

# CTC&G

Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

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## *Inviting Spaces*



# AVERY & DASH

## COLLECTIONS

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MODERN AND ANTIQUE OBJECTS



CONTRIBUTORS

AS SEEN IN  
**CTC&G**  
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## CTC&G Faces



### Jesse Carrier and Mara Miller

Husband-and-wife team Jesse Carrier and Mara Miller are the principals of Carrier and Company Interiors, a NYC-based firm with an enviable roster of A-list clients. In “Summer Hours” (page 104), the design duo welcomed the challenge to transform a circa 1920s summer camp into a private family compound. **“We’ve always been inspired by projects that are rooted in local history,”** notes the couple.

### Simon Kneen

Simon Kneen’s resume reads like a who’s who of fashion. As the creative force behind iconic brands in the U.S. and abroad, including Brooks Brothers, Gap and Banana Republic, it’s no surprise that Kneen possessed the talent to tackle the interiors of his Washington, CT, home in “House Rules” (page 80), along with his spouse Paolo Secchia—the accessory “guru.”

**“Our Connecticut home is a culmination of high-low things we have collected, edited and added to,”** says Kneen, referring to years living and working abroad in Italy and France.



### Doron Sabag and Jim Hoffman

Speaking to the appeal of their own home in “Life in Balance” (page 96), partners Doron Sabag and Jim Hoffman of SBP Homes concur, **“It’s the combination of a strong modern statement with an underlying traditional foundation.”** The sophisticated simplicity reflects the pair’s edited approach to both architecture and design.

—Mary Fitzgerald



# LIFE IN BALANCE

GEORGIAN COLONIAL  
ON THE OUTSIDE,  
THIS HOME VENTURES  
A BIT MODERN ON  
THE INSIDE

BY EVA HAGBERG FISHER  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE ROSS

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**The Perfect Mix**  
From the outside, this house nestled into 14 acres of Greenwich land feels like it would be right at home in the previous century. Inside, a cautiously modern approach brings the home into “transitional” focus. See Resources.





**Divine Design** The all-white crisply modern kitchen (OPPOSITE PAGE) features Olympian Danby marble countertops from Everest Marble, custom cabinetry by Sterling Custom Cabinetry and a Vintage Modern pendant through John Salibello. In the living room (ABOVE), drapery fabric from Romo brings a visual counterpoint to the muted palette of the B&B Italia sofa, Natuzzi side chairs and Homenature throw pillows. A Sterling Custom Cabinetry coffee table delivers a geometric vibe to the space. **Inside Out** (BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT) The front entry invites the outdoors in through a glass door from All The Details, while a detailed staircase is a nod to the house's Georgian origins. A copper pot sent to the owners from a friend in Italy has appeared in all of their recent projects; here, it anchors a view of the landscape. See *Resources*.

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E'VE LIVED IN CONNECTICUT for 12 years, and this is our fourth home," says Jim Hoffman. The real estate developer and construction company owner is partners in work and life with designer Doron Sabag and renovated

this Greenwich house into a "cautiously modern" space. It makes sense that a design team would end up selling most of the houses they work, but this house, which sits on 14 acres adjacent to 240 acres of Audubon-protected land with sweeping views of a pond, hills and trees, is different. "People have threatened never to come see us again if we move," Hoffman says.

They bought the house after watching it languish on the market for years; their plan was to fix it up, build another house on the property, sell this one, and move into the new one. "Three years later, we're still living in the white house, and haven't done anything with the other land," Hoffman says.

Speaking by phone from Florida, where SBP Homes has a number of projects, Sabag describes his style: "If you give me a crown molding, I will

make it into seven layers." About a project they did for a friend, he says: "Every opportunity, I stuck another crown in between; we had like 50,000 crowns." Hoffman balances things out and is part of the couple's shift toward a more relaxed approach to near-constant renovation. "I don't panic," he says. "I know we'll either live with it, you'll rip it or we'll move." Sabag is similarly relaxed: "Being my own client, I'm not very hard on myself. I might know I'm about to make a mistake, but I like to experience not knowing if my vision is exactly what I imagine. I'll deal with it and move on."

That kind of relaxed attitude is borne of experience. Together, the pair has completed more than 75 design projects of so many different styles that they can afford to treat their own home with a combination of playful experimentation—evidenced in the black-and-white barn/pool house furniture inspired by Dutch design icon Piet Boon, or the plastic chandeliers they've installed in the bedrooms that add a pop of busy texture to the otherwise streamlined space—and a sense of deep history. A massive copper pot that rests just outside one of the entryways was sent to them from a friend in Italy and has made it to every single one of their recent homes.







**Barn Bliss** (CLOCKWISE ACROSS SPREAD FROM TOP LEFT) The renovated barn offers extra gathering space next to the pool. Two Adirondack chairs overlook the rolling landscape. In the barn bathroom, a Lillian August pendant finds a home next to a Lillian August mirror—the industrial-chic aesthetic works in contrast to the classic barn shape and siding. One of the couple's three dogs relaxes on the outdoor furnishings. ABC Home dining chairs and pendants pick up the playfully binary aesthetic of the barn/poolhouse dining space. On the patio, an outdoor dining table from Lillian August and a Cirrus Hugger ceiling fan through Lumens deliver a touch of vintage/industrial to this classic space. See [Resources](#).







**Cubism Light** (THIS PAGE) In the formal dining space, a custom chandelier bring boxy and playful modernism to this refined area furnished with dining chairs from 212Concept and a dining table from the Local Vault. See *Resources*.



They refer to the home's look as "cautiously modern," and the aesthetic as "transitional," somewhere between the Georgian colonial original and a playful-yet-restrained approach to textures and furniture inside. "Everything that jumps out at you when the house is vacant disappears when you start furnishing it," Sabag says of his layered design approach.

The two complement each other well. "You give Jim a choice, he'll paint every room in a different color—I do it white," Sabag says. But they both care about the same things: art, a good home for their three dogs, a seamless connection with the landscape, and a constant sense of permission and experimentation, plus plenty of entertaining space.

"The layout of the house and the barn is great for houseguests and entertaining," says Hoffman. "There's a separate two-room suite over the garage that's great for families that stay over. Doron's brother, his wife and their two young daughters live in the city and are frequent weekend guests.

"We're big cooks," continues Hoffman. "Doron and his brother team up on the weekend, and it seems like we're sitting down to a major meal every few hours—especially in the summer. The back porch is great for long Sunday lunches. And, when the crowd is too big for the house and the weather isn't great, we clear the first floor of the barn, set up a few 10-tops, and we're good to go!" 🌟

**Suite Dreams** (TOP AND RIGHT) In the master bedroom, Clizia Suspension ceiling pendants are through Lumens, while Royalton Cylinder pendants from Arteriors hang next to the bed. Drapery fabric Leggero by Stroheim is through Fabricut. Vintage Modern side chairs from John Salibello are a combination of contemporary and comfortable. The master bathroom is a study in Bianco Lasa marble from Everest Marble. See *Resources*.

