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WITH LOADS OF STYLE

THE HEART
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THAT
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WEEKEND UPDATE

A redesigned home in the Hudson Valley invites a slower pace for a NYC family.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY KYLE J CALDWELL

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hen Elana Tenenbaum Cline, the founder and creative director of Carta

Creatives in Southport, CT, was tasked with designing the interior of a home in Silo Ridge Field Club, an idyllic 800-acre private resort development in Amenia complete with golf course, sports fields, and hiking, her goal was to transform the new build into a refined and warm weekend retreat.

For the homeowners, who have two young children, Cline's vision hit the bullseye. "One of the things that really stood out to us was her ability to design a space that works perfectly for a family with toddlers," say the homeowners. "She has a keen understanding of practical needs without compromising on style."

This aesthetic is seen throughout the seven-bedroom, six-bathroom home, where Cline selected pieces that are not only stylish but functional for a busy family seeking a respite from a hectic life in New York City.

"The owners bought this house with the intention of spending more time with their children, golfing, and hosting friends," Cline says. "When you have very









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little kids, practicality is important, and they wanted the home to be rooted in the reality of day-to-day life while being presentable and on par with the existing surroundings.”

Finding ways to delineate the home’s vast interior—with sweeping views of the golf course and a shimmering lake—was an opportunity for a completely different vibe from their place in Manhattan.

“The owners’ New York City apartment reflected a more urban sensibility—it’s streamlined, contemporary, and designed for efficiency,” she says. “By contrast this home embraces warmth, comfort, and a strong connection to nature.”

A second home should feel like an escape, Cline says. “When you buy a weekend house, it should feel different from where you live day to day,” she says. “The goal here was to create interiors that feel like a true retreat.”

COZYING UP THE KITCHEN

Since the clients bought the home upon completion—they were simply handed keys to the front door after the house was constructed—Cline came to the project with a blank slate and a chance to design the interior to best reflect the style and taste of the owners.

“The home felt very typical of new construction—spacious but without much character,” she says. “Our goal was to bring architectural depth and a sense of individuality, layering, texture, tone and contrast to create visual movement and warmth,” she says.

This started in the kitchen and set the tone for the entire home. “Its balance of sophistication and warmth became the foundation for every other space,” the designer says. “Once we established that grounding palette and contrast in the kitchen, it guided the flow of materials, finishes, and mood throughout.”

Centering the design around the kitchen made sense, too, since that room flows into the dining room, the great room, and living room, which are all central to the home’s layout. “Everything stems off the kitchen, from the deck to the pool to the front hallway,” says Cline. “The challenge was to make this cozy while having it feel like the grand moment of the house.”

She decided to install plaster cone pendant lighting from Rose Uniacke, a London-based designer, and painted the cabinets in Benjamin Moore Wrought Iron. “The original cabinet color was almost light pink, and it was so whitewashed that it looked like it

belonged in Florida, not the Hudson Valley,” Cline says. “Black felt timeless and grounding. It provides a strong architectural base, allowing the stone, brass, and wood details to really stand out. The marble, with its subtle charcoal veining, adds depth and softness against the cabinetry. Black gives it lasting sophistication,” she adds.

To soften the ceiling plane and diffuse light, Cline’s team applied Roman clay—a matte, lime-based plaster—to the ceiling. “This gives a tactile, enveloping quality that paint alone can’t achieve,” she says. In addition, the team installed box beams, custom designed by Kingston-based North American Furniture Co., that run through the kitchen, dining, and living areas. “The beams add architectural rhythm and help define zones within the open layout, bringing a sense of intimacy to large, connected rooms without breaking the flow,” she says.

She also accessorized the space with a set of four ‘Los Feliz’ swiveling counter stools by Design Frères, upholstered in a performance green velvet, that offer comfort and durability while adding a pop of color to contrast with the black color of the cabinets.

“We love the dialogue between those tones,” she says. “The deep green introduces a natural, earthy energy that keeps the black from feeling too stark. It’s a quiet but impactful pairing—elevated but approachable.”

POWDER ROOM REVAMP

When Cline began planning how to transform the powder room, she envisioned turning the original bright white walls into something more alluring—and chose to hang Arte natural bark cloth wallcovering strategically, including behind the vanity.

“Bathrooms are such intimate spaces—moments where you’re often alone, able to pause and notice details up close,” she says. “The Arte natural bark has incredible depth and tactility—it almost feels as if it were woven by hand. We placed it on the wall behind the sink and toilet to create a focal backdrop that catches light and shadows, drawing the eye without overwhelming the compact space.”

To complement the bark cloth’s earthy terracotta tone, Cline opted to paint the ceiling, trim, remaining walls, and door in Benjamin Moore Fatigue Green. “We picked this rich saturated green to play into the earthiness and local feel of the Hudson Valley,” she says. “I’m all about the feel you get from a room.”

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One of Cline's biggest inspirations came in the great room—located right off the kitchen—boasting floor-to-ceiling windows and breathtaking views of the mountains in the distance.

She installed a triangulated tambour or sliding wooden curtain on either side of the fireplace and stained it to match the ceiling box beams.

The furnishings were all chosen for their sculptural quality and balance of form and comfort. The Hedge House coffee table brings organic warmth through its solid oak craftsmanship, while the Montauk Sofa's clean lines introduce modern simplicity, she says. "It's also notoriously comfortable—perfect for family movie nights or hosting, spacious enough for everyone to pile in."

However, it's the Pietra curved swivel armchair upholstered in a bouclé textured wool blend with leather arms from Studio Marta Manente, a Brazilian fabricator, that add the ultimate pop to the space.

"This is the chair you see when you walk into the house, so we wanted it to be sculptural and wide without feeling too heavy," she says. "It gives the room a soft, tailored look and holds up beautifully in this high-traffic space."

PRIMARY PERFECTION

In the primary bedroom, which boasts a private deck, a four-poster bed from RH was the perfect anchor.

"A four-poster was something the couple had long envisioned for their country retreat," she says. "We added a caned headboard to add warmth and texture—there's a quiet sense of grandeur without it feeling formal. It also helps define the room's height and creates a cozy, architectural envelope—an intimate focal point within the larger, airy space."

An earth-toned area rug from Armadillo, a female-founded sustainable company founded in Australia with a store in SoHo, gives the room a layered, comfortable foundation, grounds the bed, and gives the space both elegance and ease, Cline says.

"The rug adds depth and richness against the dark woods," she says. "It also softens the room, marrying beautifully with the lighter architectural finishes."

To finish the look, Cline opted for a sculptural woven light fixture made from layers of banana fiber from Pinch Design. "It's hard to find a light fixture that has softness to it," she says. "This pendant

introduces subtle texture and a sense of craft—it's elegant and considered, but not precious. Its neutral tone and tailored silhouette strike that balance of refinement without formality, feeling buttoned up but still relaxed.”

KIDS' NIGHT IN

One of the most whimsical rooms in the house is one of the kids' bedrooms, which features a soaring midnight blue ceiling wallpapered in a starry theme called Il Vespro from Zak + Fox—the perfect place to daydream—or host a sleepover.

“This is definitely the room where we had the most fun,” Cline says. “We put tent-like camp beds from Restoration Hardware here so the kids would feel like they're doing an indoor camp-out.”

STAYING POWER

The lower level of this three-story home has 10-foot ceilings which offered unique challenges—and opportunities—for creating a great guest suite complete with its own bathroom.

There are windows in the basement, but they open into a window well since the space sits below grade. “That's why we leaned into mood and texture, using layered lighting like the amber sconces from Schoolhouse and tone-on-tone finishes to make it feel cocooned rather than closed in,” she says. “The result is a place that feels intentional and enveloping, not confined.”

Framing the room with Verdant mural wallpaper from Wallism makes a statement. “With a mural this large, it's nice to make it slightly abstract so you don't feel like you're falling into a movie set,” Cline says. “We did a series of tests and looked at other projects, not only for colorway and palette, but for the slight abstraction of this one and realized that this would work perfectly.” This bold choice had another goal, too: To give guests the feeling of being in a space that's unlike any other.

“When you're staying for the weekend in a room like this, it's nice to leave with a sense of wonder,” Cline says.

In the end, Cline says the most rewarding part of the design was that she was able to transform a newly built house into one with real soul.

“We wanted it to feel layered and lived-in—timeless, warm and deeply personal,” she says. “Every decision we made aimed to balance beauty with function and elegance with ease in order to create a home that feels both considered and comfortably human.”

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