

Hendricks Churchill

AD

This Historic Vermont Seminary Is Now a One-of-a-Kind Hotel

Blending preservation with creature comforts, the new hospitality venture Place in Mind trains its enlightened gaze on buildings in need

By Sam Cochran
Photography by Place in Mind
July 13, 2026



Hendricks Churchill

At the heart of Old Bennington, [Vermont](#), a handsome residence has lived many lives. Built in 1829 as a seminary, the Colonial-style edifice went on to become a country club, then faculty housing for nearby Bennington College, and later a private home, remaining in the same family's care for some six decades. It was this colorful and layered past that attracted architect Rafe Churchill to the property, which he has converted into pastoral lodgings as part of a new hospitality and preservation venture [Place in Mind](#), cofounded with Casey Sunderland.



Soft-launched in late May, The Seminary offers a unique travel experience—not as slick as a boutique hotel nor as dusty as a traditional bed and breakfast. “It’s supposed to feel like you’re walking into the home of your eccentric aunt,” Churchill notes. “We want people to enter the space as one person and, inspired, leave another.” In the years to come, the address will be joined by its neighbor The Walloomsac, a former inn, built in 1771, which will comprise more than 40 guest rooms, a restaurant, a spa, and a bathhouse.

Hendricks Churchill



It all began as a way for Churchill, cofounder of the AD PRO Directory design studio [Hendricks Churchill](#), to give back to Bennington, his alma mater. Purchasing the seminary structure in 2025, he imagined somewhere to host trustees, alumni, visiting parents, and prospective students—a calling card for his own transformative college experience. But his ambitions grew. Finding himself at a professional crossroads, unsure whether to retire or pivot, Churchill realized that he, a hands-on historicist with decades of experience rehabbing old houses, could rescue imperiled architecture for a wider audience. “First and foremost, the architecture is the interesting thing,” reflects Churchill. The Place in Mind team, which includes hospitality partner Terry Sanford and brand director Conor Brady, has since touched every inch of The Seminary, though you wouldn’t know it from looking. The five original bedrooms have been converted into proper suites, with cozy bathrooms carved out of the existing footprints of oversize closets. The attic became the showstopping sixth suite, crowned by the bell tower that was re-created according to archival images with the help of Bennington students. Everywhere, floorboards have been refinished, millwork repaired, and details unearthed. “How can we make this house better but not make it obvious we were here?” he muses of the approach. Says Sunderland: “Leaving no mark is just as much work as leaving a big mark.”

Hendricks Churchill





Hendricks Churchill

The overarching design strategy is as personal as it is political. “The world is saturated by Instagram and now artificial intelligence,” says Churchill. “This cursory education fosters poorly thought-out design with a disregard for history. It’s hurting the next generation of designers and hurting these buildings.” If Place in Mind proposes an antidote, it also disrupts the usual hotel business models, eschewing a heads-in-beds mandate for something deeply idiosyncratic. Going forward, the team is eyeing historic properties in other creative pockets of New England and beyond. “I am excited for the world to experience Rafe and Casey’s vision of an American brand rooted in our country’s extraordinary but often forgotten architecture,” says Sanford. It will all keep Churchill busy. As he notes: “Retiring is no longer an option for me.”

Hendricks Churchill

Carte da parati fiorite e colori vibranti portano la primavera dentro a questo appartamento a New York

Le pareti di questo appartamento nell'Upper East Side, progettato dallo studio newyorkese Hendricks Churchill, fioriscono grazie a carte da parati audaci e colori brillanti

By di Olivia Fincato
Photography by Chris Mottalini
April 18, 2025



I colori dei fiori animano le carte da parati di questo appartamento New York.

Carte da parati floreali ed esotiche trasformano un appartamento nel cuore di Carnegie Hill, quartiere dell'Upper East Side affacciato sulla Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Reservoir a Central Park.

Una giovane coppia con tre figli ha affidato allo studio newyorkese Hendricks Churchill il compito di trasformare un appartamento moderno, impersonale, in una casa accogliente, che potesse accogliere i ritmi della vita quotidiana senza rinunciare al carattere. Il risultato è uno spazio misurato, dove l'estetica si intreccia alla funzionalità e dove le pareti coperte da carta da parati esuberanti e tonalità polverose danno il tono alla casa.



Heide Hendricks e Rafe Churchill non si sono limitati a riempire volumi, ma hanno addolcito la linearità dell'architettura con scelte cromatiche calibrate e tessuti caldi. «Il colore unificante di tutto l'appartamento è il rosa», spiega l'interior designer Heide Hendricks. «In diverse tonalità che vanno

dal sottotono rosa più chiaro a un ricco rosa fumé. Abbiamo scelto di collocare tinte più scure nel corridoio centrale, dove si entra dall'ascensore, e di riservare le tonalità più chiare alle stanze in fondo ai corridoi. Questo effetto fa apparire più chiare e luminose le stanze che escono dall'atrio buio. Il soggiorno, invece, è rivestito con un rosa tenue che si estende sulla sala da pranzo. Questa tonalità delicata ha subito reso l'ambiente più accogliente, pur conservando la sua apertura e luminosità. Per bilanciare, abbiamo introdotto una nuance più scura sui battiscopa, creando un ancoraggio visivo che radica il colore etereo vicino alle sedute.

Il soggiorno, un abbraccio cromatico che scalda, senza imporsi.



Per dare l'impressione che le stanze siano state assemblate con amore nel corso del tempo, abbiamo incorporato una miscela eclettica di stili di arredamento, dal Mid Century a raffinati pezzi d'antiquariato», continua Hendricks. «Strati tattili di tappeti e tessuti dialogano con gli elementi d'arredo, creando ambienti di calore e comfort che fondono armoniosamente colore e pattern. Sapendo che la giovane famiglia avrebbe trascorso la maggior parte del tempo nel soggiorno, volevamo essere certi che gli elementi d'arredo fossero funzionali e duraturi. I pezzi, sia contemporanei che antichi, sono stati selezionati con questi obiettivi.



Lo stesso approccio si ritrova in cucina e nella sala da pranzo, dove le superfici rivestite dettano il ritmo. Una carta da parati a motivi di fragole disegnata ad hoc si arrampica sulle pareti, mentre 100bille vintage e luci ben dosate definiscono l'atmosfera. «La carta da parati per la cucina di Jennifer Shorto è stata una delle prime decisioni che abbiamo preso e ha influenzato la palette in tutta la casa», spiega l'interior designer, «culminando in un rosa più saturo che si trova nelle fragole e in un arancione vibrante.



Abbiamo presentato l'opzione come un tocco per animare la cucina monocromatica. La carta è poi diventata l'ispirazione per carte da parati botaniche colorate in tutte le stanze che si aprono l'una sull'altra: la cucina, la sala da pranzo e l'angolo colazione.



Ogni stanza ha un rivestimento unico che parla di chi la abita o dell'attività in quello spazio, ma agisce anche come isolante, sia per il suono che per l'isolamento», aggiunge Heide Hendricks. «Per esempio, le pareti della camera dei bambini sono rivestite con il tessuto Josef Frank, le pareti dello studio sono avvolte da un rivestimento in legno tamburato e la camera da letto principale è avvolta da un motivo Chinoiserie di Gucci. Ogni stanza è un bozzolo che favorisce il ritiro in quello spazio.



Nella suite principale la scenografia è ancor più vibrante: la carta da parati di Gucci ispirata ai paesaggi orientali dialoga con tende morbide e colori naturali, senza perdere di vista l'equilibrio. E nella stanza delle figlie, il tessuto di Josef Frank sulla parete di fondo diventa un gesto chiaro, grafico, senza troppi fronzoli. Hendricks e Churchill firmano così un progetto che rifugge l'ostentazione e abbraccia il comfort, con pareti che non restano in silenzio, ma sussurrano una visione gioiosa del vivere insieme.

Hendricks Churchill

AD

Tour a Pound Ridge Retreat Revived From a Crumbling Property

A dynamic team of designers and craftspeople transformed this countryside lot into a character-filled family home

By Elizabeth Fazzare
Photography by Stephen Kent Johnson
Styling by Colin King
February 17, 2025



Hendricks Churchill

In 2020, when Jamie Hammel toured a countryside lot in Pound Ridge, New York, about an hour's drive from his family's primary residence in Brooklyn, he found something that drew him in. Dotted with birch, magnolia, pine, and ash trees, the Westchester County property included "original stacked stone walls reminiscent of a New England farm that really spoke to me," a "modest farmhouse," and a pair of "shingled barns from the 1850s that had been connected in some very crude, rudimentary way," describes Hammel, a father of two and founder of the Hudson Company, a hardwood specialist whose mill is in Pine Plains, New York. "The rooflines of these buildings were a total eyesore, but the property was really special," he adds.

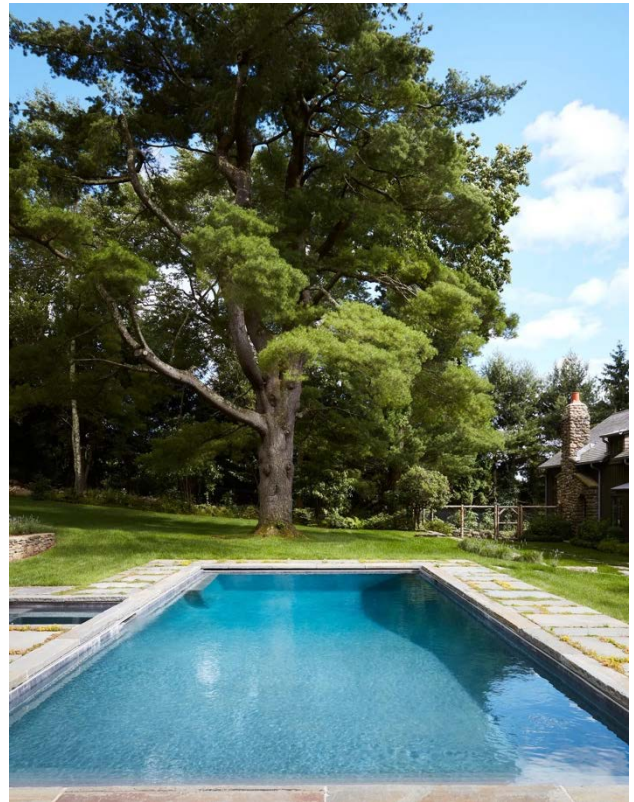
Architect Rafe Churchill advised him not to purchase it. "It's got five generations of renovations. I could see that there was going to be rot, and that the framing is going to be very iffy because it wasn't done by top-notch builders," recalls the principal of Sharon, Connecticut-based and AD PRO Directory firm Hendricks Churchill. In the end, Hammel's nostalgic feeling won out. That summer, he, his wife, Lizzie, and their family began spending time at the historic hodgepodge residence, a halfway point between the mill and their home base in the city, knowing it would need an update eventually.

"The vision was to make this a Hudson Company renovation," says Hammel. However, after a year living with the home's questionable plumbing and patchy insulation, "it was clear that we needed to assemble a team of true experts." Tasked with transforming the multiple structures into a well-organized house, Hammel engaged two other longtime collaborators for the project in addition to Churchill: designer Brad Ford and builder Ralph Riccio of Greenfield Hill Builders.



Hendricks Churchill

To optimize the now 5,500-square-foot layout, Churchill demolished a dangerous secondary stair, freeing the hayloft level to become the generous primary suite, where Hammel extended original timber barn framing with reclaimed sawn softwood beams. Here, Ford balanced a geometric Apparatus pendant overhead with handcrafted furnishings by Sawkille Co. and Dos Gallos, and a wool rug by Kravet.



Other architectural changes included opening up the cramped guest suite, adding part of a new foundation, and jackhammering down into the lower level to increase its head room by several inches. Extending the roofline of one of the barns gave the piecemeal home a dominant volume, defined by new board-and-batten siding, made of durable Western Red cedar painted Benjamin Moore's brown-gray Dragon's Breath.

Hendricks Churchill



Hendricks Churchill

As would only be appropriate, the Hudson Company designed and sourced all the wood surfaces and flooring in Hammel's home, taking extreme care to match existing antique character with reclaimed timbers. Underfoot on the entire first floor and up the new stair treads is antique Heart pine, salvaged by the Hudson Company from the 1891 Terminal Warehouse in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood. Laid in a parallel pattern interrupted by a single plank border, the wood features its original patina and saw curve marks, and a gentle soap finish. "We make about 700 floors a year and I can honestly and humbly say this is among the nicest floors we've ever made," notes Hammel.



Hendricks Churchill



To complement it, the interior walls are finished in a subtly textured plaster. This neutral backdrop allows Ford's furnishings a bit more visual freedom. "We really thought about each piece and wanted it to feel much more curated and collected as opposed to decorated," says the New York-based designer who focused his sourcing on quality craftsmanship. Thus, work by local makers including Michael Robbins, Adam Otlewski, and Jonathan Kline mixes with vintage pieces and family heirlooms like the kitchen's wood dining table, which once stood in Hammel's childhood home in Reading, Pennsylvania.

"The house has a real sense of place and authenticity about it," says Ford. "I wanted to build on that, rather than compete with it."

Hendricks Churchill



AD

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



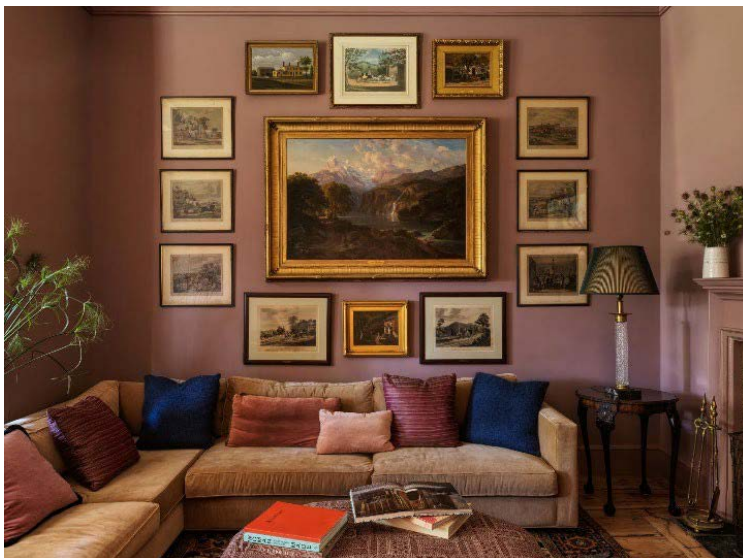
After completing work on a historic property, perhaps there is no greater honor for a design firm than the *just* reaction. Did they *just* paint the walls? *just* move the furniture around? “When you look at our photos, you’re wondering, Geez, what did you even do?” says Rafe Churchill, cofounder and 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.

Hendricks Churchill

The firm, who will have a book of their work out this fall from Rizzoli, 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.”

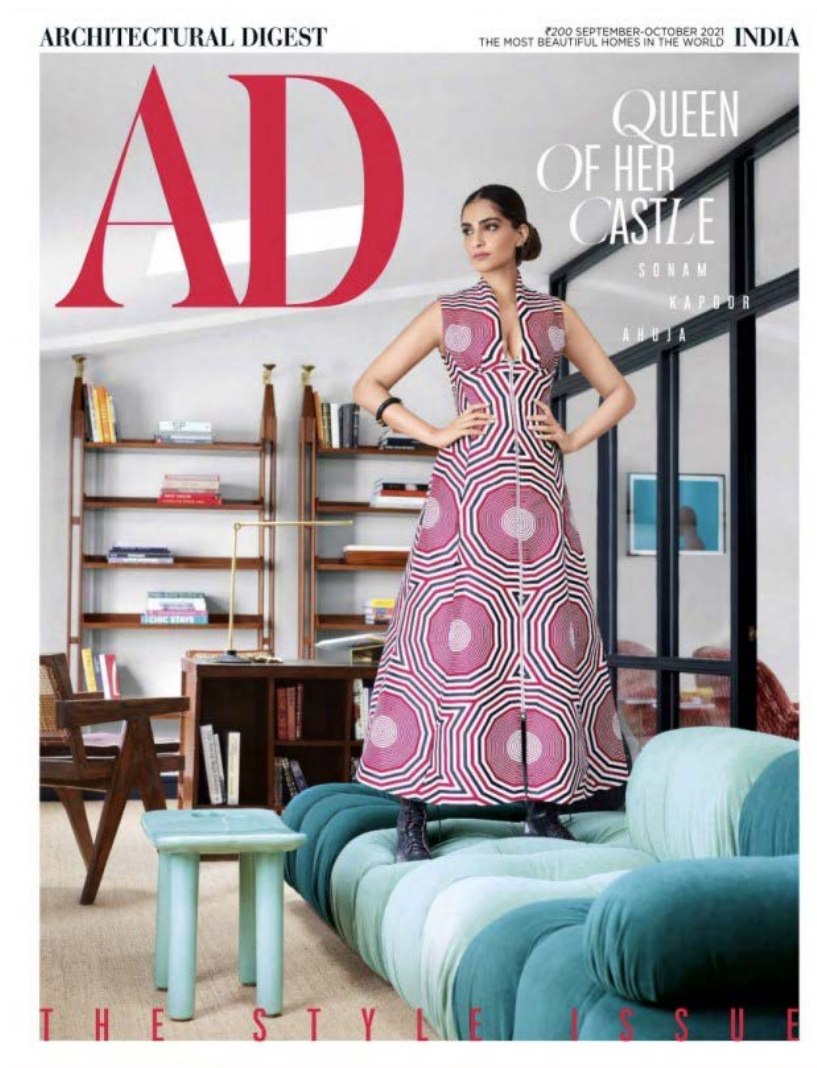
Hendricks Churchill

AD

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



EVA CHEN

THE SARTORIAL
SENSATION AND INSTAGRAM
FAVOURITE UPDATES A CONNECTICUT
HOME FOR HER GROWING FAMILY—AND
DISCOVERS SHE'S A COUNTRY GIRL AFTER ALL

WRITER SAM COCHRAN PHOTOGRAPHER CHRIS MOTTALINI STYLIST DORCIA KELLY PRODUCER JANE KELTNER DE VALLE





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.





The dining room is decorated with wallpaper from Antoinette Poisson, an Apparatus ceiling light, and table and chairs by D&G Studio. Facing page, top: The Nelson thin-edge bed is from Design Within Reach. Facing page, bottom: The attic play area features a B&B Italia Camaleonda sectional sofa; the wallpaper is by Fayce Textiles.





The artwork above the couple's Lawson-Fenning bed is an estate-sale find.

T

he algorithm doesn't lie. Slowly but surely, the Explore grid on Eva Chen's Instagram feed morphed from shoes, bags, and beauty serums into ceramics, mirrors, and house tours. Meanwhile, words like patina and names like Paul McCobb began to pepper her conversations and thoughts. All signs pointed to her latest project: the renovation of a Connecticut country home for her young family.

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.

"We fell in love with the quietness and with the landscape, which was wild and not groomed to perfection," she says, adding that, with two young kids, Ren and Tao, "We needed a break from the weekend birthday-party, playground, park-sprinkler grind." (The couple recently welcomed their third, River.) After a search that Chen, also a celebrated children's book author, likens to the story of Goldilocks, they fell in love with a contemporary Cape Cod house on nearly 10 untamed acres of land. "Some homes were too big, some were too small, but this one felt immediately right," she recalls of its 2,800 square feet. "The bones were good. The energy was good. I could tell another family had been happy here."

At the recommendation of their real-estate agent and friends, the couple enlisted the Connecticut-based design firm Hendricks Churchill to update

the home. "I introduced myself over DM, my primary form of communication," Chen jokes. "Heide [Hendricks] and Rafe [Churchill] really understood how to unlock the potential of the house, to make it warm and elegant and not too precious."

Down came a wall, opening up the living room to allow for several seating areas, with ample space for Ren and Tao to build forts while mom and dad, both avid readers, bury their noses in books. In the kitchen, the removal of partitions yielded an equally multipurpose space, with a dining area, fireplace, window seat, and new beadboard walls that satisfied Chen's call for cosiness. And the conversion of the attached garage into a bedroom anticipated visits from her parents, now regular guests. Throughout the home, meanwhile, Hendricks Churchill updated windows, details, and finishes for optimal light and visual cohesion.

"Our goal was not to reinvent the house but to make it work better," notes Churchill. Adds Hendricks: "It all just sort of flows." She also worked hand in hand with the couple to furnish the rooms, pulling together sturdy, stylish pieces that could withstand the rhythms of their rowdy brood. Some come from showrooms Chen has long admired—places like Plain English, ABC Carpet & Home, and Apparatus. Others were sourced at estate sales or Reservoir, Hendricks Churchill's own trove of antique treasures. And many were online discoveries, from artworks seen on Tappan Collective to vintage finds on Etsy and 1stDibs. "I've always loved the thrill of the hunt," Chen notes.

Since the family moved into the home in the summer of 2020, the slog of urban parenting has given way to long, happy country days, as Ren and Tao splash around the pond and survey the grounds, looking for newts, dragonflies, geese, turtles, and bunnies. "Losing structure has been the greatest gift," says Chen. "I never thought I'd be that person in gardening clogs." ■



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 *pátinay* 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 una persona que usaría zapatos de jardinería”.

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AD

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



get clever

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WARM IT UP
"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

CENTER YOURSELF
"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

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

FINISHING TOUCHES
"IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME THAT WE SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES," SHE REFLECTS. CASE IN POINT: THE RUNNER SHE FOUND ON INSTAGRAM FROM COLLIER WEST, A BROOKLYN SHOP. COLLIERWEST.COM

RENOVATION AND DIY INSPIRATION FROM THE ISSUE

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. We've outlined her recipe....

Hendricks Churchill

AD

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



THE BEST IN SHOPPING, DESIGN, AND STYLE EDITED BY SAM COCHRAN

DISCOVERIES

AD VISITS

If the Shoe Fits

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

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

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

ARCHDIGEST.COM 25

DISCOVERIES

The algorithm doesn't lie. Slowly but surely, the Explore grid on Eva Chen's Instagram feed morphed from shoes, bags, and beauty serums into ceramics, mirrors, and house tours. Meanwhile, words like *patina* and names like Paul McCobb began to pepper her conversations and thoughts. All signs pointed to her latest project: the renovation of a Connecticut country home for her young family.

For Chen, a born-and-raised New Yorker and sartorial superstar who now works as Instagram's Director of Fashion and Shopping Partnerships, these newfound 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.

"We fell in love with the quietness and with the landscape, which was wild and not groomed to perfection," she says, adding that, with two young kids, Ren and Tao, "we needed a break from the weekend birthday-party, playground, park-sprinkler grind." (The couple recently welcomed their third, River.) After a search that Chen, also a celebrated children's-book author, likens to the story of Goldilocks, they fell in love with a contemporary Cape Cod house on nearly 10 untamed acres of land. "Some homes were too big, some were too small, but this one felt immediately right," she recalls of its 2,800 square feet. "The bones were good. The energy was good. I could tell another family had been happy here."



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 LAWSON-FENNING SOFA, STONE AND SAWYER TABLE LAMPS, VITSOE SHELVES, AND A WORKSTEAD GLOBE LIGHT.



DISCOVERIES



1. ABOVE THE COUPLE'S LAWSON-FENNING BED IS AN ESTATE-SALE FIND. 2. THE KITCHEN'S PLAIN ENGLISH ISLAND, BERTAZZONI RANGE, AND WORKSTEAD PENDANTS; PAINT BY BENJAMIN MOORE. 3. A B&B ITALIA CAMALEONDA SECTIONAL AND FAYCE TEXTILES WALLPAPER IN THE ATTIC PLAY AREA. 4. NELSON THIN EDGE BED FROM DESIGN WITHIN REACH.



32 ARCHDIGEST.COM

At the recommendation of their real-estate agent and friends, the couple enlisted the Connecticut-based design firm Hendricks Churchill to update the home. "I introduced myself over DM, my primary form of communication," Chen jokes. "Heide [Hendricks] and Rafe [Churchill] really understood how to unlock the potential of the house, to make it warm and elegant and not too precious."

Down came a wall, opening up the living room to allow for several seating areas, with ample space for Ren and Tao to build forts while mom and dad, both avid readers, bury their noses in books. In the kitchen, the removal of partitions yielded an equally multipurpose space, with a dining area, fireplace, window seat, and new beadboard walls that satisfied Chen's call for coziness. And the conversion of the attached garage into a bedroom anticipated visits from her parents, now regular guests. Throughout the home, meanwhile, Hendricks Churchill updated windows, details, and finishes for optimal light and visual cohesion.

"Our goal was not to reinvent the house but to make it work better," notes Churchill. Adds Hendricks: "It all just sort of flows." She also worked hand in hand with the couple to furnish the rooms, pulling together sturdy, stylish pieces that could withstand the rhythms of their rowdy brood. Some come from showrooms Chen has long admired, places like Plain English, ABC Carpet & Home, and Apparatus. Others were sourced at estate sales or Reservoir, Hendricks Churchill's own trove of antique treasures. And many were online discoveries, from artworks seen on Tappan Collective to vintage finds on Etsy and 1stDibs. "I've always loved the thrill of the hunt," Chen notes.

Since the family moved into the home in the summer of 2020, the slog of urban parenting has given way to long, happy country days, as Ren and Tao splash around the pond and survey the grounds, looking for newts, dragonflies, geese, turtles, and bunnies. "Losing structure has been the greatest gift," says Chen. "I never thought I'd be that person in gardening clogs."

—SAM COCHRAN

Hendricks Churchill

AD

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
August 10, 2021



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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



Hendricks Churchill

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



Hendricks Churchill

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 ADdecorative 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



28 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**. En la sala –adornada con dos tonalidades 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.

