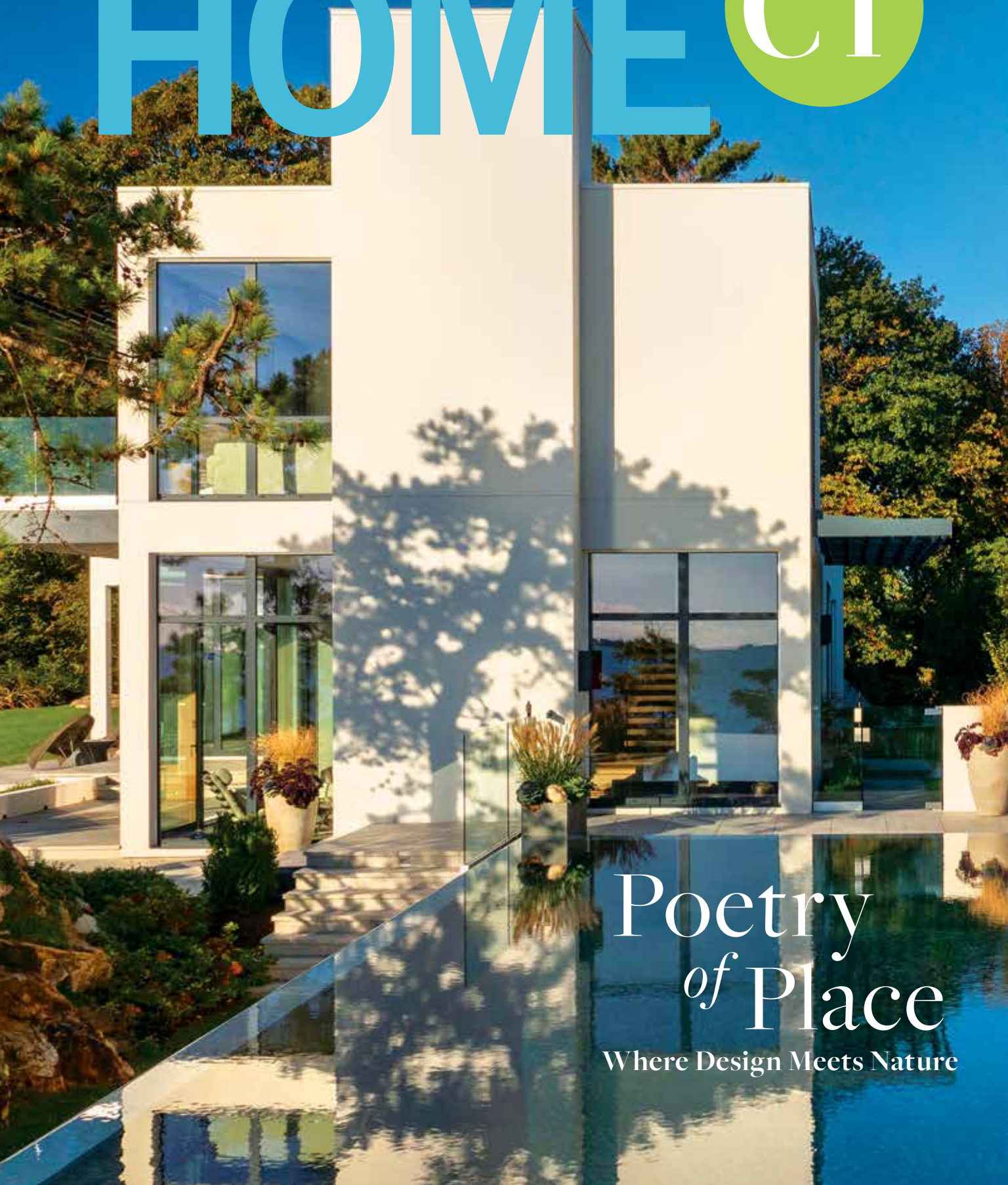


# New England HOME CT



Poetry  
*of* Place

Where Design Meets Nature

A Westport kitchen's white palette gets a warm boost from oak lower cabinets and black accents, including Kelly Wearstler pendants. For a clean, modern look, designer Merrin Jones went with a waterfall island in white quartz and kept cabinetry details to a minimum.

Black accents  
add a warm  
touch



## Balancing Act

A pair of Fairfield County kitchens straddle the line between contemporary edginess and homey warmth.

by PAULA M. BODAH

## COOL CONTEMPORARY

**Danielle and Jonathan Shemesh had definite ideas of what they wanted for their Westport kitchen.** “We wanted a more minimalist look, my wife likes to stay organized, and it was important to have enough storage for all the pots and pans,” Jonathan says. With three children under the age of five (plus a dog in the mix), it’s no wonder organization is a priority.

An appliance garage keeps clutter out of sight



A pocket window blurs the line between outdoors and in



**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** The tall bank of white oak cabinetry houses the refrigerator, a microwave, lots of storage cupboards and drawers, and an appliance garage. A wide pocket window above the sink slides away to forge an indoor-outdoor connection. The open kitchen holds a spacious breakfast area with a scratch-resistant table and faux leather chairs for easy cleanup.

Designer Merrin Jones fashioned a kitchen with a place for everything, including a tall bank of handsome white-oak cabinetry that hides the fridge and an appliance garage and has cupboards and drawers aplenty.

When it came to style, Jones says, “My clients are very cool, with a bit of an edge. They lean more modern.”

White upper cabinets and white-quartz surfaces, including the sleek waterfall island, provided the minimalist look, and Jones warmed things up with white-oak lower cabinets and black accents.

In the nearby breakfast nook, a scratch-resistant Caesarstone breakfast table surrounded by black faux-leather chairs is edgy and child-friendly in equal measure.

**INTERIOR AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN:** Merrin Jones Interiors  
**BUILDER:** Epoch Homes  
**CABINETS:** Precision Millwork  
**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Emily Sidoti



**Mesa Linear Chandelier**  
by Hammerton, Chloe Winston  
Lighting Design, Norwalk,  
[chloewinstonlighting.com](http://chloewinstonlighting.com)



**Arrow Rows Mosaic** by  
New Ravenna, Karen  
Berkemeyer Home, Westport,  
[karenberkemeyerhome.com](http://karenberkemeyerhome.com)



**Monogram Designer Collection Professional Range.** Aitoro Appliance, Norwalk, [aitoro.com](http://aitoro.com)



# All Mixed Up

Clearly, the one-metal rule no longer applies.

Produced by  
LYNDA SIMONTON

**Georg Jensen Henning Koppel Stainless Steel Pitcher,** Eleish Van Breems, Westport, [evbantiques.com](http://evbantiques.com)



**Remy Leather Bar Stool,**  
Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams,  
Greenwich, [mgbw.com](http://mgbw.com)

**Sylvia 5-Piece Mirror Flatware Place Setting,**  
Crate & Barrel, Westport,  
[crateandbarrel.com](http://crateandbarrel.com)



**York 16" Single Box Sconce** by Barbara Barry,  
Visual Comfort & Co.,  
Greenwich and Norwalk,  
[visualcomfort.com](http://visualcomfort.com)



**Riviera Square Cabinet Knobs and Pulls** by Emtek, Torcco Design Center, various Connecticut locations, [torccodesigncenter.com](http://torccodesigncenter.com)





An oak splash guard thematically ties the sink wall to the rest of the space

A single-slab backsplash lends a modern look

## MOODY MODERN

**The land on which this Southport house sits, an expansive field at the top of a ridge, inspired designer Gaelle Dudley to create what she calls a “moody, industrial farmhouse.”** In the kitchen, that translates to a sleek, modern space with an overlayer of earthy, textured elements. The wide-plank oak floor and a mix of natural oak and white-painted cabinetry speak to the farmhouse style, while the waterfall island and single-slab backsplash, both of Enigma

Gaelle Dudley’s subtly eclectic design incorporates classic farmhouse, modern, and industrial elements in this Southport kitchen. Against a backdrop of slick Enigma white-quartz surfaces, she added texture with the shiplap oak hood, woven-rope island stools, and bell lights that look like cast clay.



Polished nickel hardware is a classic

white quartz, add the contemporary feel.

Dudley introduced an industrial touch in the oak shiplap range hood and stainless-steel appliances and brought textural interest to the subtle, earthy palette with pendant lights that look like cast clay and island stools of woven rope. Thoughtful design touches, like the X detail on the upper cabinets that echoes the base of the island stools, add personality.

“We translated the moody design inspiration into something that still feels modern and airy with a New England coastal feel,” Dudley says. We say she merged all those elements—traditional, modern, and industrial—into one beautiful whole.—PMB

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For details, see Resources.

**ARCHITECTURE:** Matthew R. Dougherty Architect

**INTERIOR DESIGN:** GLDESIGN

**BUILDER:** Olsen Built Homes

**CABINETS:** John June Custom Cabinetry

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Neil Landino

**ABOVE:** The black pocket door leads to a well-stocked pantry. White-oak floors and lower cabinets add depth to the white palette. **RIGHT:** Twin stainless-steel refrigerators give the space an industrial flavor. A glass front with an X detail in the upper cabinets echoes the X base of the kitchen stools.



Pendants that look like cast clay and woven-rope stools add visual and tactile interest



**Palisades Table** by Parish Co., Schwartz Design Showrooms, Stamford, [schwartzdesignshowroom.com](http://schwartzdesignshowroom.com)



**Parasol Fluted Pendant,** DBO Home, Sharon, [dbohome.com](http://dbohome.com)



**Dreamer Sink** by Native Trails, Bender, various Connecticut locations, [benderplumbing.com](http://benderplumbing.com)

# All Together

Natural wood tones balance the bold contrast of black and white.

*Produced by*  
LYNDA SIMONTON



**Glaze Series Knobs and Pull** by Jonathan Castro for Nest Studio, Canaan Distributors Corp., Stamford, [canaandistributors.com](http://canaandistributors.com)



**Plaza Nueva Vedado Charcoal Tile,** AKDO, Bridgeport, [akdo.com](http://akdo.com)



**Pratt 24" Counter Stool** by Kirk Nix for Palecek, DesignSourceCT, Hartford, [designsourcect.com](http://designsourcect.com)



**Paris 5-Piece Flatware Place Setting,** Hudson Grace, Greenwich, [hudsongracesf.com](http://hudsongracesf.com)