

New England HOME CT



Winter
Respite

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Microdose

Designers dazzled during the thirtieth annual Rooms with a View.

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Those who visit historic Southport Congregational Church, a handsome Gothic Revival-style structure, for the annual Rooms with a View show house fundraiser that takes place each November have three options when they enter: continue straight ahead to the library, turn right to the great hall, or take a left to the chapel. I always turn left to experience the chapel's annual transformation into the Hadley Cafe—and for a carried chicken salad sandwich on a croissant. This year, the chapel glowed with red lacquer panels, book-lined shelves trimmed in brass,

and a quartet of oversize pendant lanterns. A chic and sleek metropolitan bibliophile's dream—and a ringer for Manhattan philanthropist and socialite Brooke Astor's iconic library, designed by the late, great Albert Hadley in the mid-1970s.

Hadley had a home in Southport and conceived of Rooms with a View in 1995 to boost his beloved community church's charitable efforts. Every year since, twelve designers concoct imaginative vignettes within the confines of a six-by-eight-by-six-foot box. Here are a few of our favorites from 2025.

A Fan Palm carpet in Botanical Green from Jennifer Manners and faux flowers by Diane James Home add to the treehouse feel of Jared Clark's space.



Jared Clark loves a small-space challenge—and an array of what he calls intentional clutter. “I designed a personal shadow box of curated collections. It’s a nod to one’s own life journey,” he says of his library vignette. Beginning with a vintage foldaway game table (note that the chair tucks right in) and hidden storage, he swathed the ceiling in a floral paper by Thibaut

(“the ultimate umbrella”) and hung mural panels made from a pastoral Arte wallcovering. Look closely: atop each of the twin bookcases rests a custom light fixture that Clark designed with Corston using antique books. The whimsical creation is now a made-to-order item at The Clark, the interior designer’s shop in Pound Ridge, New York.

Vaughan's Perugia mirror layers a gentle wave over the Bambois wallcovering by Fromental. The built-ins are by California Closets.



Fairfield County interior designer Naïka Andre imagined her vignette as a serene dressing room drenched in the soothing lavender tones of Brassica by Farrow & Ball. Marie's Retreat, as Andre called it, was inspired by her late grandmother. "She was the epitome of grace," remembers Andre. "From the way she spoke to how she dressed and even how she moved. Getting

dressed was a celebration for her, and she taught me that beauty is as much a ritual as it is an outcome." Drapery panels in a botanical print by Zimmer + Rohde enclose the small vanity, while a custom ottoman designed by Andre and fabricated by Little Joe Upholstery adds softness. A reupholstered vintage chair provides just the right-sized perch for the petite space.

The wallpaper is Capricorn from Little Greene, and the light fixture is from Visual Comfort & Co.



Fresh from the confines of city living, designers and friends Bennett Leifer and Victoria Tomlinson Cole are exploring ways to experience nature as art in their new home state of Connecticut, where each head their own firms. Former design colleagues in New York City, the duo eagerly joined forces and let their shared love of atriums, orangeries, and greenhouses guide their design. "I asked myself, what was *the* view from our room," says Leifer.

He and Tomlinson agreed that a mural wallpaper from Little Greene provided the perfect whimsy. Potted palms bring the scene to life against doors Leifer salvaged from the renovation of his home in Redding. Imagining how each would use the space if it were their own, Leifer contributed an easel and Tomlinson planted teacups with succulents atop an antique desk. "I am a painter," explains Leifer, "and Victoria loves to entertain."

The ceiling wallpaper is by Arte from the Flamant Collection, and the trim is painted Clay-Mid from Little Greene.



Anchored by an overscale convex mirror from Formations and a pair of columns reminiscent of a seaside porch, interior designer Matthew Kowles's vignette was inspired by a love of sailing. "I have the fondest memories of being out on the water," he says. The Gracie wallpaper features an 1800s-era Nantucket Harbor scene on top of which Kowles layered prints of racing yachts off the New Jersey coast competing in the 1895 America's Cup trials. The Queen Anne armchairs are covered in a nautical-

inspired stripe and rest on a sisal carpet that Kowles says reminds him of Eastern trade routes and exotic patterns. A skirt made from Belgian linen with a grosgrain-ribbon trim covers an antique gateleg table. And the geese are his own. "My husband bought them, and we've become somewhat attached. We enjoy seeing them under the table in our home," he says. "They are the whimsical crack in the fourth wall, welcoming fellow trespassers in to relax and enjoy the room."

The black stools are upholstered in horsehair and were found at a Paris flea market. The tiny-scaled geometric carpet is by Stark.



Variations on form unite this elegant entryway of an imagined apartment on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Interior designer Garrett Carter anchored the tranquil scheme with a pair of doors (leading into the apartment beyond) made from solid fluted plaster by Hyde Park Mouldings—note the polished chrome doorknobs. “I wanted it to feel glamorous yet subtle and calming all at the same time,” says Carter. The celadon-and-cream palette (Carter says he was inspired by Prada) is a pleasing backdrop for the Fabricut curtain panels on either side, echoing the fluting

of the doors. “The puddling of the curtains also mimics the table skirt,” points out Carter. He says the skirt was inspired by tables seen in Jackie Kennedy’s dressing room in the White House, designed by Sister Parish. Carter’s custom touches offer ingenuity throughout. “I had an original eighteenth-century mirror from France that I took to a plaster yard to mold and make this pair,” he recalls. “And I found the hanging lantern at a junk store in Queens and spray-painted it white.” The chain is covered in twisted silk by Fabricut.