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COTTAGESOARDENS.COM | JUNE 2016

SUMMER COOL

THE FINAL EDIT

LYNN MORGAN AND JAMES DOYLE SKILLFULLY USE A CHEERFUL PALETTE TO TAKE THIS ESTATE FROM DRAB TO FAB—INSIDE AND OUT

BY JAMIE MARSHALL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELLEN MODERMOTT

The final piece of the editing process of the garden was the final garden with its architectural style and formal design that blends with the landscape. Lynn Morgan and James Doyle skillfully use a cheerful palette to take this estate from drab to fab—inside and out.

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TAKE A 200-SQUARE-FOOT COLONIAL, set in an prime mid-century Greenwich real estate, and design magic is bound to happen, although sometimes it takes a few tries to get it right. That was the story for the owners of a custom 2004 spec house, who endured several false starts before finding someone to successfully bring their dream home to life. High on their list, someone who understood the elegant use of color, the importance of space and function, and the needs of a blended family of five and a rescue dog named Lucy.

"The ingredients were all there," explains Lynn Morgan, the Rowayton-based designer who, along with project manager Ashley Stevens, ultimately spearheaded the project to a very happy ending. "The property had great bones and phenomenal gardens. We just needed to bring everything together."

The couple had lived in the house for several years when they hired architect Sam Mitchell to reconfigure the ground floor. He opened up the space to improve the flow and added custom touches such as hand-carved marble pocket doors, a barber's parlor, and a coffered ceiling in the family room. During this time, they brought in landscape architect James Doyle to transform the grounds. "It was an interesting project because the homeowners had different needs," says Doyle. "He has a really big interest in the landscape, but interest is more functional. What they have in common is they both like color, especially primary colors."

The Great Outdoors (clockwise from upper left) A Sam Mitchell-designed pool house anchors one end of the pool area. On the patio, a casual seating arrangement includes McKinnon and Harris furniture covered in a blue (left canvas fabric); the garden stool is from Moore Gardens. In addition, a 1966 Toyota Landcruiser (seen) is parked in the home's open and expansive arrival area. The homeowners' rescue dog, Sunny (seen), wriggles an afternoon dip. See Features.





To make the property feel more expansive yet still like a private oasis, Dyke created a series of garden rooms and destinations, incorporating distinct changes in elevation. Each area is characterized by structural green plantings including rounded bennetts and European hornbeam. He introduced color through a mix of perennials, ornamentals and furnishings—a blue bench that edges the pool, a red bench that anchors the formal garden. A small pavilion, with a blacktop pathway and stone fountain, serves as a transitional area from the front lawn to the back. "It adds another more intimate dimension that is quite different from the other spaces that are much grander," he explains.

As the outside of the house was taking shape, the inside was going on—where. Despite the homeowner's desire for color and light, a series of decorators kept returning to the same dull brown palette. "Everything was beige on beige," Morgan recalls. "It was very dreary." Her goal? "I wanted to get the house into the same spirit that James had done with the landscaping," she recalls. "It's just out of this world."

The designer started by lightening the walls and painting all the trim a high gloss white. She dispensed with the brown window treatments, brown furniture and brown rugs. In their place, she introduced a cheerful palette

Cool Repeat (across mid): The dining room's modern vibe is enhanced by the custom Brussels rug and Holly Hunt white grasscloth-covered walls. A pair of wall sconces from Christopher Fine Lighting, Franka Teller's Aarna's Morning Mist. Custom chairs in a Kravet fabric surround a Holly Hunt table. See Resources.

Warm & Whimsical (left, top to right): In the casual breakfast nook, a Citra Lighting chandelier hangs above the custom Brussels rug and Holly Hunt white grasscloth-covered walls. Chairs are covered in a John Robshaw stripe. The bench is done in an Edelman leather. A collection of Frances Palmer and Watermark globes find a home in the butler's pantry. See Resources.

Bright & Breezy This mood Benjamin Moore's Beacon Gray lends a crisp look to the living room walls. Artwork by Sam MacGurich hangs behind the sofa, which sports a Holly Hunt fabric. Chairs are covered in Quince Azzur from Cottage House and Lee Jofa's Shadow Cloud. The coffee table is from John Boos. Console tables from the Accessory Store top Christopher Bortoluzzi lamps. Deluxe Details items, two an ottoman & blue entry rug and star runner are from JD Stonor. A LUNA XII console holds a pair of Christopher Bortoluzzi lamps and a bronze statue by Sandra Van Zandt. Josef Albert's homage to the doorway adds a pop of yellow. A trio of Francis Palmer vases adorn the living room mantle. See Resources.



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