

EDITION #147 JANUARY 2026

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LIFESTYLE & INTERIORS



LEPANG

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EDITION #147



Inside a Connecticut shingle style residence overlooking the river, designer Terri Ricci, architect Andrew Bartolotta, and builder Botero Design Construction Group orchestrated a comprehensive transformation. What emerged is a study in architectural restraint: a home where European modernism meets coastal accessibility, timber heavy tradition gives way to light filled contemporary volumes, and every surface, from replastered walls to geometric wood panels, reflects a commitment to refined materiality and timeless proportion.



Joshua McHugh Photography

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ROOMS THAT SUPPORT DAILY LIFE WITH GENEROSITY, CALM, AND MEASURED MODERNISM.

Heldra

You know that feeling when you walk into a space and immediately exhale? When your shoulders drop and something in you just settles? I had that moment scrolling through the Darien Riverfront images at my desk on a Tuesday afternoon, coffee going cold, thinking about how rare it is to encounter a home that feels like it has nothing to prove. No grand gestures screaming for attention. Just this quiet, almost meditative confidence. That's what I want to talk about with you in this issue.

There's something happening right now in how we think about luxury. The Darien Riverfront project captures it perfectly. Designer Terri Ricci, architect Andrew Bartolotta, and builder Botero Design Construction Group didn't tear everything down. They refined. They introduced light where heaviness lived. They restored flow where spaces had fragmented. They let materials speak without shouting over each other. This is architecture and interior design as quiet discipline, privileging proportion, tactility, and how we actually move through our days over any kind of spectacle.

What gets me most is the emotional intelligence here. Rooms breathe. Transitions soften. Light becomes a primary material, shaping mood from dawn to dusk. The palette stays hushed yet deeply expressive, revealing nuance rather than drama. It's a masterclass in knowing when to stop.

In our current moment of visual overload, both digital and physical, this home offers something different. It asks us to reconsider how spaces hold us, how restraint can feel generous. This isn't minimalism for aesthetics alone, but layered, thoughtful design that rewards attention and invites longevity.







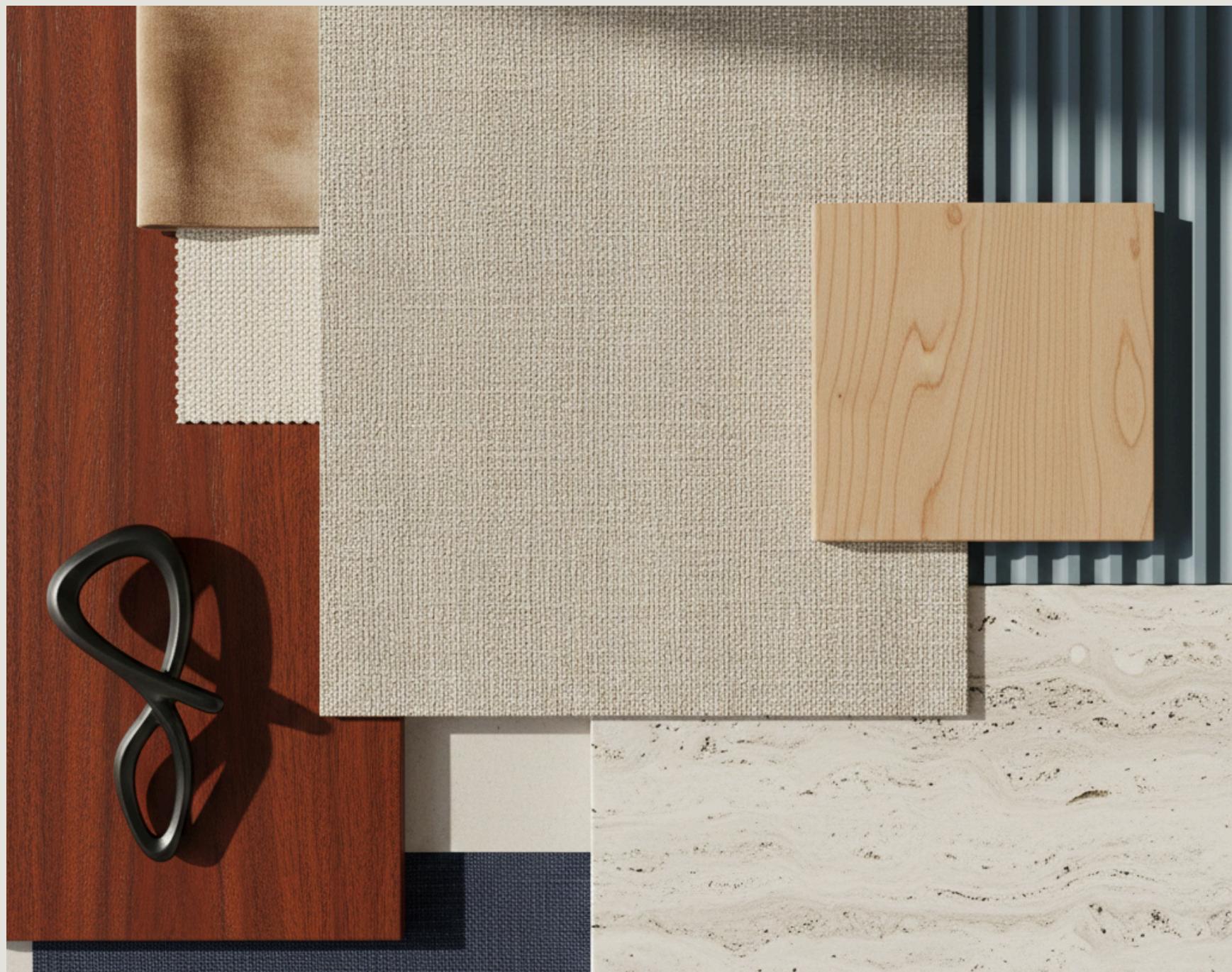




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Calmoré

MOODBOARD 147

LAYERS OF SCANDINAVIAN CLARITY MEET COASTAL EASE THROUGH TEXTURE, TONE, AND LIGHT.

The moodboard for Darien Riverfront captures a dialogue between Scandinavian restraint and American coastal ease. Think matte lacquered Douglas fir meeting replastered walls that curve rather than corner. Steel framed windows in slender profiles. Danish leather seating pieces juxtaposed with organic textiles in linen and wool. A palette of serene neutrals: cream, greige, soft whites punctuated by occasional charcoal. Handmade ceramic tiles by Kristen Falkirk providing textural irregularity against precision millwork. Natural oak balustrades with contemporary profiles. Brass sconces casting warm light across plastered surfaces. The overall effect suggests European modernism softened by tactile materials and riverside tranquility.

A photograph of a modern interior room. The room features large windows with dark frames, a sofa with a textured fabric, a chair with a dark wood frame and a textured cushion, and a small round wooden table with a glass top. The room has a light-colored carpet and a white wall.

Softened Modernism

Refinement *Without* Erasure

What began as modest updates evolved into something far more consequential: a disciplined reimaging of a Connecticut shingle style residence that had languished beneath the weight of its own timber heavy past. The homeowners approached designer Terri Ricci with initial requests for refreshment, but as Ricci began stripping away visual encumbrances, oppressive beams, cavernous fireplaces swallowed by heavy woodwork, it became clear that half measures would not suffice. With architect Andrew Bartolotta brought into the fold, the project metamorphosed into a comprehensive transformation that honored the envelope while reinventing everything within.

The mandate was never demolition but refinement. Bartolotta maintained the home's footprint while orchestrating a tectonic shift in how light, space, and material converge. Crown moldings vanished. Walls were replastered to curve gently toward the ceiling, a gesture that softens transitions without calling attention to itself. Most significantly, modern steel framed windows now punctuate the elevations, their slender profiles dissolving barriers between interior volumes and the property's defining feature: commanding river views that ripple across multiple exposures.

The entry sequence establishes intention. A vestibule clad entirely in matte lacquered Douglas fir announces a vocabulary of natural materials deployed with restraint. This paneled threshold functions as a palate cleanser, preparing occupants and guests for the living room beyond, where Ricci choreographed parallel zones of conversation and repose. The room's proportions remain unchanged, yet it reads entirely different: lighter, more capacious, less encumbered by nostalgic gestures toward traditional New England domesticity. Custom millwork integrates a retractable screen with the discretion of good tailoring, allowing unobstructed enjoyment of both entertainment and architectural composure when desired.

Nowhere is the transformation more legible than in the kitchen, once flanked by purposeless alcoves that wasted prime square footage. Ricci and Bartolotta relocated and expanded the galley into a consolidated gathering hub that now encompasses breakfast area, wet bar, and walk in pantry. The kitchen proper eschews the predictable pendant over island formula, instead employing flush ceiling fixtures that maintain visual continuity. Ceramic tiles by Kristen Falkirk provide textural counterpoint, their handmade irregularities a welcome contrast to the precision of surrounding cabinetry. Bartolotta's revision of the breakfast area's exposed beams exemplifies the project's ethos: where heavy timber once oppressed, lightened structural members now lend rhythm and scale without dominating.

The material palette throughout reflects a deliberate quietness. Ricci gravitated toward European modernism tempered by coastal accessibility: Danish furnishings in leather and wood, sculptural lighting that provides punctuation without excess, textiles in linen and wool that invite touch. In the primary suite, she repositioned the bed beneath a newly carved cove, reorienting the entire room toward water views while maintaining intimacy.

Plaster walls meet ceramic details and organic linens, an elevated interpretation of seaside living that never veers into the nautical clichés that plague so much Connecticut residential design.

This restraint extends to color, or rather its conspicuous absence. The clients' preference for serene neutrals provided framework rather than limitation. Rooms unfold in gradations of white, cream, greige, and the occasional deep charcoal accent. Wood tones warm without overwhelming. Blues appear sparingly, most dramatically in powder rooms where inky paneling and brass sconces create theatrical compression that makes adjacent spaces feel more expansive by contrast. The aggregate effect is not monotony but nuance, rooms that shift subtly with changing light and season.

Tertiary spaces receive equal consideration. Hallways transform into galleries for contemplation, their walls now plastered and curved rather than punctuated by moldings. Stairwells benefit from natural oak balustrades that marry contemporary profiles with tactile warmth. Bathrooms embrace symmetry and proportion, their fixtures and finishes calibrated to feel luxurious without ostentation. Even utilitarian zones like the mudroom and pantry demonstrate the same attention to materiality and flow, proving that thoughtful design need not stop at the threshold of service areas.

The collaboration between Ricci and Bartolotta, both rooted in rigorous spatial thinking, proved essential. They sketch iteratively, pushing past initial solutions toward more considered outcomes. General contractor Tomas Botero of Botero Design Construction Group translated their evolving vision into physical reality with precision and adaptability, navigating expanded scope while maintaining exacting standards.

The completed residence occupies an interesting position within contemporary American domesticity. It rejects the maximalism currently fashionable in certain quarters while avoiding the austere coldness sometimes associated with modernist restraint. Rooms feel inhabited rather than staged, sophisticated without broadcasting effort. Details reward sustained attention: the way shadows track across replastered walls, the grain of Douglas fir catching afternoon light, the precise relationship between furniture and architecture in spaces calibrated for both large gatherings and solitary repose.

This is architecture and design at its most effective, not as aesthetic statement but as framework for living better. The transformation reveals itself gradually, through cumulative gestures of refinement rather than singular dramatic moves. Windows frame views with newfound clarity. Circulation flows without friction. Materials age gracefully because they were chosen for longevity rather than trend. The result is a home that feels simultaneously fresh and timeless, contemporary in sensibility yet rooted in the enduring principles of good proportion, natural light, and honest materiality that transcend stylistic categorization.





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The EDITION 147 *KitchenEdit*

Althéon

An architectural kitchen expression balancing warmth, precision, and sociable everyday rituals.

The kitchen moodboard reveals a space of quiet sophistication where function and beauty converge seamlessly. Flush mounted ceiling fixtures replace predictable pendant lights, maintaining clean visual lines throughout. Custom ceramic tiles by Kristen Falkirk introduce handcrafted texture against sleek cabinetry, their subtle variations catching light throughout the day. The palette remains deliberately restrained: natural wood tones warmed by brass hardware, countertops in honed stone that invites touch rather than gloss. Lightened exposed beams offer rhythm without weight, a refined interpretation of structural honesty. The breakfast area flows naturally into the wet bar and walk in pantry, creating a consolidated hub where materials speak in whispers rather than shouts. European elegance meets New England pragmatism, resulting in a kitchen that feels both timeless and utterly contemporary.



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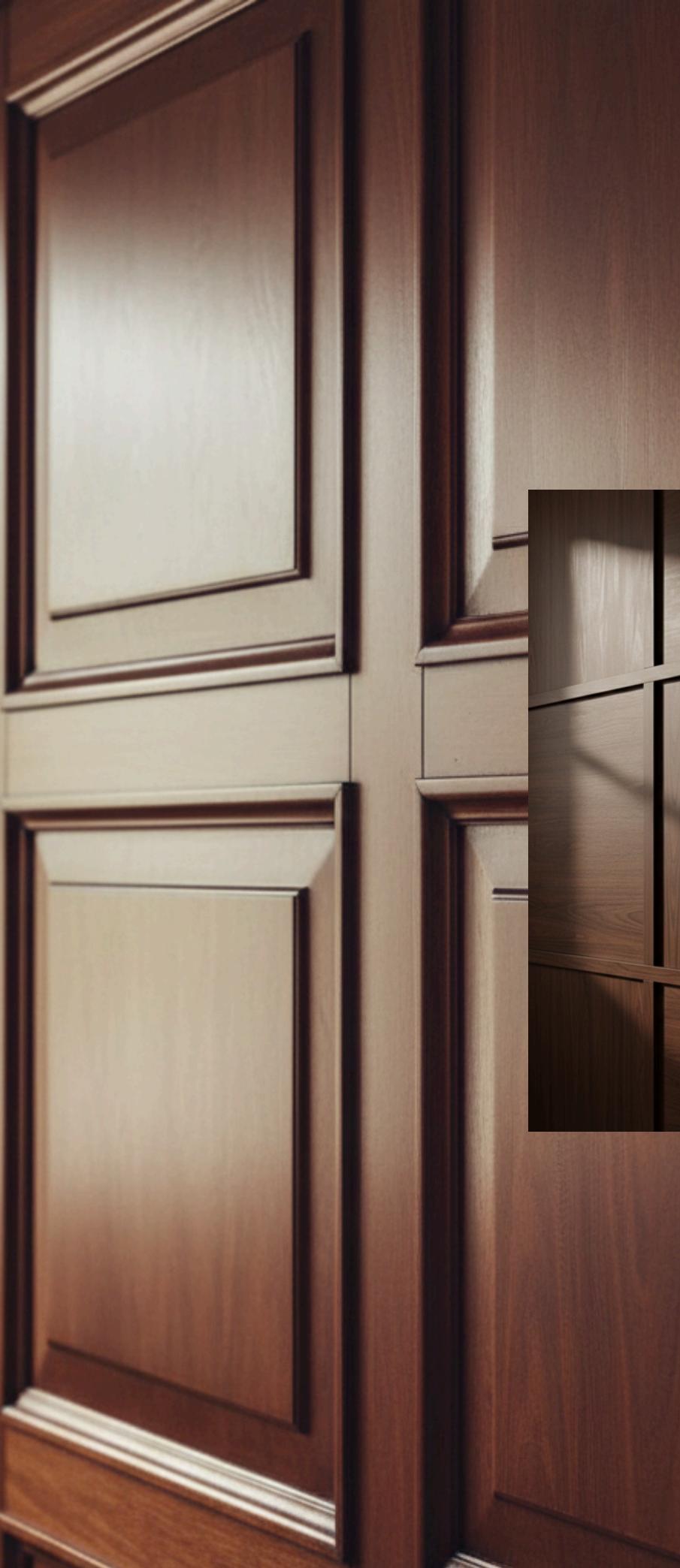


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INSIDEMODE

INTREVA

Woven forms refined through proportion, craft, and contemporary restraint.



Wood paneling at Darien Riverfront draws from mid century Scandinavian design and Japanese architectural restraint, reinterpreted for contemporary sensibility. The approach varies throughout: three dimensional geometric modules create sculptural relief in key moments, their concave pyramidal facets catching light to shift from honey to amber as day progresses. Elsewhere, flat matte lacquered Douglas fir in the vestibule announces arrival with warmth and simplicity. The kitchen and breakfast area feature lightened exposed beams, structural honesty rendered elegant. Vertical tongue and groove appears in bedrooms, subtle texture without drama. Each application serves its space distinctly, unified by shared material vocabulary and precision craftsmanship. The panels blur boundaries between millwork and art installation, proving that wood need not default to rustic or traditional tropes when handled with architectural intelligence.



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ENTRY STYLE



STOOL 03

From the most versatile pieces in the collection, STOOL 03 combines stability and elegance through its compact size and an architectural silhouette enhanced by thermo-treated ash wood.

VINCENT VAN DUYSEN COLLECTION



Wrapped in a cocooning and soothing boucle fabric, our Laflin Table Lamp creates a sophisticated glamorous look that suits a range of interior styles and is designed to create the most beautiful mood lighting. By **Abigail Lahern**.



NOVIEMBRE SHELVING

A minimalist Scandi style luxurious maple wood shelf in a unique custom design.

BREUER

LIVING STYLE



LOMBARD CHAIR

Featuring a tight seat and back, armless silhouette, and fabric frame with tapered legs, this accent chair blends clean lines and comfort

HF



Made of composite in a white gesso finish, the Greta Drinks Table has a pedestal that expands before it gathers itself to meet the metal base. By **Lillian August**.



TERZO COFFEE TABLE

The Terzo coffee table is reminiscent of the facades of brutalist buildings from the 50s and 60s, with their assertive geometry and their adjoining windows.

BRUNO MOINARD

LOUNGE STYLE



ALFRED CHRISTIANSEN CHAIR

The chair features curved, open beech arms and Alfred Christiansen's signature saber shaped legs.

HOPP HOME



Guillerme et Chambron
for Votre Maison, cabinet, solid oak, France, 1960s
Exquisite carvings can be admired on the front drop-down panels, distinguished by geometric convex shapes.



SINCLAIR BARROW OTTOMAN

Upholstered in tonal check fabric and paired with a solid ash base, this ottoman can be placed just about anywhere bringing with it a retro vibe.

AMETHYST HOME

DINING STYLE

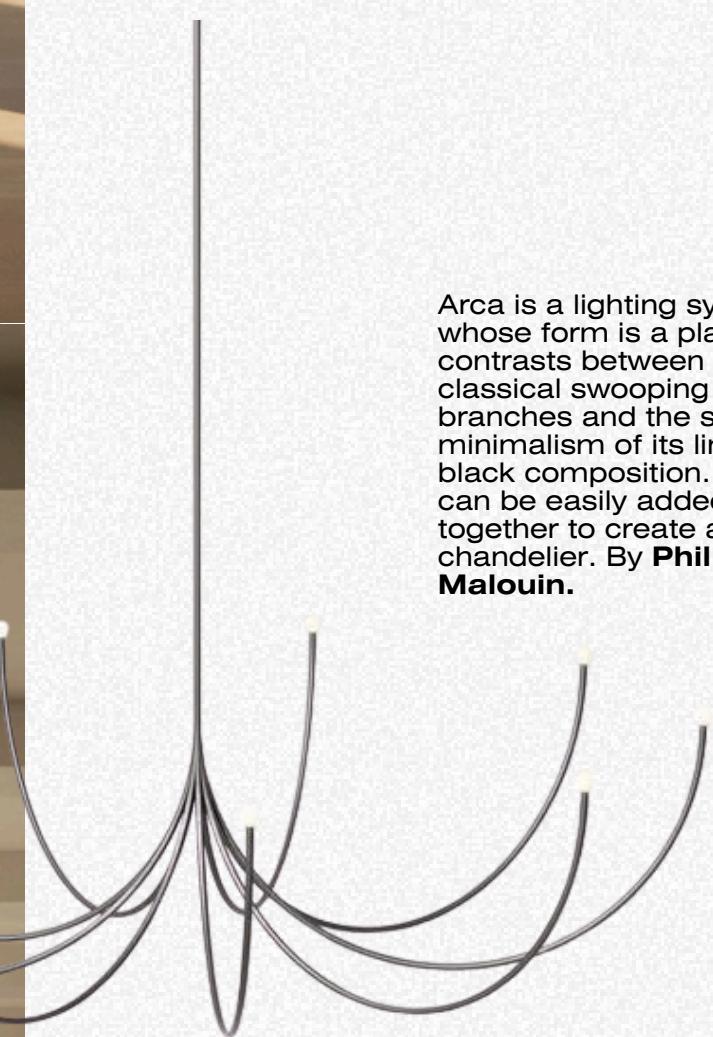


MILES CHAIR

The polished proportions and casual formality of our classic Miles upholstered dining chair offer endless dining comfort.

CRATE & BARREL

Arca is a lighting system whose form is a play of contrasts between the classical swooping branches and the spare minimalism of its linear, black composition. Tiers can be easily added together to create a unique chandelier. By **Philippe Malouin**.



ASCOT DINING TABLE

The Ascot Double Pedestal Dining Table is inspired by the timeless elegance of 1940s Art Deco design in a stunning Dark Walnut finish.

CHANINTR X CO

KITCHEN STYLE



CONTOUR STOOL

Luxe leather seating in soft minimalism, with slightly tapered mahogany legs.

DWR



The Attalos Ceiling Light is part of **Marz Designs**' Attalos range and in keeping with its stablemates, it retains a classic, sculptural aesthetic echoing ancient Greek architectural forms.



MODERN TRANSITIONAL ISLAND

A modern transitional kitchen island table with a white Carrara marble.

OLIVER

BEDROOM STYLE



MALAND WOVEN LEATHER BEDHEAD

The Maland leather woven headboard is from our mid-20th century Safari inspired range in which we have achieved a classic design with durability + enduring character. Paired with a matching bed base.

LIVING BY DESIGN



WEATHERED JAVA TEAK TABLE

A modern weathered java teak wood table or stool in a serene whitewashed finish.

HAMMERTOWN



The Dancing Pendant by **Audo Copenhagen** is a contemporary design that resembles a ballerina.



BATHROOM STYLE

LONDON FREESTANDING BATH

Modern Vintage style freestanding bath made of high quality ceramic.

BURLINGTON



Modern transitional style white shade wall sconce by **Troy Lighting**.

MELROSE VANITY

Pure White Melrose style vanity with soft close drawers and small gold knobs.

DUTCH HAUS FURNITURE



The EDITION 147 *Outdoor Edit*

Terranéa

An outdoor realm of stone, breeze, and quiet moments shaped by nature.

The outdoor moodboard extends the home's refined aesthetic into Connecticut's riverside landscape. Covered terraces frame water views through careful architectural gestures, their proportions calibrated for both intimate gatherings and solitary contemplation. Natural materials continue the interior vocabulary: weathered teak furnishings with clean lines, outdoor textiles in neutral tones that resist the temptation toward coastal cliché. Plantings emphasize texture over color, grasses and perennials that move with river breezes. Stone pathways in irregular patterns lead to water's edge, their surfaces chosen for patina and longevity. Lighting remains subtle, integrated into architectural elements rather than announced. The result is an outdoor environment that feels like a natural extension of interior spaces, where boundaries between built and natural dissolve into a seamless experience of place.



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OUTDOOR STYLE

HAVEN LOUNGE CHAIR

Haven lounge chair by Gloster is made of teak structure with plush seat and back cushions. With subtle, rounded back and side panels.

GLOSTER



Drawing inspiration from the realms of brutalist architecture and contemporary sculpture, the Big Foot Collection by **101 Copenhagen** showcases a distinctive design aesthetic.

LUMI OUTDOOR SOFA

Timeless collection in a perennial California style and robust wooden frame with crisp white cushioning.

AMBER LEWIS



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We are redefining luxury living

*through interiors and
architecture*

Design is a canvas, and the brush is in our hands. Every choice, every stroke shapes the direction, breathing life into spaces and products that tell a story. This is what inspires me—to create with intention, to craft environments that feel alive. For design communities worldwide, this is more than work; it's our shared narrative.

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