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sea blue

An Old Greenwich waterfront home basks in blue for a refreshing new look



interior design **MARCIA TUCKER INTERIORS** *interview* **LAUREN FETTERMAN**
photographs **FRAN PARENTE** *styling* **MARY SCOTT HIMES**

The foyer hallway ends with breathtaking water views. A Holly Hunt lantern provides light overhead. **opposite:** The home was originally designed by the former firm of Kaehler/Moore Architects.



In the opened-up living room, a chic vintage sofa and swivel chairs create a cozy gathering spot for family and friends. Deeper tones of blue come from the lumbar pillows, custom-made by Marcia Tucker Interiors and covered in Créations Métaphores Lagune velvet in Tempete. An Apparatus Studio Highwire pendant adds interest above.

opposite: Off the living room, a closet was transformed into a wet bar, crowned with a Gaetano Sciolari architectural hanging fixture. A folk art tapestry from Egypt is framed by one of the doorways to the living room.



Marcia, how did you meet this family?

Marcia Tucker: The homeowners were referred by other clients many years ago. They're a wonderful couple—they have three children, and they're both involved in the community and very active in giving back. Because we've been working together for about seven years, we'll do a few rooms, redo some others and then go back and do rooms again. It's always a work in progress. The whole house keeps evolving, and that's what's so wonderful about the house and about them—they don't let the house sit and age. It evolves with their needs.

This house was built in 2000 and then renovated a few years ago.

Tell me about that.

Homeowner: We had hired Laura Kaehler and Jobe Moore, who were collaborating at the time. The house was designed by Jobe, and Laura did all of the interiors—the molding, cabinetry, trim. We then used Laura again to renovate the kitchen, living room, dining room and wet bar, and we opened up and widened rooms. She's fantastic to work with.

What guided the interior design?

MT: The homeowners had done a round of interior design when they built the house, and I was brought on later. The design was more on the formal side, but life had changed a bit. They wanted modern, contemporary family living, and they wanted the home to feel inviting and warm but still monochromatic.





"The whole house **KEEPS EVOLVING**, and that's what's so **WONDERFUL** about the house and about them—they don't let the house sit and age."

—MARCIA TUCKER

Where did you start with furniture?

MT: They had some really good bone furniture, so we were able to incorporate some of that. The dining room was completely from scratch—we decided to do two tables, where before there was one and it was more formal, and the benches were custom-made by me. A lot of the furnished pieces were custom, and all of the rugs were custom-made. Some pieces, like the living room sofa, were vintage. We reupholstered it to fit, but it was an existing vintage sofa.

There's also a great mix of artwork throughout the home.

MT: The art was existing. A lot of the photographs were taken by the homeowner herself, and one of their sons is an artist, so you see a lot of her and her son's touches on the walls. The family also travels a lot and collects some pieces when they travel.



Formerly the living room, the new dining room was repurposed for modern family living with two Piet Hein Eek 240 Canteen tables. Seating options include Poliform's Ventura chairs in Luna 27 Corda fabric as well as benches custom-designed by Tucker and covered in Romo's Orion velvet in Silver Grey. The backs of the benches were strategically kept low to ensure a clear view of the water beyond. For a cohesive look, the dining room features the same light fixture as the living room.



left: A Gaetano Sciolari steel-and-glass light fixture presides over the kitchen table.
below: Hans J. Wegner bar stools offer additional seating at the island. The kitchen features both natural limestone and hardwood flooring. **opposite:** The custom-designed lampshades are by The Accessory Store in Stamford.





"They wanted modern, **CONTEMPORARY** family living, and they wanted the home to feel **INVITING AND WARM** but still monochromatic."

—MARCIA TUCKER



This home features so many beautiful shades of blue. How did you choose this palette?

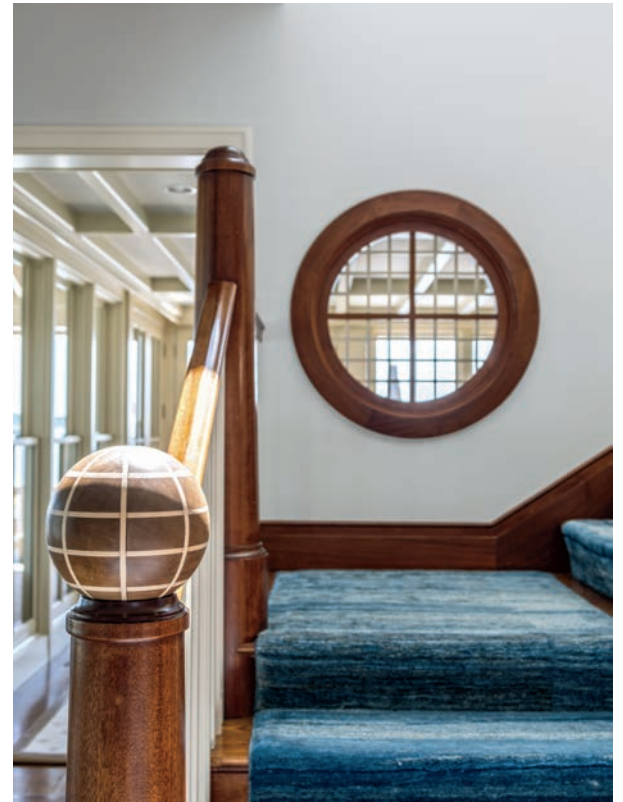
Homeowner: It coordinated the inside with the outside, and this palette is also my favorite. It's what makes me feel the best—I'm personally happiest in these colors.

MT: It's a color I'm very attracted to, and I use a lot of that silver-blue in most of my palettes. It pairs well with a lot of other accents, with warm tones of metal and gold, or with cooler ones like silver and chrome. It's a great base color to build on. It goes really well with warm woods on the floor, like this house has, and it nicely complements water views. It takes in that sunshine and gives the rooms different colors during the day. It works really well for homes on the water.

Did you make any changes to the layout?

MT: We wanted to repurpose the home for family living, so the formal dining room became the living room, and the living room became the dining room. The homeowners wanted a living room where someone could walk by and feel like they could sit and read a book, and they wanted a dining room where their daughter could study, they could have breakfast and enjoy the view, or a bunch of them could sit down and have pizza for dinner. We repurposed the layout so everybody can use all the rooms.

Homeowner: I felt like we weren't using our dining room often enough. I thought that if we had a living room that was more inviting and open, we would use it more instead of always hanging out in the kitchen or family room. The dining room, which we use less often,



Blue touches continue up the stairs and onto the second floor. **opposite:** The media room over the garage brims with blue. A Milliken Artisan rug in Indigo offers a dose of pattern and texture, and a Verellen Nikki sofa and a custom ottoman covered in Garrett Leather's Avion in navy are comfy places to kick back. Window treatments are crafted from Robert Allen's Hommage fabric in grey, and the artwork is by one of the homeowners' sons.

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above left: Donghia vintage chairs were a clean-lined addition to the master bedroom. **above right:** Window treatments in the master bath were fashioned from Dedar's Gri-Gri fabric in Avorio. **opposite:** Sferra's Tavia duvet and pillows, Grande Hotel standard pillows and Terina decorative pillows add subtle touches of green to the serene space.

was moved away, and it was absolutely the smartest decision we ever made. The kitchen is now closer to the living room, and we now use the living room a lot more than we ever did. We also use our dining room more because of those two tables.

Having two tables in the dining room is unique—what is the story behind those?

MT: They wanted this room to be used every day, not just once a year at Thanksgiving. Their daughter can study at one table, they can serve dinner at the other table, and then she can go back to studying. It's making real use of the space. Otherwise, you have this beautiful room but never use it. I also designed one bench for each table to mix it up a little bit and minimize the amount of chairs in the room. We didn't want to bring more wood into the space, so we upholstered the legs of the benches so they would disappear into the room.

The media room over the garage also looks like a great hangout space!

MT: When their daughter was entering high school, the homeowners wanted her to have a space of her own. This room has a TV, games and a big table in the back for arts and crafts. One wall is chalkboard paint, and that large piece of art is one of the sons'.

How did you refresh the master bedroom?

MT: When I came onto the project, it was to make the room feel light, clean and uncluttered. We added those chairs by the windows, and we changed the bedding—it has a little bit of seafoam green as an accent, but we were more trying to pull in the blues. The room looks out onto the water, and it's beautiful. The drapes are white because the homeowners wanted the views, not the décor, to be the focal point. It's all about the views with a house on the water.

The outdoor living spaces definitely make the most of those.

MT: The lounge area under the canopy is more modern, and the views are really spectacular there. The covered porch is off the family room and kitchen, and it's a nice transition outside. It's more for casual, everyday use, to read a book or check email. And from the outdoor dining table, you can get a really good sense of the property and the water.

Homeowner: We use every single nook and cranny for all different reasons. We read, lounge, cuddle up with a blanket, have a glass of wine with cheese and crackers. It was really important that the outdoor furniture be functional, comfortable and stylish.




left: In the outdoor lounge area, an Umbrosa Ingenua shade sail provides an escape from the sun, while a Gloster Cloud sofa offers a comfortable place to take in the sights.



How closely did you two work together?

MT: Very. She was very hands-on and found a lot of pieces. She's very resourceful and really enjoyed the process. She would bring phenomenal ideas to the table, and we would end up incorporating them. She had fun with it—she has great taste.

Homeowner: I'm extremely tactile, and I really enjoy textiles, furniture, lighting. Marcia is fabulous to work with, and she allows you to take your time to make decisions. She's really talented. 

RESOURCES

Interior design: Marcia Tucker Interiors, Greenwich; 203-409-3692; marciatuckerinteriors.com

Original architect: Kaehler/Moore Architects (former)

Renovation architect: Laura Kaehler Architects, Greenwich; 203-629-4646; kaehlerarchitects.com

Workroom: Cassandra Gilmore Custom Drapes, New Haven; 203-230-2567



above left: Outdoor dining is always on the menu with a Restoration Hardware Belvedere dining table and plenty of seating by Richard Schultz for Knoll. **above right:** Outfitted with a Dedon sofa and Richard Schultz for Knoll tables, the covered porch off the family room and kitchen is primed for enjoying a cup of coffee or reading a book.