neutral palette, with a hint of blue, continues into the family room (OPPOSITE). The sofas and console are custom Tocar; the club chairs are from Roman Thomas, the drum shade is Boyd Lighting. See Resources.

Where the family room is all about casual comfort, the living room is sheer sophistication in creams and chocolate browns, with lots of center seating. The sculptural antique Asian urn, collected by the couple on their travels, presides on a walnut-and-mica low table and influences some of the burnt-red accents; other beloved antiques are incorporated into the room. The bench is upholstered in a crimson Ikat that plays off the chevron carpet.

When it came to the open-plan kitchen-and-dining area, the clients wanted something utilitarian and family-friendly. The wife loves gray, and texture, so they chose cabinetry with a cerused finish, durable CaesarStone countertops, and a ceramic-tile floor, all in shades of slate. The kitchen's casual seating lends a hangout vibe, while the dining area is more formal. The table, which is actually a pair of 72-inch walnut tables with trestle bases can be pulled apart to sit a total of 16 people, eight around each one. In a room of cool gray, "We wanted to bring in a nice warm wood," says Long. Cheery colors like pale-green upholstery, yellow-tone graphic

wallpaper and the clients' Chinese lanterns make the space more inviting.

The bedrooms are all upstairs. While the children's rooms are decked out in bright colors they picked out themselves—pink and aqua for a young girl, with a white marshmallow sofa; orange and turquoise for a boy—the master is a serene scheme of cream, black and teal. The designers, using the couple's black four-poster as a starting point, painted the woodwork semi-gloss black and the ceiling a pale blue, and added satin teal draperies. Teal is also echoed in the fabric on the club chair and ottoman, and on a satin kidney pillow. The duvet matches the room in black-and-white silk-blend Ikat. The master bath is neutral and minimal, with gray marble, a dark floating vanity, and a clean-lined tub.

"All the rooms play off each other," says Roughan. "They're friendly and sophisticated, but approachable." Long says the trick is contrasting modern shapes with the traditional architecture. "That's what we like to do, that play," she says. "I think that's what attracted them to us in the first place." ✨



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**Minimalist Appeal** | The master bath is a cool oasis in varying shades of gray. The marble floor and shower tiles are from Ann Sacks. The deep soaking tub is by Wetstyle (THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE LOWER LEFT). **Rhapsody In Blue** | Teal satin draperies by Donghia, silvery Julian Chichester side tables and a Sputnik-style chandelier add a splash of color to the couple's bedroom. The Henredon club chair and ottoman and black Baker benches are upholstered in Lee Jofa fabric (ABOVE). **Pretty In Pink** | Soft Roman shades in a Quadrille print match the bed's bolster. The bedside table is from Jonathan Adler (FAR RIGHT). See Resources

