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NEW YORK



THE DESIGNER ISSUE

\$5.95 US



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A Bold New Look for a Classic Home

Foley&Cox share their bright and modern design for this new, Old Greenwich home

Story by Venus Vega | Photography by Felipe Bastos



A bright, open space upon entry, surrounded by brightly colored flowers and colorful artwork, contrasts with the dark wood floors and open stairs.



Building and designing the home of your dreams is a process that involves many moving parts and shared roles, so finding a team to understand and execute your vision is definitely a priority. These clients found their dream team at Foley & Cox and worked together with them to design their stunning new home in Old Greenwich, Connecticut. The residence has a simple exterior that is true to the style of the area, but its interior is anything but plain. Incorporating bold artwork, vintage finds and unique lighting elements, the home is truly a reflection of its passionate owners.

Discussing this project with Design + Decor, the team at Foley & Cox brought great insight into the design of this updated and streamlined classic Cape Cod shingle-style home.

The Dream Team

Foley & Cox has been designing extravagant interiors in the U.S. and internationally since 2002. Based in New York City, the design studio has specialized in exclusive residential projects, luxurious yachts and private aircraft interiors. Foley & Cox HOME, launched in 2007, is the firm's first retail venture, offering customers fine European and American antiques and home luxuries from the resources and artisans that the team has identified all over the world. The store also features original Foley & Cox designs in upholstered furniture and a selection of contemporary art and accessories from artisans and exclusive crafters, including Francis Palmer, Henry Dean, Isis Ceramics, Vista Alegre and Arcahorn.



Bright white paint contrasts against darker furnishings and allows for bold lighting and artwork in the cozy family room.





Thoughtfully placed artwork and bench sit outside the entrance to the family room.



This exquisite space boasts unique textures and lighting elements. A clean color palette allows for subtle yet bold pops of color throughout.



Paneled walls with delicate wallpaper add warmth to the dining room, centered around a unique light-wood dining table.





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Foley & Cox designer Michael Cox boasts an impressive résumé in the fields of furniture design and interior architecture, having worked in various home divisions of Polo/Ralph Lauren for 10 years. “The opportunity to create the environment that gives refuge, comfort and revitalization to our clients gives us the greatest satisfaction,” he says of his work at Foley & Cox. “We have the good fortune to develop one of the most important assets for maximum quality of life: the home.”

Adding Character

Creating and maintaining a great relationship with a client, Michael says, is all about open dialogue, collaboration and trust. He had worked with these clients on two previous projects, so he and his team understood their needs and goals and were able to design and complete the project efficiently in less than six months. “We were able to infuse many transformative design details that added layers of interest and charm,” he says.

Staying true to their client’s sense of style, the design team evoked the sense of a welcoming embrace from the moment of entry. They thoughtfully selected colors and materials to highlight the homeowners’ love of entertaining and sharing meals and celebrations with family and friends. Using bold choices in lighting and artwork and a myriad of textures in wall, fabric and floor coverings, the team infused the character and warmth of the clients into the home. “We paired strong, dramatic lighting and artwork with subdued fabrics that allowed space for statement pieces and other focal points,” says Michael. “These include the pair of Yves Klein gold-leaf coffee tables in the living room, a custom scenic mural by Anne Harris on the walls in the dining room, and a plum lacquered powder room.” Another





Custom built-ins, lavish shower, separate soaker tub and a vintage chest complete the master bathroom.

feature that especially pleased the clients is the Philip Jeffries-wrapped master bedroom cocoon. Michael says the homeowners appreciate the sense of sanctuary created through the mixture of luxurious textures and calming monochromatic palette.

Every detail—down to the materials and color palette—was carefully selected to create a harmonious and beautiful home. Custom-designed pieces mixed with vintage and antique finds transformed the new, hollow structure into a cordial, welcoming home that uniquely reflects its owners. Rich woods and warm whites establish a clean backdrop for the colorful art, eclectic furnishings and accessories throughout. To create a delicate balance of light and dark, the team darkened the floors and lightened the walls.

The interior is full of beautiful personal touches and antique finds that offer the fond embrace of a loving home. Details like the vintage map of Italy, which sits proudly in the home office, celebrate the heritage of the homeowners. It was also important to the clients to acknowledge the rich tradition of Greenwich in the home. Pieces like the unexpected find of a vintage leather studded chest-on-stand, situated in the mostly modern bath, bring an appreciation for history to the otherwise modern home—what the team at Foley & Cox has coined, “This is Greenwich now.”

To address the clients’ love for entertaining, the designers gave special attention to the living room: a space that transcends the traditional stiff sitting area. “We loved developing the fairytale-like mural in the dining room with the extremely talented artist Anne Harris,” says Michael. “The ‘serious whimsy’ of the room leads to a nontraditional floor plan that adapts to various entertaining scenarios.”

Having worked with these clients before, the team had a well-established mutual understanding that enabled



Textured walls and dramatic lighting create a dynamic experience in the master bedroom. Thoughtful furniture throughout adds comfort and function. A unique white-and-gold lighting fixture complements the subtle artwork and gentle color palette.



them to channel their energy into creative design and even allow for some risk-taking. This all paid off, as demonstrated by the beautiful and eclectic final design—and the fact that these clients have nothing but appreciation and love for their new home in Old Greenwich.

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