

# CTC & G

Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

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## SUMMER READY

BEST IN BATHS  
& OUTDOOR  
ENTERTAINING

**Lake Life** (BELOW AND RIGHT) At this new home at Lake Waramaug, architecture is by Daniel Frisch; interior design is by Zoe Settle; and landscape design is by Dan Gordon. The pool area is furnished with Kettal sunloungers, an RH daybed and swivel chairs, and teal Ledge loungers. The pool is by Dobson Pools with stonework by Mike Criscione Masonry. *See Resources.*



A WEEKEND GETAWAY FOR AN ACTIVE FAMILY HAS ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES

# STATE OF PLAY

BY ALEXA STEVENSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES SCHRIEBL



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**T**HIS IS A HOUSE that was built to be used," says architect Daniel Frisch of Daniel Frisch Architecture, "not to impress." The house, formerly the Birches Inn, sits on Lake Waramaug in the northwest corner of Connecticut. Frisch's clients, a family with two teenage boys, wanted a weekend house where they could host friends and family, and a place their boys would want to bring friends. Yes, it has—in addition to the pool and lake—a squash court and a golf simulator inside, but it also has a subtlety and an intimacy. "There is never a moment when this house feels disarming or intimidating," says Frisch. "It's a laid back and comfortable place."

Frisch came on board to finish the boat house, which had a midcentury approach that he and his team used as a prototype for the home. "We found a certain magic in the way the boat house was approached and ended up taking the main house down to the studs—save for one fireplace.

The siting of the house is a big part of its success—it's meant to be quiet and unassuming." Frisch brought on his in-house designer Zoe Settle to help the client with the interior. "The client has a real passion for design—she could have done this herself," says Settle. "But she realized I could help ease her load and really bring her vision to life."

"Zoe's work style is collaborative," notes the client, "and that was critical." The vibe of the house is decidedly midcentury, without going overly modern. "My previous houses were more neutral, and I've always wanted to explore a different style." A textile with a blue and orange color combination was the original inspiration that she and Settle expanded on. Oh, and there was one absolute no-no: "She did not want anything with white or black in it," says Settle.

The size of the house presented its own challenges for Settle. A catwalk on the second floor opens up to the living spaces below. Upstairs, the master and two guest rooms have lake views in the front portion of the house, while one other bedroom is overlooking the pool. The back of the

**Stay Awhile** (OPPOSITE PAGE) Moooi ceiling pendants bring a light touch to the pool lounge. A custom sectional through Room wraps around Treku coffee tables. An Artistic Tile glass mosaic adorns the wall behind the bar. Bar cabinets are by Deane, Inc. **Color Theory** (TOP) The foyer's custom-colored Kyle Bunting rug and David Weeks mobile establish the color palette throughout the house. **Study Hall** (RIGHT) The vintage Andrea Branzi desk in the library is through DécorNYC. Milo Baughman swivel chairs are covered in a Pierre Frey textile. See *Resources*.





**Stylish Spot** (ABOVE) The kitchen, designed Deane, Inc., features lacquered cabinets and an island topped with Artistic Tile's Silver Wave marble. The Casalis pendant lights are through Lepera. See Resources.



**Outdoor Elan** (RIGHT AND OPPOSITE PAGE) On the front patio, a blue mesh Kettal sectional wraps around Richard Schultz coffee tables through Knoll. A Dallas lighting fixture from Arteriors illuminates a handcrafted dining table by Jory Brigham that does double duty as a Ping Pong table. See Resources.





**Suite Views** (ABOVE AND OPPOSITE PAGE) A custom Tracy Glover Constellation chandelier sets the tone in the master bedroom, where a chaise from Design Within Reach wears a fabric through Kravet. The custom headboard was crafted by Silva Woodworking. Vintage bedside sconces are through CF Modern. See *Resources*.

**In The Details** Pendant lighting in the laundry room (RIGHT) is through WAC Lighting. In the master bathroom (FAR RIGHT), a Robern vanity and mirror is complemented by custom mosaic field tiles from Artistic Tile. See *Resources*.



house has two bunk rooms. The catwalk winds around the living spaces, including the entrance where a custom-colored Kyle Bunting rug in blues, oranges, grays and greens pops against the walnut paneling.

The kitchen's double height also presented a challenge to Settle: "How do you go about lighting when it needs to function but also make sense with what's going on from above?" Pendants from Lapere with custom colored merino-wool fabric sleeves play off the entrance's artwork and speak to colors that carry through the house. Cabinets by Deane, Inc. are navy blue lacquer, and the bar cabinets fronts are antique mirror glass with walnut interiors peeking through. "It's a riff of a traditional lake house" says Settle. "This is obviously not a traditional house, but it's warm and inviting with a grounding palette."

A library adjacent to the family room faces a double-sided fireplace. "He [the client] primarily works from home and didn't want to be tucked away in a bedroom," says Settle. "It was empowering to give the office prime seating in the middle of the house. It gives utility to what can be an unused living room."

In the pool lounge—double height like the kitchen—Settle designed a custom sectional that could seat the entire family and then some. The room is meant to be as comfortable watching television as slinging cocktails. Opposite the TV wall is a bar with faux snakeskin cabinet doors and a blue-and-green glass mosaic on the wall behind. "It's exactly what the homeowner wanted—a room you will never get bored of, and there's always something else to look at," says Settle. "We put in a lot of effort to curate the glass and ceramic objects on the tile wall. It's those small details that give a project so much meaning."

"I love how we live here, and that we have space to spread out and host family and friends, but at the same time we have wonderful living spaces that bring us together," says the client. Adds Frisch, "We talk a lot about houses as souls and that soul comes from the owner. This house has a happy soul." ✨

