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LIGHTEN UP!

LOVE AT FIRST SHIMMER

BY DAVID MASELLO | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JANE BEILES

A couple bought their Westport house sight unseen—the **in-real-life experience** confirmed it a win

Falling in love with a house is much akin to falling in love with a person. You remember the smallest details, the briefest moments that led to such feelings. Prior to officially owning this Westport house—having bid on it sight unseen during the pandemic—the homeowner recalls going inside with her husband. “We walked into the living room, and when I looked up to the ceiling and saw the eggshell of the paint and the wooden beams, the water from the pool outside was reflecting onto the surfaces—it was all shimmering. From that moment, I loved the house.”

While the homeowner well understood her feelings for the house that she would share with her husband and two young children, she knew also that she would need an interior designer to “push me into using more color and a more dynamic design that I might

otherwise not go for.” She commissioned Denise Davies of D2 Interieurs to help make the rooms of the five-bedroom home into spaces infused with color, texture and personality. “Denise’s pushing and my pulling back worked,” she admits. “Denise introduced me to elements I wouldn’t have immediately known were attractive and unique.”

Davies is well known in the industry not only for her designs, but also for the manner in which she gets to know her clients. A questionnaire that Davies hands out to prospective clients seeks answers that are instructive *and* personal. “From the questionnaire, I learned that the client wanted a very subtle palette,” says Davies, “very beige and gray. But as time went on, I opened her up to new possibilities. How do I say this without sounding conceited, but I think I have a way, a



Easy Mornings
In the breakfast area, a Muuto pendant hovers over a Robert James table and CB2 Lisette dining chairs. See Resources.



Making Statements
(CLOCKWISE ACROSS SPREAD FROM OPPOSITE PAGE) The girls' bedroom lounge area features a Rove Concepts sectional complemented by a circular ottoman upholstered in Knoll fabric; the wall art is by Hayley Sheldon. Interior designer Denise Davies on site. An Emma Hayes wallpaper wraps the office walls in a soft cloud pattern in mauve. Allied Maker sconces frame the living room fireplace, while custom sofas designed by Davies flank a coffee table from Arteriors. See Resources.





gift for getting into people's heads and knowing what they want, more so than what they *think* they want."

What Davies and the homeowner both wanted was a cohesiveness among the interior spaces. Every room that Davies designs, on any project, feels finished, with rooms relating seamlessly to one another. While the client needed a home that would be both durable and aesthetically pleasing, she also wanted harmony. "The rooms flow well because of Denise, and you know that just one person put them together." Adds Davies, "As with every project, I try to make every room usable, even the formal living room, which not so many people use any more." Indeed, in this house, during the design process, the homeowner began to refer to her living room as the "book club room," referencing its potential as a place to host her spirited gatherings of like-minded readers.

Adhering to the client's penchant for subtlety and a visual quiet, Davies stuck to softer shades of color, while using mottled metallic wallcovering designs in the girls' bedroom, the dining room and the primary suite. Another key design element that was extant and ever-growing was the homeowner's collection of contemporary art. She had already been working



Signature Pieces
 (CLOCKWISE ACROSS SPREAD FROM OPPOSITE PAGE) Gabriel Scott pendants hang over the kitchen island, which accommodates bar stools from Rove Concepts. A living room seating area is set with custom D2 chairs that use a Mokum fabric, while Made Goods' Cracked Gold side table is both sculptural and practical. Apparatus's Cloud chandelier illuminates the dining room, with custom chairs upholstered in Holly Hunt fabric. See Resources.



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with Andrea Suarez-Barlow, an art consultant and cofounder of Eunoia Modern, purchasing works by a variety of artists, including Jenna Krypella, Hayley Sheldon and Jeremy Holmes. Because the homeowner already owned many works, it was relatively easy to choose ones whose hues subtly reflect Davies's design elements—a fabric work by Krypella whose lavender hues echo the living room furnishings, a woven ash wood wall sculpture by Holmes in the family room that references similarly hued accessories.

And yet, both the client and Davies are in agreement that the art in a home takes precedence over its ability to complement. “Art is personal,” insists Davies, “and people should use what they really love and not try to match anything to the room.” The client adds, “I love art and I know that art relates to, and completes, a home.”

Davies and her team of five—who she insists “really make it all happen every time”—toil so diligently on every project that giving it up at the end can be difficult. “You forget that while designing a home, it's not yours,” notes Davies. “You have the key to go in and out as you wish, but when it's done and the client moves in, it's time to realize it's not your house. But what a good feeling replaces that one when your clients settle in and love what you did.”



Home Retreats
 (CLOCKWISE ACROSS SPREAD FROM TOP) In the family room, Jeremy Holmes' artwork—composed of painted white ash—hangs behind a custom sectional and a multitiered coffee table. Pink prevails in a girl's bedroom, accented with a chandelier from the Light Factory; the custom bed is adorned with a Designers Guild throw; and the artwork by CLoD is through Appleton Art Design. In the primary bedroom, Phillip Jeffries' Bermuda Hemp wallcovering sets the tone for the room, which features a custom bed dressed with Holly Hunt bedding and artwork above the bed by Allyson Monson. See Resources.