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**Rock Stars** (THIS PAGE) On the front porch, rocking chairs from Grandinroad offer a spot to relax and unwind. **The Long View** (OPPOSITE PAGE) Architect Daniel Frisch expanded the original footprint of the home. See *Resources*.



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# HOME ON THE HILL

A Litchfield County getaway offers a busy Manhattan family a welcoming retreat

BY DAVID MASELLO | PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID MCCAUGHAN

**Casual Sophisticates** (THIS PHOTO) In the living room, a custom-designed sofa and Deco-style armchairs from Kravet flank a Lillian August coffee table. An Arteriors chandelier, made of polished bronze and smoked glass globes, helps illuminate the room. **Landing Zone** (OPPOSITE PAGE) The main staircase landing is furnished with a 1960s Danish armchair and ottoman, upholstered in a linen from Rogers & Goffigon. The vase is through Curated Kravet; the side table is from RH. The painting, *Paysage Cinq*, is by Jane Schmidt through Sorelle Gallery. See *Resources*.



**E**VERY HOUSE has a secret. But one of the secrets of this South Kent residence is in open view for all to see, though it might require some careful looking. “From the start, the homeowner said she loved orange,” says Claudia Kalur, the Washington Depot-based interior designer who created the look of the rooms in this home, “but that her husband doesn’t. She wanted to get as much of the color inside as she could without him noticing.”

Indeed, the homeowner, who works as a corporate strategist, admits, “I love orange because it’s a fun color, has high energy, but my husband just doesn’t love it in the same way.” As Kalur recalls, “We were careful to bring in different accessories with that color but not so many that her husband would object. When the client and I finally chose to put orange outdoor furniture on the front porch, she looked at me and asked, ‘Don’t you think he’s going to notice?’”

He has noticed, but even he is happy with that welcoming accent.

There is much to notice about this house situated atop a grassy hill in Litchfield County. When the couple bought the home as a weekend retreat from their Flatiron loft, they were intent on creating a place that would “feel immediately serene and calm and comfortable,” says the client. “We arrive there usually in the dark on a Friday night, but the moment we wake up on Saturday morning, we feel transported. The rooms are white and bright and filled with sun in a way that our loft in Manhattan isn’t.”



The work on the 1980s house began with a significant demolition of a hodge-podge of additions made over the years. Architect Daniel Frisch had the entire right side of the original house knocked down to make for a far more cohesive architectural addition. "I would call what we created a 'modern farmhouse,'" he says. "It's about clean lines, clean materials. Claudia's work on the interiors was about creating something very real, not some fake country aesthetic. She did all of the furniture and some of the new materials—I liken her to being the 'interiors whisperer.'"

One of Kalur's directives, both from the client and to herself, was to make rooms that could easily accommodate the homeowners' three young children. "They wanted the home to be comfortable and kid-friendly," says Kalur, "but at the same time to be a space used by grownups, who like to host parties and dinners." A key response to that directive was for Frisch to design a massive kitchen island. "I've been in so many homes now that feature an island large enough for a group of people to stand around," says Frisch. "These days, if you have a party of 40 people, 30 are going to wind up staying in the kitchen. The island I designed is a blind admission of how young families live today. Parents of kids like to gather in the kitchen, with their kids, even more so than at the breakfast table."



**Kitchen Cachet** (CLOCKWISE ACROSS SPREAD FROM OPPOSITE PAGE) Frisch designed an extra-large kitchen island, which is painted in Benjamin Moore's Bracken Slate; the tractor stools are from Design Within Reach; the pendants are through Rejuvenation. The breakfast area features a Design Within Reach walnut table and Wishbone chairs; the custom banquette wears a waterproof/stain-proof Kravet fabric; the Visual Comfort pendant is through DesignSourceCT. The kitchen sink boasts a polished chrome Perrin & Rowe Bridge faucet. The backsplash of a distinctive butler's pantry is lined with vintage mirror tiles from Ann Sacks. See Resources.



While Frisch acknowledges a fact of domestic life in the early twenty-first century, Kalur emphasizes, though, that the breakfast area that melds with the expansive kitchen is “where everything ends and starts in the house. The family eats and hangs out there and every time I visited with the client, we’d begin at that table and end up at that table.” That light-filled space is especially welcoming with built-in banquette seating, augmented by sculptural yet comfortable Wishbone chairs.

The client admits to being “particular about every piece of furniture and how it’s oriented in a room,” but she also deferred to Kalur for her vision and expertise. “Claudia masterminded the whole project and sourced everything. She brought in a ton of great ideas that made this home as comfortable as it is.”

Kalur, too, is pleased with her work and notes one of her biggest accomplishments: “The master bedroom needed to be especially calming and soothing, so there’s no orange anywhere in it.” ✨

**True Character** (LEFT) The back hallway features a custom contemporary Windsor bench by Chicone Cabinetmakers. The Missoni striped runner and rug are through Appletree Design Depot. A slice of a fallen cypress tree, made by Matt Faupel of Missouri Nature Art, adorns the wall. **Relax In Style** (TOP) A Wyndham Collection freestanding tub, fitted with a Waterworks tub filler, occupies the master bathroom. **Master Class** (OPPOSITE PAGE) A custom bed, designed by Kalur, is dressed in a light-gray Threads linen. A brushed nickel table lamp by Barbara Barry for Visual Comfort tops a grasscloth-covered nightstand. See *Resources*.

