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## 20th tour features chic family homes

By Kristin Selvala, New Canaan Cares

Seven New Canaan homeowners will open their doors to celebrate the 20th New Canaan Cares Kitchen and Home tour on Thursday, May 10. From new construction and extensive renovations to focused kitchen remodels, the homes showcase the latest in kitchen, home and interior design. Each home varies in style and setting, providing a unique and interesting experience for all participants. The tour will run from 10 through 3 and tickets (\$60 for general admission, patron levels starting at \$75) may be purchased online at [newcanaancares.org](http://newcanaancares.org) or from local outlets. The ticket guidebook includes a map of the tour

and an overview of each home. A limited quantity of gourmet boxed lunches will be available for \$15 and may be reserved online before May 8 and picked up at a specified location on the day of the tour. All proceeds from the tour go to support Cares' parenting education and leadership training programs.

### Functional and timeless appeal

An extensive renovation, executed by V&A Quality Construction, recently transformed this traditional colonial into a showcase of modern design. Seeking to add spaciousness and light, the homeown-

ers enlisted architect Matthew Dougherty to expand the footprint at the rear and reimagine the downstairs living spaces. Now, the kitchen and breakfast area serve as the hub of the home and flow into gathering spaces in either direction, including a new, accessible yet private "media room." New transom windows provide abundant natural light and establish an open feeling, while ceiling coffers and pilasters bring definition to the new space without making it feel enclosed. The transoms are echoed in an interior hallway to add interest and light to the pantry area. A combination of beautiful materials keeps the kitchen aesthetic

clean and the space bright — the painted white wood, mirror and glass panels, and burnished fixtures all reflect natural light and give the room a timeless appeal. The renovation also improved the kitchen's circulation and functionality by breaking the workspaces into distinct areas between the main kitchen, butler's pantry and desk area, and then closely grouping key appliances to increase efficiency. Gorgeous new millwork adds grace and pairs well with modern materials (with design help from Pimlico Interiors) such as metallic grasscloth wall covering and glamorous light fixtures to give this home its unique character.

### Traditional meets contemporary

The owners of this classic 1903 Colonial Revival recently completed a comprehensive, 10-year renovation led by the firm of Amanda Martocchio Architecture + Design. Together they worked to maintain the home's vintage character while updating the mechanicals and introducing a fresh, contemporary aesthetic. The result is a spectacular marriage of old and new. The interior is infused with natural light and views of the beautiful grounds, while the clean design and warm furnishings create intimate gathering spaces and a perfect backdrop for their collection of modern art. The kitchen environment, created by Ms. Martocchio and constructed by Prutting & Company Custom Builders, was designed for a family who loves to cook and eat. Structural modifications unite the kitchen to the informal family space, making room for an elevator, while large sliding doors now connect the airy new kitchen to the outdoor dining area and expansive back yard. This dialogue between traditional and contemporary continues outside with the uniquely modern pool house set up on a hill. Overall, the landscape, architecture, interiors and furnishings coordinate well to reflect a single unified vision for this home.

### Living on the river

Hailing from Savannah, Ga., the owners of this charming abode always desired a casual home with a wraparound porch. Accordingly, they purchased this home on the Silvermine River six years ago based on its setting and the potential to one day add the dream porch. After tapping into a talented network of friends and acquaintances to help them execute their vision, their dream home is now a reality. Tori Legge of Stirling Mills guided the interior design, ensuring her clients' wishes for open lines of sight and easy outdoor access



The owners purchased this home on the Silvermine River based on its setting and the potential to one day add a wraparound porch. After tapping into a network of friends and acquaintances, their vision is now a reality. Tori Legge of Stirling Mills handled the interior design, working with architect Jim Schettino and contractor Paul Tully of Imian Partners. The living room and all major areas on the main floor now have French doors leading out to the wraparound porch and the outdoor living spaces. — Jane Beiles Photography

be reflected in the construction plans. The homeowners love to entertain, so Ms. Legge made sure the depth of the new porch would adequately hold a full-size dining table and furniture arrangement. Since the tight property consists of three material elevations, creating proper flow from the main living space to the porch, down to the pool and ultimately to the river presented a major design challenge. However, architect Jim Schettino and contractor Paul Tully of Imian Partners were up to the task. The

renovation project included an extra long swimming pool (to allow lap swimming for the husband — a former competitive swimmer), thus limiting the space available for transitioning from the house, but Schettino and Tully resolved the issue beautifully by installing French doors in almost every room on the main floor, and a double staircase leading down to the pool area.

### A sense of serenity

Tucked away near a picturesque cor-

ner of town, this new shingle-style home conveys the quiet serenity of coastal living. Designed by Robert Storm Architects and built by Coastal Construction, this home offers a welcome reprieve from the active lifestyle of this young family. Inside, the light-filled living spaces are well defined with strong architectural elements. Generous connecting spaces and ample lines of sight reinforce the relaxed feel of beach living. With the help of designer Tori Legge, from Stirling Mills, muted colors invoke a sense of calm and serenity and are balanced with a variety of textures and natural materials. A generous kitchen, anchored by a sizable island that provides both work space and dining for five, is the hub of this home. The three-inch bulletproof concrete slab counter is extremely practical for this young family and keeps the aesthetic neutral. A family workstation in the mudroom takes organization to new heights and includes individual mail slots for each family member. Pet owners will appreciate the built-in dog bed, which provides private space for the family pets without the clutter of a cage. Overall, this home oasis makes every day feel like a vacation.

### Family space is transformed

When his clients approached architect Neil Hauck, they were bursting out of their house. Although comprised of limited space, poor layout and low ceilings, the home's location on a cul-de-sac in town was ideal for this young family. Due to coverage limitations, Mr. Hauck's only option to gain space was to push into the rear yard and go up. In doing so, the design team reshaped the exterior character of the house to reflect the simplicity of the shingle-style homes so admired by the homeowners. They also transformed the interior of the house into a period home through the use of subtle details that now give the house character. The heart of this renovated home is the family space: the kitchen, family room and breakfast nook. While each opens into one another, a series of design devices gives each its own identity. Interior designer Michelle Morgan Harrison artfully balanced the classic lines of the home with modern furnishings, giving each room a unique personality while allowing it to flow harmoniously into the spaces around it. The second floor boasts the majority of the expanded floor



The breakfast area of this newly constructed shingle-style home from Coastal Construction is typical of the abundant natural light that filters into the home. Tori Legge of Stirling Mills created the interiors by combining neutral colors, diverse textures, interesting fixtures and occasional bursts of color. — Jane Beiles Photography

area and includes a new master suite, a homework nook, and a relocated laundry room. By increasing the pitch of the new roof, the team also created space for a large playroom and combination office/guest suite. This home aptly demonstrates that style and sensibility can coexist under the same roof.

### Sunsets at the river's edge

Ideally situated along the Rippowam River and surrounded by lush woods, this home is a constant source of inspiration for the resident family of artists and nature lovers. To take advantage of the private grounds and natural setting, the homeowner created a custom-designed art studio off the kitchen. Here, skylights on the north side provide the perfect light for an artist to work while enjoying the constant source of inspiration provided by the Rippowam River. Although the house is relatively new, it maintains quite a bit of history since it was designed around two perpendicular stone walls, one of which is still home to a 60-year-old thriving hydrangea. Incredibly, one of the massive stone walls runs from

the front of the house through the kitchen and 10 feet beyond onto the back patio. From the kitchen windows one may enjoy the view of the Rippowam River and forest beyond. Western exposure provides evening sunsets and the sound of the river flowing can be heard throughout the house. Custom-designed red mahogany double doors open onto the outdoor stone patio living/dining area with a fireplace. The interior floors are reclaimed wide-planked pine; a farmhouse table was designed with the same wood as well as the adjoining family room mantel. In the kitchen, lower cabinets of varying heights are painted an earthy green while upper cabinets are painted ivory to blend in with the wall color and give the room a feeling of spaciousness. Details such as brushed nickel fixtures and hexagonal chicken wire panels give the kitchen an earthy feel.

### Kitchen space for the 21st Century

Twenty years ago, Front Row Kitchens designed and remodeled this New Canaan kitchen and was subsequently asked to be part of the first New Canaan Cares Kitchen tour. Recently, the same homeowner enlisted the help of Cobble Court Interiors to help update the kitchen space for 21st Century living. In making key changes to wall sizes and door openings, the new plan allowed for a bright transitional space with clean lines and updated functionality. Custom white enamel cabinetry is balanced by a custom quarter sawn ebony oak island appointed with wainscot panels and ebony brackets. Drawer banks under the sleek Wolf cook top create symmetry while the custom white hood reinforces the clean lines of the kitchen. Creative storage spaces allow the homeowner to keep counters clutter-free, and the blue Calcutta marble counters and backsplash give the space a chic look and feel. The new plan also allowed for a family space and work area with a custom enamel stone desk tailored to the business needs of a budding entrepreneur. Once the design phase was completed, the homeowner again called upon Front Row Kitchens to execute the design plan using custom cabinetry by Plain & Fancy. This wonderful collaboration created a beautiful and functional space for the next 20 years.