

Step Inside a Historic Home in Dutchess County, New York, With a Hidden Negroni Room

The goal was more to dust off the sleeping beauty, rather than completely reimagine it

By Katherine McLaughlin Photography by Chris Mottalini May 8, 2023



After completing work on a historic property, perhaps there is no greater honor for a design firm than the *just* reaction. Did they *just* paint the walls? *just* move the furniture around? "When you look at our photos, you're wondering, Geez, what did you even do?" says Rafe Churchill, cofounder and creative director of architecture at Hendricks Churchill, a firm based in Sharon, Connecticut. "Our goal, anytime we go into an old house, is to do it in a way that it looks like we weren't there.

The firm, who will have a book of their work out this fall from <u>Rizzoli</u>, applied this philosophy extensively while working on a 8,000-square-foot property for a multigenerational family in Dutchess County, New York. The client, who is only the fourth person to own the 265-year-old house, was looking for the designers to honor the history of the home and restore it to its most natural state. "They did not want somebody to come in and whitewash it and erase all of the architectural details that had been so well preserved by, basically, doing nothing," Heide Hendricks, the firm's cofounder and director of interior design, says. Put more simply: They wanted the house to look and feel old.

Architecturally, the project hinged on re-centering. "We wanted to strip it back to its original vocabulary and speak that language," explains Churchill. "With every owner of the home, there were a few things added and a few things changed, and sometimes you can't even begin to understand why." The home was expanded in 1900, which added a certain dramatic flair to the restoration, since, as Churchill explains, it was like working with two houses. "We started peeling away layers to identify the prominent millwork profiles and find what makes sense to utilize somewhere else," he says. His team, of course, also added some of the less glamorous—but imperative—upgrades. (Think mechanical, plumbing, electrical, and HVAC system updates.

For Hendricks's part, the interior designer sourced most of the furnishings for the house from vintage and antiques shops. "Historically, with each steward of the house, all the furniture would just get turned over to the next owner," Hendricks explains. While the most recent seller ultimately ended up taking most of the decor, the designer tried to honor that it's-been-here- forever look: A 1940s French oak dining table sits in the parlor next to a collection of 19th- century Belgian chairs, while a vintage JW Stick and Ball coffee table and antique secretary desk anchor the living room. Even the more modern additions, like an RH sofa in the parlor, were selected to convey a lived-in aesthetic.





Curiously, the bedrooms tell a different story. "That's where they'd typically swap stuff out," Hendricks says of previous owners. As more personal spaces, it was common for sellers to take their bed sets and dressers and for new owners to move theirs in, meaning with every generation of owners, the sleeping quarters got a little more modern. "In order to maintain that authenticity, we deployed the same approach," Hendricks says.

While much of the project was more about dusting off than reimagining, there is one large difference in the newly updated house: the finished basement. Once a sandpit, it marries the best of both Hendrick's interiors and Churchill's architecture. Accessible only through a disguised wardrobe, the Negroni Room, as the cellar has been named, is the adult escape for the multigenerational family. "We added the stained glass window in there because that view is of the underside of the porch, and it wasn't so pretty to look at," Hendricks adds. "But at the same time, those parameters led to a wonderful design accent." Furnishings that had been collected throughout the length of the project were used to fill the stone-clad, secret room in the home.

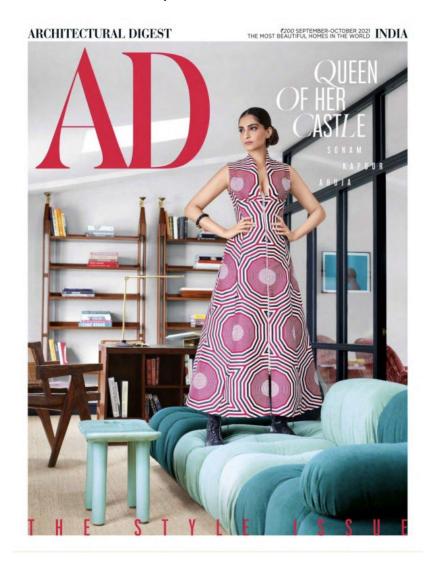
As the duo step back from the home and the family officially moves in, the designers have their own interpretation for that *just* reaction. "It's an honor to be involved in a legacy project," Hendricks says. "We feel like we've been tapped on the shoulder, and we just helped this house along into the next generation."

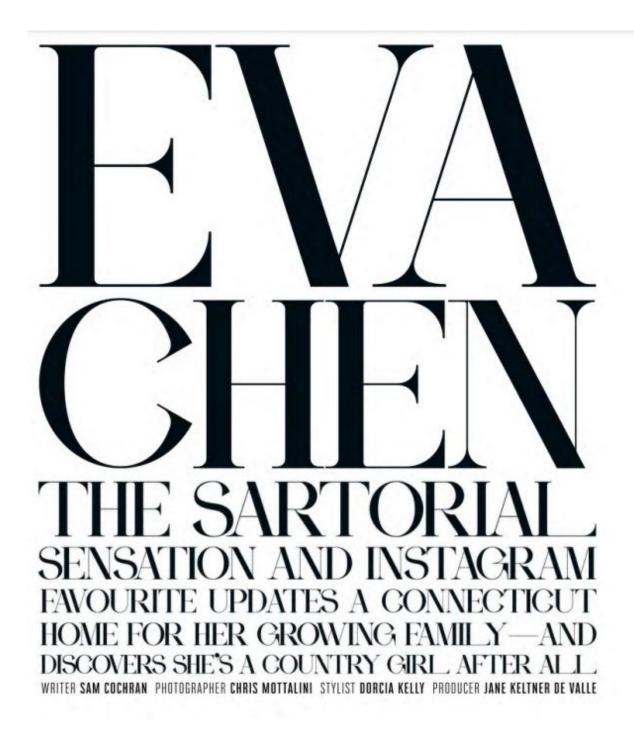


Inside Sartorial Sensation Eva Chen's Charming Connecticut Abode

While updating the home for her growing family, the born and bred New Yorker finds out she's a country girl after all

By Sam Cochran Photography by Chris Mottalini Produced by Jane Keltner de Valle Styled by Dorcia Kelley September-October 2021









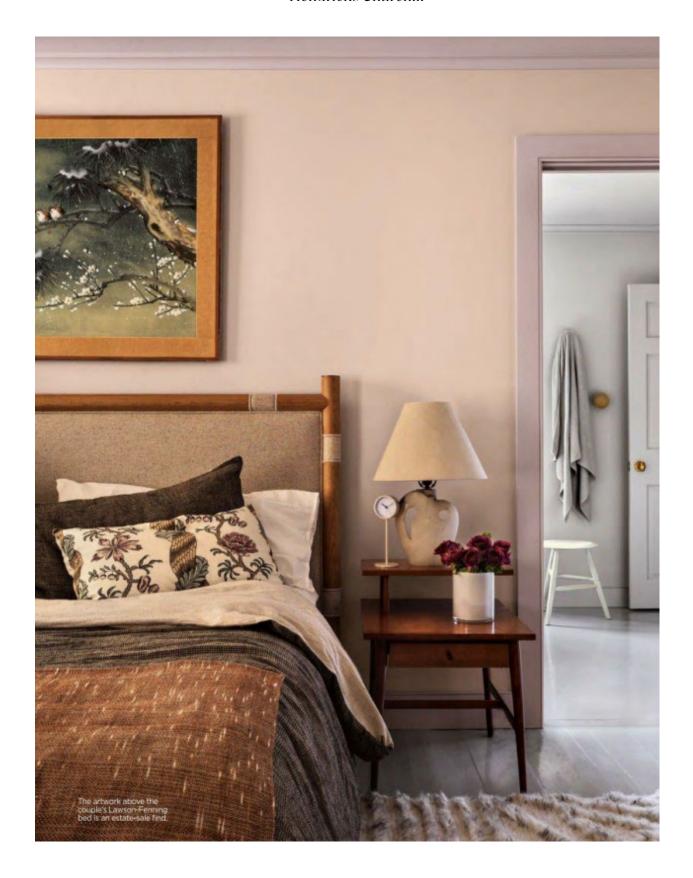
In the living room, CB2 side tables are paired with a vintage Paul McCobb cocktail table from Chairish, a Lawson-Fenning sofa, Stone and Sawyer table lamps, Vitsoe shelves, and a Workstead globe light. Facing page: Above the kitchen's Plain English island are Workstead pendants; on the left is a Bertazzoni range. The paint is by Benjamin Moore.













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For Chen, a born-and-raised New Yorker and sartorial superstar who now works as Instagram's director of fashion and shopping partnerships, these new-found fixations marked an even larger shift. "I grew up a first-generation American in Greenwich Village and didn't know a landscape beyond Manhattan," she reflects. "To me, nature was Washington Square Park." A weekend at Troutbeck hotel with her husband Tom Bannister, an advertising creative director, introduced her to the low-key delights of that sylvan stretch where upstate New York meets Litchfield County. Suddenly the consummate city girl had her sights set on the simple life.

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Adéntrate en la encantadora casa de descanso de Eva Chen

La superestrella del mundo de la moda nos abrió las puertas de su hogar recién renovado para su creciente familia.

Por Sam Cochran Fotos por Chris Mottalini 20 de septiembre de 2021



El algoritmo no miente. Poco a poco, la cuadrícula de exploración del *feed* de Instagram de **Eva Chen** pasó de los zapatos, las bolsas y los *serums* de belleza a la cerámica, los espejos y los tours de casas. Mientras tanto, palabras como *pátina* y nombres como *Paul McCobb* empezaron a salpicar sus conversaciones y pensamientos. Todo apuntaba a su último proyecto: **la renovación de una casa de descanso en Connecticut** para su joven familia.

Para **Chen**, la superestrella del mundo de la moda nacida y criada en Nueva York, quien ahora trabaja como **directora de Alianzas de Moda y Compras de Instagram**, estas nuevas fijaciones marcaron un cambio aun mayor. "Crecí como estadounidense de primera generación en

Greenwich Village y no conocía un paisaje más allá de Manhattan", reflexiona. "Para mí, la naturaleza era el Washington Square Park". Un fin de semana en el hotel Troutbeck con su marido, Tom Bannister, director creativo de publicidad, la introdujo en los placeres discretos de ese tramo silvestre donde el norte del estado de Nueva York se encuentra con el condado de Litchfield. De repente, la jurada chica de ciudad tenía la vista puesta en una vida sencilla.

"Nos enamoramos de la tranquilidad y del paisaje, que era salvaje y no estaba cuidado a la perfección", dice. Añade que, con dos niños pequeños, Ren y Tao, "necesitábamos un descanso de la rutina de fiestas de cumpleaños de fin de semana, del patio de recreo y de los aspersores del parque". (La pareja acaba de dar la bienvenida a su tercer hijo, River). Tras una búsqueda que Chen—también célebre autora de libros infantiles— compara con la historia de Ricitos de Oro, se enamoraron de una casa contemporánea de Cape Cod en casi 40 mil metros cuadrados de terreno indómito. "Algunas casas eran demasiado grandes, otras demasiado pequeñas, pero esta se sintió inmediatamente bien", recuerda de sus 260 metros cuadrados. "La estructura era buena. La energía era buena. Te podías dar cuenta de que otra familia había sido feliz aquí".

Por recomendación de su agente inmobiliario y de sus amigos, la pareja contrató a la empresa de diseño Hendricks Churchill, con sede en Connecticut, para renovar la casa. "Me presenté por DM, mi principal forma de comunicación", bromea Chen. "Heide [Hendricks] y Rafe [Churchill] entendieron realmente cómo liberar el potencial de la casa para hacerla cálida y elegante y no demasiado recargada". Se derribó una pared, lo que abrió la sala para permitir que hubiera varias zonas de estar, con amplio espacio para que Ren y Tao construyan fortalezas mientras mamá y papá, ambos ávidos lectores, enterraran sus narices en sus libros. En la cocina, eliminar los tabiques dio lugar a un espacio igualmente para muchos propósitos, con una zona de comedor, una chimenea, un asiento en la ventana y nuevas paredes de tablones de madera que cumplieron el deseo de Chen de que fuera acogedor. Y la conversión del garaje adjunto en un dormitorio anticipó las visitas de sus padres, que ahora son huéspedes habituales. Por toda la casa, el equipo de Hendricks Churchill actualizó las ventanas, los detalles y los acabados para conseguir la mejor luz y cohesión visual.

"Nuestro objetivo no era reinventar la casa, sino hacerla funcionar mejor", señala Churchill, mientras que Hendricks añade: "Todo simplemente fluye". También trabajó codo con codo con la pareja para amueblar las habitaciones, reuniendo piezas resistentes y con estilo que pudieran soportar el ritmo de sus revoltosos hijos. Algunas de ellas proceden de salas de exposición que Chen admira desde hace tiempo, como Plain English, ABC Carpet & Home y Apparatus. Otras se obtuvieron en ventas de bienes raíces o en Reservoir, el propio tesoro de antigüedades de Hendricks Churchill. Y muchos fueron descubrimientos online, desde obras de arte vistas en Tappan Collective hasta hallazgos vintage en Etsy y 1stDibs. "Siempre me ha gustado la emoción de la caza", señala Chen.

Desde que la familia se mudó a la casa en el verano de 2020, el esfuerzo de la crianza urbana ha dado paso a días largos y felices en el campo, mientras Ren y Tao chapotean en el estanque y

exploran el terreno mientras buscan salamandras, libélulas, gansos, tortugas y conejos. "Perder estructura ha sido el mejor regalo", dice Chen. "Jamás pensé que sería <u>una persona que usaría zapatos de jardinería".</u>

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Get Clever

Renovation and DIY Inspiration from the Issue: Social Medium

Produced by Sam Cochran and Madeline O'Malley Interior photo: Chris Mottalini. All Others Courtesy of the Companies. September 2021





Social Medium

"I'm very much a kitchen person," says *Eva Chen*, reflecting on the renovation of her young family's Connecticut weekend home (page 25). "Chinese culture is centered on food, so the kitchen is the gathering spot. I wanted ours to be cozy." And cozy it became, thanks to some deft design choices. Wa've outlined her recipe. We've outlined her recipe....



"THE PIZZA SETTING IS MY FAVORITE," CHEN SAYS OF HER BERTAZZONI RANGE, "WE'LL BRING PIZZA FROM THE CITY, AND IT REHEATS IT PERFECTLY." US. BERTAZZONI.COM



"I SUPER, SUPER LOVE MY PLAIN ENGLISH WORKSTATION," CHEN RAVES OF THE SHOWSTOPPER ISLAND. "IT'S COMING WITH US WHEREVER WE LIVE." PLAINENGLISHDESIGN.CO.UK



"THE BEADBOARD MADE THE ROOM," SHE RECALLS OF THE CLASSIC COUNTRY WALL TREATMENT IN BENJAMIN MOORE'S WEDGEWOOD GRAY. BENJAMINMOORE.COM



WE SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES SHE REFLECTS. CASE IN POINT: THE RUNNER SHE FOUND ON INSTAGRAM FROM COLLIER WEST, A BROOKLYN SHOP, COLLIERWEST.COM

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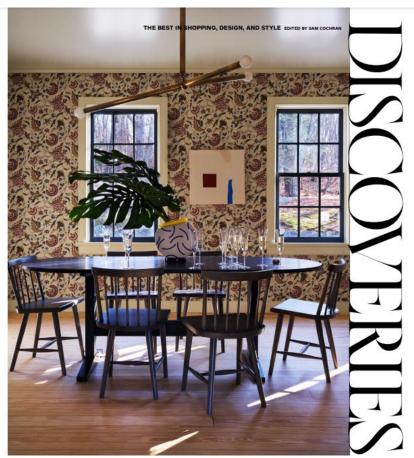
PRODUCED BY SAM COCHRAN AND MADELINE O'MALLEY



Discoveries: If the Shoe Fits

Updating a Connecticut home for her growing family, sartorial sensation Eva Chen finds she's a country girl after all

By Sam Cochran Photography by Chris Mottalini Produced by Jane Keltner de Valle Styled by Dorcia Kelley September 2021



AD VISITS

If the Shoe Fits

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS MOTTALINI. STYLED BY DORCIA KELLY. PRODUCED BY JANE KELTNER DE VALLE.

IN THE DINING ROOM, ANTOINETTE POISSON WALLPAPER, APPARATUS CEILING LIGHT, AND TABLE AND CHAIRS BY OBG STUDIO.

ARCHDIGEST.COM 25

DISCOVERIES

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1. CHEN WITH REN, TAO, AND RIVER (ON THE WAY).
2. IN THE LIVING ROOM, CB2 SIDE TABLES, A VINTAGE PAUL
MCCOBB COCKTAIL TABLE FROM CHAIRISH, A LAWSONFENNING SOFA, STONE AND SAWYER TABLE LAMPS, VITSOE
SHELVES, AND A WORKSTEAD GLOBE LIGHT.



28



 ABOVE THE COUPLE'S LAWSON-FENNING BED IS AN ESTATE-SALE FIND.
 THE KITCHEN'S PLAIN ENGLISH ISLAND, BERTAZZONI RANGE, AND WORKSTEAD PENDANTS; PAINT BY BENJAMIN MOORE.
 ABASE ITALIA CAMALEONDA SECTIONAL AND FAYCE TEXTILES WALLPAPER IN THE ATTIC PLAY AREA.
 A INCISON THIN EDGE BED FROM DESIGN WITHIN REACH.



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-SAM COCHRAN



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A Sustainable and Classic Country House

It has a classic design inspired by the New England country houses of the early 20th century that has been awarded an award, but this home also promotes a sustainable lifestyle.

By Elisa Muñoz Photos by Amanda Kirkpatrick November 18, 2020



A country house should be designed to enjoy nature but, if possible, in communion with it. Sustainable architecture has been a reality for a long time but, in this case, it also takes care of the design. Hendricks Churchill's study was inspired by New England homes in the early 20th century to build this Connecticut home. A project worthy of one of the 2020 Stanford White Awards.

The 362-square-meter home is built on a more than 4,000-square-foot plot on a wooded hillside of hiking trails where waterflows at certain times of the year. An idyllic place where they planted apple trees, built barns and placed compost beds. In keeping with a sustainable lifestyle, the owner asked that as many materials as possible be recycled and reused. In addition, the slope of the roofs was perfect for adapting a ten kilowatt solar array and integrating other sustainable systems such as insulated structural panels, geothermal energy and collecting rainwater. Taking as a reference some of the public service buildings of the Hancock Shaker community in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, we also opted for a central hallway, a clean and familiar facade with a screened front porch, and sash windows throughout.

The interior of the house continues with sober exterior carpentry. Striking paintings were chosen to add a touch of color to certain areas in contrast to the plaster walls and ceilings. The yellow of the kitchen and the green of the living room furniture stand out especially, which also frames some doors and windows.

The furnishings in the house are functional and eclectic, as if they have been collected over many years. From the 19th century French walnut table in the living room to the teak rocking chair on the porch, to some antique iron chandeliers found by the owner. A house where time seems to have stopped but has modern technology and materials that will make it sustainable in the future.

The porch benches and table are from an antique dealer in Plymouth, Massachusetts, called Village Braider. At the entrance of the house, a handmade antique braided rug. All frames have a color. This blue is one of the tones that is repeated the most throughout the house. The entire house has sash windows, which gives it that timeless classic style.



These Firms Are Keeping Classical Design Alive

See the winners of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art's Stanford White Awards

By Allie Weiss Photo by Amanda Kirkpatrick October 27, 2020



Stanford White's architectural legacy is vast. As a partner at esteemed firm McKim, Mead & White, he created notable *fin de siècle*–era structures such as the Washington Square Park arch and the Boston Public Library. Each year, his design tradition is remembered through the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art (ICAA)'s Stanford White Awards for Excellence in Classical and New Traditional Design, which since 2012 have recognized outstanding projects in the regions of New York, New Jersey, and Fairfield County, Connecticut.

This year, as always, the award recipients represent a who's who of design practitioners working to preserve—and evolve—the classical tradition. There are familiar names such as AD100 firms G.P. Schafer Architect, Peter Pennoyer Architects, Ferguson & Shamamian Architects, and Robert A.M. Stern Architects, as well as landscape design powerhouse Hollander Design Landscape Architects, with Tammy Connor Interior Design, Hendricks Churchill, and more filling out the list. Their work, all sharing a respect for the traditional, represents a range of disciplines, from architecture and interiors to landscape, urbanism, historic preservation, and craftsmanship. In total, 15 separate firms were honored for a total of 16 projects, which include a Cape Cod cottage, a Central Park pied-à-terre, a boarding school dining hall, and more.

"In the midst of such an unprecedented year, it is more vital than ever to celebrate moments of beauty and brilliance, particularly as we reflect on traditional architecture's capacity to bring scale, comfort, and happiness to people's lives," Peter Lyden, president of the ICAA, says to AD PRO. "The Stanford White Awards are always a celebration of great partnerships between architects, designers, and builders, but this year the talent and vision of the winners shines a bright light that is more welcome than ever before."

Perhaps most excitingly, two students, José Hernández of New York University and Madeline Fairman of the University of Notre Dame, were also recognized for their design concepts, called *Experience Pennsylvania Station* and *The Webster Apartments—Manhattan's Home for Professional Women*, respectively.

"The scope of this year's projects was so broad: We had intimate and refined interiors, grandly landscaped courtyard gardens, masterful works of craftsmanship, incredible transformations and restoration projects, and even the design of an entire urban neighborhood," says interior designer Lyn Muse, one of the members of this year's jury. "The common theme is that the language of classical architecture and the idioms of traditional design have much to offer, and provide ample room for innovation, surprise, and delight."

The awards will be presented on December 2 in a free virtual event hosted by AD decorative arts editor Mitchell Owens.



Un fin de Semana de Ensueño en Hudson Valley

En la costa este de Estados Unidos, una pareja se enamoró de una casa de los 1800 que fue remodelada por Hendricks Churchill.

Por Karine Monié

Fotografías de Amanda Kirkpatrick

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 $28\,\mathrm{de\,julio\,de}\,2020$



ARQUITECTURA Y DISEÑO INTERIOR: Hendricks Churchill

A 140 kilómetros al norte de Nueva York, **el pueblo Millwork es ideal para descansar un fin de semana** o más. Después de comprar un terreno de 2.8 hectáreas en esta área, una pareja contactó al equipo de Hendricks Churchill (basado en Connecticut) que había descubierto en

Instagram. Liderado por Heide Hendricks y Rafe Churchill (una pareja de mentes creativas casada desde hace 25 años), el despacho es conocido por crear espacios de vida tradicionales con toques modernos y un cuidado especial por los colores. El dúo plasmó su estilo a través de esta vivienda construida originalmente alrededor de 1800 que remodeló ampliamente.

Extendida en una superficie de 162 metros cuadrados, **la casa cuenta con muchos detalles auténticos e irregularidades** que le dan su encanto, además de haber sido transformada en particular en las salas de baño, la cocina y el dormitorio principal. La renovación necesitó también reemplazar el sistema eléctrico y de plomería. En el comedor, se quitaron las vigas y los paneles de madera para elevar el techo y **dejar entrar más luz natural en el espacio**. <u>En la sala –adornada con dos tonalidades</u> de Farrow & Ball– se descubre una paleta minimalista con un sofá de cuero brasileño y sillas con una tela color olivo.

Los propietarios querían un espacio adicional para recibir a sus invitados y para tener una oficina por lo que la planta superior tiene esta función. En todos los espacios, se descubren piezas de varios estilos (mid-century y vintage por ejemplo), así como antigüedades que provienen de tiendas locales. Con mucho carácter, esta casa histórica reinventada es acogedora. Algunos elementos son más rústicos y otros más refinados. Algunos detalles hacen referencia al pasado y otros son contemporáneos. Gracias a su experiencia y visión para este proyecto, los miembros de Hendricks Churchill alcanzaron un resultado cozy que da ganas de quedarse.

