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COTTAGESGARDENS.COM | OCTOBER 2021

CLAVERACK
EAST HAMPTON
GREENWICH
VILLAGE
RYE



GRAPHIC IMPACT

Stately Air

(OPPOSITE) Decorator Laura Tutun and architect Matthew Dougherty joined forces to renovate and expand Tutun's early-19th-century Georgian Colonial in Rye. (THIS PAGE) A Curtis Jeré sculpture holds court in the vestibule. See Resources.



HOUSE PROUD

In Rye, a decorator completes her dream home of more than a decade in the making

BY ALYSSA BIRD | PHOTOGRAPHS BY TRIA GIOVAN

Easy Elegance

Furnishings and accessories in the living room include a pair of custom sofas upholstered in a David Hicks fabric from Schumacher, a daybed from Oly, and a vintage chandelier by Gaetano Sciolari. See Resources.



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ood things come to those who wait, the saying goes, and the adage certainly holds true for Laura Tutun. The decorator, who got her start in the home accessories and paint departments at Ralph Lauren, relocated to Rye from the city in 1999 as she and her husband were preparing to have their second child. Six years later, after a successful stint staging homes for real estate listings in Rye and its nearby suburbs, she decided to launch her own interiors firm. During this time, she fell in love with a dilapidated Georgian Colonial on her running route. The early-19th-century structure was a grand beauty, but slightly marred by overgrown trees, graying and cracking stucco, and an overall aura of neglect. One day, Tutun left a note in the mailbox, and within several months, she became the home's fourth owner. Tutun embarked on two minor renovations at the outset—getting the property in “living condition” and subtly updating the terrace and living and dining rooms—but transformed the residence into what it is today during a major overhaul in 2019. “I had been living in the house for 13 years by this time,” Tutun recalls, “so I was able to think about what I wanted to do. There were more formal rooms originally, such as a servants’ kitchen and a massive living room, but no family room. And the former owner’s dental office was still there. I thought about how my family lives in the house and also about how future owners might want to live here.”

Tutun tapped Connecticut-based architect Matthew Dougherty to help her expand the original 8,500-square-foot structure by another 3,000 square feet, which allowed space for three new ensuite bedrooms, an office for her design business, a three-car garage, a butler’s pantry, a mudroom, a laundry room, and a finished basement. The challenge, according to Dougherty, was to “connect the addition to the house in a seamless way and main-



tain the original character," he says. "We didn't want it to feel awkward, so we carried the roofline and exterior detailing into the new section. Laura spent a lot of time thinking about how this house should look." Tutun and Dougherty also reconfigured the existing kitchen and dental office to create a large eat-in kitchen that's open to the family room. "I had everything decided beforehand, down to what windows and door hardware I was going to use," says Tutun, who lived in the house with her husband and third child, a college-age daughter, during the yearlong renovation. "It was helpful being there because we could make any necessary adjustments immediately. The best ideas are bred during construction."

And the smallest details, it might also be argued, are hammered out before all the dust settles. "The finishes were a huge focus," says Tutun, who selected leather-and-brass-inlay doors, Lutron light switches customized to complement wall colors, and floors of marble mosaic, terrazzo, and wood herringbone with brass inlay. "The soft furnishings were the hardest decisions to make, since there are always so many new fabrics and wall cover-

Dining by Design

Statuary marble and brass accents lend drama to the kitchen (LEFT), which features a suite of vintage Bertio stools. (ABOVE) Walls in the dining room are covered in a metallic seagrass from Phillip Jeffries and a Fromental mural. A chandelier from Jean de Merry hangs above a vintage Mastercraft table and Saporiti Italia dining chairs. The custom rug is from J. D. Staron. See Resources.



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Modern Manifesto
Seating in the family room (OPPOSITE) includes a sectional by RH and a vintage Gio Ponti armchair. The cocktail table and rug are both custom. (THIS PAGE) In the kitchen's dining area, an Angelo Lelli light fixture from Arredoluce hangs above Jean Royère chairs and a custom table and settee. The artwork is by Kristina Krogh. See Resources.





Sweet Sanctuaries
 (THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) A Gracie wall covering dresses up a sitting area in the primary bedroom. Tutun's office features a custom built-in desk and filing cabinet; the Serge Mouille light fixture and Saarinen Tulip chair are from Design Within Reach. A pendant from Circa Lighting hangs in Tutun's daughter's bath. (OPPOSITE) Cork wallpaper from Innovations envelops Tutun's daughter's bedroom, where a custom pendant hangs above an AllModern bed and artwork by Katie Heffelfinger. See *Resources*.





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ings to choose from,” the decorator adds. “In truth, I see so many new products for my job that it’s more peaceful for me to live in rooms that are quiet. My office, especially, needed to be clean and white so that I could work without any distractions.” Indeed, in an era when the notion of working from home has taken on a whole new meaning, Tutun has created a veritable oasis of calm. ✨



All Work and Lots of Play
 (OPPOSITE TOP AND BOTTOM)
 “My office,” Tutun says, “needed to be clean and white so that I could work without any distractions.” The adjacent bath features a wall covering by Kerri Rosenthal and a custom vanity. (THIS PAGE) On the terrace, RH sofas covered in a Sunbrella fabric flank a concrete cocktail table by Urbia. See Resources.