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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

SEPTEMBER
2025

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Time for a style rethink

INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS FOR CHANGING UP YOUR INTERIORS

Countryside
cabin

New-build
villa

Coastal
bungalow

End-of-terrace
cottage

Converted
warehouse



Best of both worlds

Designer Elana Tenenbaum Cline has proved you can create a high-end home that marries quiet luxury with family-friendly credentials

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EXTERIOR

'The owners wanted a place for hosting both large family gatherings and quiet weekends with their young children,' says Elana. Noah outdoor chaise lounge chairs (above), Soho Home

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Contemporary detached house completed in the early 2020s

ROOMS Kitchen-diner/living area, boot room, multipurpose room, playroom, cloakroom, seven bedrooms, six bathrooms

LOCATION Amenia, New York



KITCHEN-DINER

Geometric chairs balance the dramatic black dining table and cabinetry. Six pendants of varying sizes create a stunning focal point above the island.

Serge dining table, Roman and Williams Guild. Jakob dining chairs, RH. Ellis Light Wide, Katy Skelton. Plaster Cone hanging lights, Rose Uniacke. Los Feliz velvet swivelling counter stools, Design Frères

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT? The homeowners, who live in New York City, purchased this house as a weekend residence. They found our design studio, Carta Creatives, through our Yorktown Heights weekend retreat project. With two children, aged three and 18 months, they appreciated our practical approach to designing for young families, ability to work within a clear budget and how we tailored the home's aesthetic to both their personal style and the existing architecture.

WHAT WAS THEIR BRIEF? They wanted a space that felt modern and fresh, yet still rooted in the natural warmth of the Hudson Valley vernacular. They asked for a design that felt high-end and considered, but also durable and family-friendly.

WHAT WERE THEIR BIGGEST PRIORITIES? Their two biggest goals were to fully furnish the home and to

elevate the builder-grade finishes. They wanted it to feel personal, layered and complete from day one. Every selection — from the upholstery to the hardware — needed to balance function with a sense of quiet luxury.

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THE DECORATING SCHEME? The natural materials and rugged elegance of the surrounding landscape played a very important part. We were interested in bringing architectural gravity to the home — mixing clean-lined silhouettes with tactile finishes like wood, stone and Roman clay.

WHICH ROOM WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO THE HOMEOWNERS? The open-plan living area. As the central hub for hosting, relaxing and family time, it connects to nearly every part of the house — opening to the pool deck, anchoring the front entry and offering clear sight lines



LIVING AREA

‘Custom triangular fluted tambour detailing flanks the fireplace, creating a sculptural rhythm,’ says Elana.

Desouk rug, Jaipur Living. Pietra armchair in bouclé fabric with leather arms, Studio Marta Manente

‘Even as rooms shift in function or mood, the design holds together through a shared sense of groundedness and understated elegance’

to all bedroom wings. It needed to do it all: feel expansive yet cosy, elegant yet kid-proof.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

Managing the contrast between day and night lighting across different material tones – especially in the kitchen cabinetry. We transitioned from very light to very dark finishes in key areas, so we had to carefully choreograph material selections, lighting temperatures and sheens to ensure the home felt cohesive and inviting in every lighting condition.

WHAT PROBLEMS DID YOU OVERCOME WITH YOUR DESIGN?

The open-plan layout, while spacious, initially felt generic and lacked architectural rhythm and visual separation. We introduced material variation, textural depth and subtle architectural interventions, like ceiling beams to subtly frame the dining area, layered lighting and crafted furniture.

HOW DID YOU CREATE COHESION THROUGHOUT?

Cohesion was driven through a tight material palette and a focus on tactility and tone. We repeated key elements – fluted textures, warm oak, soft matt black, natural stone – across spaces to create rhythm. We also made deliberate choices around scale and proportion, so everything from the furniture to the lighting felt part of a connected language.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME?

Start with how the home needs to function, not just how it should look. Understand the rhythms of the people who live there. From there, layer in texture, contrast and light to create depth. Don't be afraid to mix high and low, soft and structured. Most importantly: edit! An intentional space feels more luxurious than one filled to the brim. ²⁵

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BATHROOM

To ensure the space remains clutter-free, there's ample storage included within the custom vanity.

Folia scalloped natural linen wall light, Lights & Lamps, is an alternative. Basurto o2 contemporary wooden stool with leather details, 1stDibs



‘The palette and forms are meant to echo the quiet drama of the Hudson Valley – soft, earthy and timeless, but with enough contrast to feel fresh’

MAIN BEDROOM

The standout feature – the contemporary four-poster bed – anchors the simple, pared-back space.

Davos dark oak canopy bed, RH.
Ghost table lamps, Midj. Agra rug in artichoke, Armadillo.
Anders light, Pinch. Morandi handwoven linen cushion covers, Città

BEDROOM

A tailor-made wall mural was chosen to evoke the surrounding landscape.

Verdant mural, Wallism. Dawson beds, Pottery Barn Kids.
Allegheny plug-in sconces, Schoolhouse

