



IDEA FILE

# Great Ideas from the pros

BY MARINA VATAJ



## LANDSCAPE

*Christensen Landscape Services, LLC*  
In Branford Harbor, we love the way the designers at Christensen Landscape Services turned a walkway into a focal point. The seaside path is but one of the updates; an outdoor kitchen is stocked with a grill, sink, granite fieldstone countertops and other amenities. The use of natural materials unites the terrace area with its surroundings—bring on the summer parties and the lazy, warm-weather lounging!  
*Christensen Landscape Services, LLC, Northford, (203) 484-0424, www.christensenlandscape.com.*

The editors of *CTC&G* hand-pick 10 design projects from IDA finalists that inspire—and that we applaud!

## LANDSCAPE *Wilber & King Nurseries*

Talk about architecture and landscape being in sync! The clean bluestone gutters and stone details of this Sheffield Island Harbor home inspired the designers at Wilber & King to model the landscape after The Grey Walls Estate in Scotland. The home's grassy lawns were beautifully structured and styled with weeping hemlock hedges and a weeping copper beech; the other rugged details that hint at Scotland offer extra pop. *Wilber & King Nurseries, Stony Creek, (203) 488-0201, www.wilberandking.com.*



## INTERIOR DESIGN *Morgan Harrison Home*

It's hard to believe this is a home with small children! Yet Michelle Morgan Harrison found the delicate balance between the functional and the chic when designing the family-friendly space. She infused the interiors with durable, useful elements with flair, such as built-in storage cabinets for toys and bright-colored furnishings that are as comfortable as they are pretty. For the final strokes, she used bold punches of color on the walls and ceilings. *Morgan Harrison Home, New Canaan, (203) 554-0941, www.morganharrisonhome.com*

## KITCHEN

### *Vicente-Burin Architects, LLC*

Oh, how we love an all-white kitchen—the splendor, craftsmanship and freshness of this one integrates three rooms in one. A built-in cabinet adds function to more function, offering storage, of course, and separating the kitchen and family room; the breakfast room sits at the end. A beamed ceiling, also painted white, is an interesting architectural detail that ties the spaces together and offers a cottage-like feel. *Vicente-Burin Architects, LLC, Fairfield, (203) 319-9571, www.vbarchitect.com.*



## KITCHEN

### *Austin Patterson Disston Architects*

Finally, a totally un-stuffy and unpretentious home office that everyone will love and use! Set in the kitchen, with rough-hewn white-oak beams and Newport granite, the space provides just the right amount of privacy without missing any of the action. Those prone to procrastination might fall prey to the views—some windows overlook the adjacent family room and others, the Long Island Sound. *Austin Patterson Disston Architects, Southport, (203) 255-4031, and Quogue, NY, (631) 653-1481, www.apdarchitects.com.*

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NEIL LANDING, JR., COURTESY CHRISTENSEN LANDSCAPE; ROBERT GRANT; CHI UBINA; NEIL LANDING, JR.



IDEA FILE

# More Great Ideas for your home, inside and out

## INTERIOR DESIGN

*Daphne Gbriskey of DG Designs*  
Once deemed a “post modern horror” by the homeowners, this house, built in Bedford, NY, in 1984 is now anything but. Without the clean slate of an architectural overhaul, Daphne Gbriskey of DG Designs worked her magic to create classic interiors that will continue to look fresh. The home now basks in contrasting textures, hints of vivid colors, clean lines, beautiful wall coverings and neutral furnishings that offer a sophisticated and timeless feel. *DG Designs, Pound Ridge, NY, (914) 980-7286.*



## ARCHITECTURE *Gray Organschi Architecture*

Thinking outside the box is one of the hallmarks of great design, and the architects certainly did just that to create this outdoor living space. Modular, yet comfortable, the small buildings serve as a cool hangout in summer—complete with sofas, chairs and tables under a folding cloth canopy supported by high-tension aircraft cable (ABOVE). Come winter, the space closes up to store outdoor furniture (TOP) within white cedar lattice screens. *Gray Organschi Architecture, New Haven, (203) 777-7794, www.grayorganschi.com.*



## ARCHITECTURE

*Sean O’Kane, AIA Architect P.C.*  
Instead of saying *phooey* to the original structure of this early 20th-century icehouse, architect Sean O’Kane embraced it, taking pains to preserve portions of it as part of a renovation. Period exterior details include cedar clapboard siding, flush boarding and fieldstone. Other elements—the sunroom’s coffered ceiling or the garage’s stone wall—offer a historic feel to brand-new spaces, while the quarter-sawn white-oak floors and marble lend modernity to a traditional kitchen. *Sean O’Kane, AIA, Ridgefield, (203) 438-4208, www.sokaia.com.*

## BATH *Devin Meenan of Classic Connecticut Homes, LLC*

In this bath, it’s all about an ultra-luxe mix of surfaces: three-dimensional herringbone Carrara marble tiles, a marble mosaic chair rail and an elliptical marble shower opening that matches the window frames. Other soothing details include radiant floor heating, an adjustable rain bar in the shower and a romantic Bain Ultra soaking tub. *Classic Connecticut Homes, LLC, Ridgefield, (203) 438-1736, www.classiccthomes.com.*



## BATH *Gardner Stevens of Ceramic Design Ltd.*

A tight space was no hindrance to the design and functionality of this bath—the clients wanted both a shower and a tub, so Gardner Stevens of Ceramic Design made use of the floor drain and placed one inside the other. Tucked inside the shower area, behind a sleek watertight glass door, is a private tub and a showerhead—perfect for a full shower or a post-soak rinse. Talk about a two-in-one great idea! *Ceramic Design Ltd., Westport, (203) 454-0032, Greenwich, (203) 869-8800, www.ceramicdesignltd.com.*

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BOB CAPUSO, BO. CROCKETT AT GRAY ORGANSCHI ARCHITECTURE, KEITH SCOTT MORTON, OLSEN PHOTOGRAPHIC, SEAN O’KANE