

New England HOME CT

TRUE BLUE

NATURE'S
PALETTE
SHINES



Here & There

DESIGN DISCOVERIES FROM AROUND CONNECTICUT

The aluminum-framed doors and windows are in keeping with the car barn's minimalist aesthetic. Architect David LaPierre added an interior sliding barn door to conceal a small storage area and designed the granite patio to one day showcase a sculpture.



HEART OF GLASS

Lots of glass and a host of modern design elements yield two projects that are clear winners. BY LISA H. SPEIDEL



REST STOP

A 1957 Corvette deserves a special home—at the very least one that’s a safe distance from typical garage gear like skateboards and lacrosse sticks. That was the drive behind owner Nick Leone’s idea to build what he called a “tool shed” to house his antique car on his Westport property. He enlisted Cardello Architects, and during a lengthy planning phase, the project morphed from a rustic barn-like structure to a sleek, modern design. “It’s a very clean space, not meant to compete with the car,” says architect David LaPierre, or, for that matter, the adjacent house, which is a traditional Georgian-style colonial.

To get the desired effect, the steel structure is clad in a charcoal-gray board-and-batten composite siding (a nod to the original barn concept), the roof is metal, the floor is polished concrete, and there’s a great deal of glass. “We viewed this structure as a



TOP: Details matter: the ribs in the roof align vertically with the grooves in the siding, and the frosted-glass doors manually slide open in either direction, to the right or the left. **ABOVE:** White walls, recessed skylights, and simple track lighting with hanging pendants lend the 600-square-foot space a gallery-like feel—an ideal contrast to the black ’57 Corvette with silver coves and red interior that Leone takes for a weekly spin when the weather is nice.

ARCHITECTURE:
David LaPierre, Cardello Architects
BUILDER: Walter Mattera, Mattera Construction

piece of sculpture,” says LaPierre, “a little jewel box.” The garage can hold up to three cars, and Leone plans to add a vintage Porsche or Lamborghini, or perhaps another Corvette. As for its original moniker? That’s gone. There are, in fact, no tools in the barn, and, according to Leone, “My daughter finally said, can we please stop calling it a tool shed? It’s a car museum.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: For details, see Resources.



Architects Douglas VanderHorn and David Milliken removed the roof of an existing breakfast room and replaced it with glass to integrate it into the design of the adjacent terrace. The light-filled and airy space is a favorite spot for the homeowners to sit in the morning.

ORANGERY THEORY

It was the soggy patio cushions that sent homeowner Gavin in search of a solution for the Greenwich family's outdoor oasis. "Our house in the UK had what Brits call an orangery because it's always raining," he says. "So I hatched

this plan to put an orangery without walls over the patio to keep the furniture dry, ourselves dry, and to preserve the light that enters the house."

Enter VanderHorn Architects to execute said concept. "We wanted it to



ABOVE: The structure was prefabricated and assembled on site by Peerless Construction. It arrived in lots of smaller pieces and “looked like one of my kids’ modeling exercises laid out on the lawn,” remembers homeowner Gavin. **BELOW:** The seating area is extra cozy, thanks to a new outdoor fireplace comprised of a mix of Connecticut granite.

match the house, a colonial, and fit the existing footprint, but employ a contemporary, current design,” says project manager David Milliken. The columns and gables skew traditional, while the powder-coated-aluminum and glass structure adds a modern spin. The orangery’s features are decidedly present-day: electric radiant heaters to extend the shoulder season, cove LED lighting to illuminate the underside of the glass roof, a special glass coating to reduce the spots left behind by raindrops, even an electric snow-melt mechanism to combat winter weather and motorized venting panels to allow airflow on warm days.

All of this technology, combined with an inviting aesthetic, equals a relaxing—and dry—multi-season retreat.

EDITOR’S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

ARCHITECTURE:

Douglas VanderHorn, David Milliken,
VanderHorn Architects

BUILDER: Peerless Construction

