

Clear Vision

At this classic **Sasco Hill** home, the clean-lined interiors by **Catherine Cleare** accentuate the stunning views.

by **JUDY OSTROW** photographs **TIM LEE**



left: Furnishings and accents with a circular theme—the table by Erika Brunson and pendant chandelier, both from John Rosselli, and chairs from Decorative Crafts—create a soft counterpoint to the room’s architectural angles. *below:* Many furnishings in the living/family room can be easily rearranged when the couple entertains guests, especially their large family of grown children and grandchildren. For a punch of bright color, designer Katy Cleare has added touches of aubergine with accessories and painted shelf interiors. “The homeowners can change their accent palette in an eyeblink,” she notes.

Creating interiors for a house surrounded by nearly 360 degrees of beautiful, open landscape sounds like a plum assignment, and it is. When each window presents a panoramic vision of the Sound, a river, or rolling meadow, these openings give a designer opportunities to position nearly every seating arrangement so that it takes in another lovely vista.

Owners Joe and Barbara Pierce had spent a good bit of time shopping for a property that would speak to their wish for a new space to enjoy as a couple. After two decades in a traditional Weston Colonial, they no longer needed a huge house, but they want-





The entry foyer, with its 20-foot-plus ceilings, is grounded with curvy furniture and a softly patterned area rug from Stark. The mirror reflects a dramatic staircase that leads to the private spaces above. Bibelots atop the Decorative Crafts console are Katy Cleare's finds from the Wakefield Design Center.



house tour



above and below: A large open kitchen was at the top of Cleare's clients' wish list. A teak-topped island and marble-topped serving surface provide ample room for the many buffet-style meals. The large custom chandelier above the island is by Paul Ferrante, from John Rosselli.

above right: The first-floor powder room is a diminutive, dramatic space, with furnishings from Decorative Crafts. Floe Painting, the company that Cleare used for all the subtly colored and textured wall finishes throughout the house, created the wallpaper-like mural.



ed something special. The site they found, which commands a small rise above Southport Harbor and the Mill River, offered just what they were looking for.

Architect Andrew Nuzzi created a structure that captures light from all directions, with large, view-focused openings. Mindful that the couple wanted a layout that would be comfortable for the two of them, but with enough flexibility to accommodate the visits of family and guests, the architect created flowing public spaces and designed multiple porches and patios to extend the living space without enlarging the home's footprint.

To create their interior vision, the Pierces chose Katy Cleare. Her Westport-based firm, Catherine Cleare Interiors, has a thick and varied portfolio that includes cottages and manor homes, from Nantucket to Boca Raton. The designer appreciated the breathtaking surroundings of her clients' new home,

and took her cues from the spaces beyond the windows and walls.


"It's not the biggest house I've done, but it's one of my favorites," admits Cleare. "The location is amazing, and the approach we took was all about the views."

This made simplicity a key word for choosing the interior design elements. Cleare and her clients selected classic furnishings, using celadon and off-whites for textiles—all good neutrals—producing rooms with clean lines and a serene atmosphere.

"We were always asking ourselves, 'Is it time to stop?' so we didn't overdecorate," says Cleare. "This house gives you room to exhale and take in all the beauty that surrounds it."

The open arrangement of the first floor, with its high ceilings and simple, strong architectural details, offers plenty of gathering space. The kitchen plan allows free flow to the other rooms, with expansive built-in surfaces for setting out buffet-style meals and snacks that are perfectly suited to the couple's easygoing entertaining style.

"Everyone loves to congregate in the kitchen," says Joe Pierce, "so we made it large enough for a crowd."

While these pages offer a small taste of this unique home, an occasion to see it all awaits. Joe and Barbara Pierce will share their home and its views to benefit the Near & Far Aid's spring fundraising event, the annual house tour. 

FOR TICKETS TO THE NEAR & FAR AID HOUSE TOUR ON APRIL 29, GO TO NEARANDFAR.ORG/EVENT

RESOURCES

Catherine Cleare Interiors, LLC,
203-454-9430; cleareinteriors.com

Andrew Nuzzi Architects, LLC
203-327-7950; nuzziarchitects.com

Hemingway Construction Corp.
203-625-0566; hemingwayconstruction.com



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