



ARCHITECTURE

A MODERNIST-INSPIRED MASTERPIECE IN DARIEN, A STORYBOOK SALTBOX IN ROWAYTON AND A RENOVATED AND EXPANDED FORMER MEN'S CAMP IN GREENWICH EXEMPLIFY THE DIVERSITY OF INNOVATIVE ARCHITECTURE IN CONNECTICUT



Amanda Martocchio Architecture + Design

Amanda Martocchio's approach to the Stevenson residence in Darien was inspired by the midcentury designs of Philip Johnson, Marcel Breuer and other Connecticut architects who established a tradition of thinking outside of the box. The 7,000-square-foot, five-bedroom house is located on a high point of a private, two-acre lot and positioned to take advantage of the sweeping views of the Long Island Sound, as well as the sun's path across the site. (The family can enjoy the morning sun in the breakfast area and sunsets on the dining terrace, for example.) In their juxtaposition, the distinctive solid volumes of the house create an innovative variety of negative spaces—outdoor terraces, courtyards and gardens. The footprint extends out into the landscape while the nine-foot-high, sliding glass walls bring the outdoors in. The house also incorporates a number of green features including photovoltaic panels (on the roof of the southern wing), radiant heating throughout, high-efficiency boilers that partially burn bio-fuel, high-performance insulated glass windows and an underground cistern that collects rainwater for irrigation.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN M. HALL

Putting It Together | IDA architecture winner Amanda Martocchio (ABOVE) used a palette of natural materials to aesthetically reinforce the design of the distinctive geometric home she created for a Darien family (LEFT). On the exterior wings, second-floor boxes, wrapped in mahogany and juxtaposed with rough, snap-edged bluestone and

gray-green stucco, cantilever beyond the ground floor, creating bookends to the composition. Inside, the oak floors of the center section, which sits on a swell on the site, contrast with bluestone pavers of the wings, reinforcing the 18-inch drop in floor elevation. The general contractor for the project was Prutting & Co. Custom Builders. See Resources.





Light Meal | As with almost every room on the ground floor, the dining room (ABOVE) features nine-foot-tall sliding glass doors that flood the space with light, so there is little need for artificial lighting during the day. Floral arrangements from Bonfleur in New Canaan sit on a table, which is surrounded by vintage chairs custom designed by Jens Risom, who Martocchio admires greatly. **Living Large** | Natural materials give the contemporary home an earthy feel, linking interior and exterior. In the family room (RIGHT) and throughout the house, white oak flooring complements custom white oak paneling and cabinetry. **Different Take** | Martocchio rebought conventional room configurations to match

the family's casual lifestyle. This meant eliminating a formal living room in lieu of an active family room (OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT) that is adjacent to the kitchen. A 2001 drawing by Richard Serra is mounted on the bluestone fireplace surround. The vintage armless chairs, loveseat and low table, all custom by Jens Risom, form a seating area with a Mies van der Rohe Barcelona stool. **Primp and Pamper** | The spa-like master bathroom (OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT) features a glass-box shower with limestone tiles, enclosed toilet space and twin custom vanities by Martocchio. Like the rest of the house, the room is warmed exclusively by radiant heating. Plumbing fixtures came from Klaff's in South Norwalk. See Resources.



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