

INTERIORS[®]

A modern outdoor patio area featuring a large blue sectional sofa with light-colored tufted cushions and a built-in fire pit in the center. To the right, there is a small round white table with two black metal chairs. In the foreground, a rectangular pool with a dark blue tile border is visible. The background is a wooden fence and lush greenery, including a red-leafed tree and several tall evergreens. The sky is clear and blue.

ART IN DESIGN

Blue is having yet another moment in design, although we'd like to think that it transcends trends. But when we were editing this issue, we couldn't help but notice a blue infusion throughout. It begins on the throw pillows in the living room of the 1910 house in New Jersey that architect Rachael H. Grochowski reinvented for her client. Natasha Baradaran's Indigo Atelier Strie graces the living room sofa of the Chandos Collective house in Houston, and swirling swaths highlight the Kyle Bunting Luna hide rug in the dining room. There's an entire blue wet bar in the Northern California house designed by Tineke Triggs, its Powell & Bonnell Nobi stools shimmering with Romo fabric, with their Alto stools covered in blue in the kitchen. There's even a blue Akara rug in the den—a blue rug? Be still my heart! Take that, neutrals!

The blue of the sky and the water enhances the rhythm of hues from the pool to the terrace to the open-walled Los Angeles living room by William Hefner, while the turquoise Atlantic is the only color in Holly Hunt's all-white Miami wraparound terrace moment, or the James Turrell sculpture-like open ceiling in James Magni's Southern California in our Interiors/Exteriors pages, featuring our favorite indoor/outdoor spaces from issues past. Finally, there is the blue found only in the waters of Lake Como, Italy, the subject of our Parting Shot. It makes good sense for blue interior accents to follow the sea and sky—after all, nature is design's true guide.



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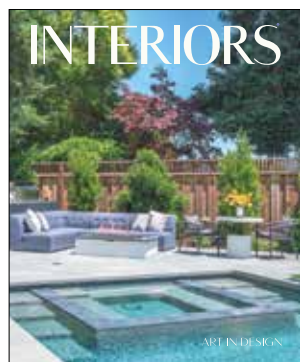
PARTING SHOT

Celebrating alfresco design on Lake Como

COVER STORY: PAGE 54

INTERIOR DESIGN: TINEKE TRIGGS

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRISTOPHER STARK





DAYS OF FUTURE PAST

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN:
RACHAEL H. GROCHOWSKI, RHG A+D

TEXT: ERIKA HEET

PHOTOGRAPHY: DONNA DOTAN





With its grand proportions, peaked door arches, cathedral-like windows and solid wood paneling, this 1910 Tudor in Montclair, New Jersey, presented a unique opportunity for architect Rachael H. Grochowski. "The home, of historic stature, needed attention," says Grochowski, whose firm, RHG A + D, is based nearby. "The client understood the value of personalizing the home, and respecting the history but making it their own, for the way they want to live." That included what Grochowski calls "an element of ease" built into the floor plan, with an emphasis on wellness. From an aerated soak tub with built-in music and a view outside to nature to integrated sound insulation to create quiet spaces, Grochowski brought calm to this home sanctuary. She added plants "to remind us that humans are not the only living elements of the home," she says.



For this repeat client, Grochowski says she set out to create "an oasis for his new blended family," including four children between them. The entire house, including the entrance hall, five bathrooms, six bedrooms, the kitchen, dining room and living room, as well as a sunroom, screening room, game room, office and gym were all updated. Whereas that rustic wood paneling, *de rigueur* over a century ago, might have been a skosh heavy for the client, Grochowski lightened things up by adding windows, increasing existing window sizes, and expanding openings between rooms. By doing this, she notes, "We were able to retain the grandeur of the space with a modern feel."

That modernity infuses the interiors, from the Miry lounge chairs from Bright and the artful Ochre chandelier in the living room to the midcentury-inspired dining chairs from Studio Van Den Akker in the dining room, whose original plaster tracery ceiling details were instantly contemporized with contrasting Black Tar and Baby's Breath paint from Benjamin Moore. The primary bedroom is a quiet, calm place, with a floor-to-ceiling heathered linen wall and window treatment from The Shade Store that hides awkwardness and inauspicious window and door placements. "I didn't want the energy that entered the room to slip right out the door," Grochowski says. "We created the 'wall of curtain' to ground the space and conceal the door when not in use and balance the room. The curtain is on a remote, like a hotel, which gives the owners a feeling of a hospitality space." It is a perfect microcosm of what Grochowski intended to achieve in the design of this home. "We work on many older and historic homes," she says. "Our goal is to honor the past, plan for the future and to live in the present." ■ Rachael Grochowski, RHG A + D, rhgdesign.com

