

Hendricks Churchill

# Livingetc

## Inside Eva Chen's Connecticut cottage that's a multigenerational home packed with color and character

*Instagram's head of fashion has bought and renovated a country abode to fit her growing family. skillfully designed by Hendricks Churchill*

By Rachel Christie  
Photographs By Chris Mottalini  
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Effortlessly glamorous with three gorgeous kids, Eva Chen is the head of fashion at Instagram and a children's book author. After she visited the Troutbeck in Amenia, New York she fell in love with the area. When Eva found her Connecticut cottage her agent recommended Hendricks Churchill and the relationship with Heide and Rafe blossomed over the social media app.

Well versed in historical renovations, Rafe Churchill led the transformation of the home which entailed opening up the first floor, expanding the living room and overhauling the kitchen while integrating key features such as a Plain English work table and a Bertazzoni range.

Heide Hendricks thoughtfully selected each piece of furniture to create a comfortable and eclectic home for the family, who welcomed its third child, River, in May. As an author and lover of books, various reading nooks were incorporated throughout the home, from the window seat in the living room to the B&B Italia Camaleonda sofa in the upstairs guest room. An eat-in kitchen and a dining room dressed in Antoinette Poisson wallpaper provide the family with flexibility away from Eva's Manhattan residence.

Designer Heide talks to us about briefs, design decisions, and how the family use their modern home...

Sunlight streams through this open-plan living room with several different seating nooks.



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### HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE PROJECT?

'Eva Chen visited the Troutbeck in Amenia, New York, and fell in love with the area,' says Heide. 'When she found this home, her real estate agent recommended Hendricks Churchill and my relationship with her blossomed over Instagram.'

### WHAT WAS YOUR BRIEF?

'Eva is a born-and-raised New Yorker who fell in love with the quiet and landscape while visiting Upstate. Her husband, Tom Bannister, is a native of England and this area very much feels like the English countryside,' Heide says.

'After settling on a contemporary Cape Cod house with nearly ten acres of land, we were tasked with unlocking the potential of the home for Eva's growing family who welcomed their third child, River, in May 2021,' she adds. 'The house was built in the 1980s and had good bones, but was not quite ready for daily family living.'

Traditional floral wallpaper wraps around this beautiful dining room, conjuring up images of times gone by. Black furniture and modern dining room lighting ties in with the black frames of the windows. Modern and traditional ideas merge confidently in this space.

### WHAT WAS YOUR ANSWER TO THE CLIENT'S BRIEF?

'The house went through a renovation which opened up the living room and kitchen, and converted the garage into a guest bedroom and additional play area,' explains Heide. 'Eva, also an author of children's books, requested lots of reading nooks. We arranged furniture in cozy vignettes throughout the larger living spaces to provide these intimate places to curl up and read a book.'

'Used to living in a New York City apartment, a main priority given the space within the home was creating sight-lines,' she adds. 'Eva and her husband can be standing in one room with the ability to keep an eye on the kids in the next.'

A soft blue-gray tone on the woodwork lifts the staircase out of the ordinary. Staircase decorating ideas can be hard to come up with, but a lick of paint goes a long way.

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE CERTAIN MATERIALS?

'We pulled stylish yet sturdy pieces for the home,' explains Heide. 'Matching Eva's aesthetic and fashion background was important for the design while being mindful of the durability needed for young children.'

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Now here's a classic kitchen that feels totally current. Rustic farmhouse kitchen ideas are gaining in popularity even for the most modern interiors lovers - the colors and materials all contribute to making a heritage look feel contemporary.

### WHAT CLEVER DESIGN IDEAS WERE NEEDED TO RENOVATE THE PROPERTY?

'Converting the attached garage gave the home so many possibilities. This became a guest room, frequently used by Eva's parents,' explains Heide. 'Above, is a playroom that doubles as an additional guest room providing the extended family with lots of flexibility. A key to making a new house feel like an old house is to enlarge openings between rooms rather than eliminating the passageways altogether.'

### WHAT INSPIRED YOU AND WHERE DOES YOUR INSPIRATION COME FROM?

'I get a lot of my color palette inspiration from paintings by Renaissance masters and I stay current by admiring the work of other designers,' says Heide.

'Eva unsurprisingly found a lot of inspiration through Instagram. We would text each other photos and knowing she was drawn to our pared-back style, we made this home feel like it had really been settled in for quite some time,' she says.

'Unlike some of our other projects, Eva brought her relationships with multiple vendors to the table and was able to introduce us to their designs,' says Heide. 'We were inspired to blend more contemporary pieces within the eclectic interiors than we typically do.'

### HOW DID YOU WORK WITH THE CLIENT?

'We were constantly texting each other photos and spent plenty of time talking through decisions of art and antiques,' she says. 'The project developed just before the world changed, so while we started out with in-person meetings and design presentations, we eventually shifted to lots of Zoom and screen sharing. Our most exciting work happened around midnight over DM.'

### WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THIS PROJECT?

'The house has a pared-down color palette of tonal shades of blues, grays, and violets. This allows the mix of modern and contemporary art to really pop. There is nothing like art to make a home feel more personal and vibrant,' says Heide.

'The way the house had been previously landscaped makes it feel like a European cottage,' she says. 'We played up this charm and were inspired by the setting overlooking a man-made pond.'

A classic pedestal basin sits next to a sleek modern shower and both look completely at home. Whether you're after modern bathroom ideas or something more traditional, this proves you can have both!

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HOW DO THE FAMILY SPEND THEIR TIME IN THE HOUSE?

'We love the home for many reasons, but mainly because it is a multigenerational home,' she says. 'The family spends their time reading, writing, and gardening and this was a fun assignment to fulfill. Frequenting the home on weekends. Eva's parents visit and stay regularly making it a really special place for their extended family to come together.'

A cool kid's bedroom idea that'll last for years to come. A kid's room doesn't have to be childish after all...

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## Design Project: Explore a 1920s-era riverside Connecticut home with relaxed, farmhouse interiors

*This dreamy riverside Connecticut home features an enviable garden and rustic country interiors by design firm Hendricks Churchill*

By Lotte Brouwer

Photos By Tim Lenz

December 22, 2020, Last Updated February 8, 2021





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### THE PROPERTY

This 1920s modern home for a family in Weston, Connecticut, affectionately known as “Riverside,” was brought to life by Heide Hendricks of Connecticut-based architecture and interiors firm Hendricks Churchill.

When the homeowners first laid eyes on the 1920s-era Riverside Connecticut home, they knew it had to be theirs. Hendricks’ design incorporates treasured antiques and heirlooms of the homeowners as well as new finds from sources like 1stDibs, all while complementing the architectural work of Albert, Righter and Tittmann.

### ENTRANCE

The homeowners emphasised wanting to incorporate their collected items into the design of their home to make it truly feel like their own space. Antiques and keepsakes, including some dating back to the early 1900s, can be found throughout the house. Hendricks felt it was important to inventory the homeowners’ cherished family keepsakes in order to make the home feel authentic.

### BREAKFAST NOOK

One of Hendricks’ first decisions was to create a breakfast nook out of a window-clad corner of the sunroom in order for family breakfasts to feel like a serene start to the day.

### DINING ROOM

A more formal dining space can be found next door, connected to the white kitchen beyond.

Hendricks felt inclined to use pale and nuanced paint colours by Farrow & Ball to set the tone for the space, while making sure not to overpower the natural elements around it. She also added a custom walnut table from Get Back Inc. with one-of-a-kind vintage chairs.

### LIVING ROOM

Every piece of furniture for this project was thoughtfully selected and curated in a comfortable and eclectic way to look as though they were accumulated over time. Pieces from Hammertown Barn, Fibreworks, and vintage finds from 1stdibs are woven in with existing items.

Josh Graham window treatments, FibreWorks carpeting, and Circa Lighting pieces can be found all throughout the home.

There’s a tucked away corner that makes the perfect desk space, with garden views.

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### HOME OFFICE

There's also a seriously chic home office, with a bold, monochrome scheme.

At the other end of the office is a seating area with a hunting lodge feel.

### BASEMENT TV DEN

The basement also served as a point of inspiration for Hendricks. She envisioned the area to be a comfortable and casual media room, despite the low ceiling heights.

The den features artwork by Bryan Nash Gill as well as a vintage Hans Wegener rocking chair. Every piece of furniture was thoughtfully selected and curated right down to each pillowcase.

### BASEMENT HOME BAR

Now, this basement-turned-den has become one of the homeowners' favourite gathering and entertaining spots due to the lacquered ceiling and hideaway home bar with a dutch door.

### MASTER BEDROOM

The master bedroom represents a calm place, with blue walls to make the room more compelling, framing the river outside.



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The custom-made bed is upholstered with Morris & Co fabric.

### GUEST BEDROOM

With the guest bedroom being a smaller and darker space, Hendricks decided to embrace its cosiness by using a darker wall colour and placing two twin beds with an antique rug.

An alcove window was transformed into a cosy window seat.

### GARDEN

The riverfront garden features a fire pit – perfect for roasting marshmallows...

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## Design Project: Explore a rustic farmhouse with a refreshingly modern take on colour

*This rustic farmhouse features a bold colour palette, and bags of country charm and traditional detailing – you'd never guess that it is actually a new-build...*

By Lotte Brouwer

Photographs By Amanda Kirkpatrick

July 27, 2020, Last Updated February 18, 2021



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### THE PROPERTY

This rustic farmhouse in Connecticut is actually a new-build modern home, crafted from start-to-finish by Hendricks Churchill. The home mixes traditional details and Shaker-inspired colours with modern amenities and an up-to-date kitchen. Antique wood furniture pieces and vintage artworks complement the traditional aesthetic while the sparse placement gives it a minimalist vibe. The result is a truly calming country respite.

The rustic farmhouse embodies Hendricks Churchill's typical, hallmark style: Run by a couple of creatives, interior designer Heide Hendricks and creative director Rafe Churchill, the firm creates traditional living spaces infused with modern touches and careful curation of colour. Each project undertaken by Heide and Rafe is a journey of transformation defined by a shared desire to develop spaces with beauty, comfort and individual character. Children of the arts, the couple has been married for 25 years and are heavily influenced by their upbringing and residence in Williamsburg in the 90s.

### FRONT PORCH

The house is entered through a front porch or sun room, which is the perfect covered spot for people watching, and for enjoying the property's views and sunsets.

The yellow from the exterior cladding wraps around this space, making it feel sunny even on dreary days.

### HALLWAY

Enter through a sunshine yellow front porch and you'll find yourself in the main hallway. Here, the grey paint colour on the stairs is tied in with the skirting, door frames and even the cornice, framing the room's features.

The doorless door frames in the hallway frame vignettes into other rooms, like the sunshine yellow kitchen.

### LIVING ROOM

Farrow & Ball's Folly Green sets the tone in the living room, where wood-panelled walls and built-in shelving and drawers all give this room an aged, historic look. It's a far cry from your stereotypical new-build property.

The green gives this space an uplifting energy, while also highlighting the detailing in the woodwork. The same colour was applied to the window frames that peer into the sunny front porch, and the cornice that wraps around the room, tying the scheme together.

### KITCHEN

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The yellow paint colour (Farrow & Ball's Babouche) in the kitchen isn't confined to just the kitchen island and cabinetry, the colour wraps around the window frames, door frames, skirting and cornice.

A black marble sink, black marble worktop and matching splash-back break up the scheme, and complement the steel framed windows.



### DINING ROOM

The yellow carries through to a country-style dining room, modernised with a Flos pendant.

### LANDING

Up the grey stairs is a serene landing area, with windows and doors wrapped in a ribbon of grey paint. An antique table, country pendant light, white painted floorboards and vintage-style lace curtain all add to the rustic farmhouse aesthetic.

### BEDROOM

Bedrooms were given a different palette, with warmer woods contrasting Farrow & Ball's Theresa's Green – a very pale cool green.