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THE CRAFTED
HOME
FURNITURE
ACCESSORIES

DAVID YURMAN

Clean Lines In the kitchen, Walker Zanger porcelain tile on the backsplash provides a modern farmhouse vibe. Circa Lighting pendants are suspended above an island topped in Caesarstone quartz. Bar stools are through Kravet. *See Resources.*

ng Arrangements The house is remarkable for its ability to appear, outside and in, as old and weathered, yet completely comfortable and inviting. The simplest tive touches, such as colorful vintage quilts on the beds, soften the rooms. All of the fireplaces, including these two in the master bedroom (OPPOSITE PAGE) and a oom (ABOVE) were bought by the homeowner on one of his many trips to Ireland.

tting Pretty (THIS PAGE) Kravet ning chairs and Thibaut mchairs surround a Bausman ble in the breakfast room under Circa Lighting lantern through ntucket Light Shop. **High ine** (OPPOSITE PAGE) In the dining om, shimmering surfaces like Erinn V. buffet and metallic illip Jeffries wallcovering give a subtle glow. The chandelier rom Circa Lighting, and the onces are Urban Electric Co. *e Resources.*

"THEY WANTED A CLEAN, MORE TRANSITIONAL LOOK WITH SOME UNEXPECTED SURPRISES," HAY SAYS. "CLEAN LINES AND A LIGHT COLC PALETTE, BUT WARM ENOUGH SO IT DIDN'T FEEL COLD OR STERILE"

aesthetic. "They wanted a clean, more transitional look with some unexpected surprises," Hay says. "Clean lines and a light color palette, but warm enough so it didn't feel cold or sterile."

Sanders designed the house with a classic center hall feel to it, but with a much more updated execution. Walking in the front door, the staircase is an immediate wow: a modern Chippendale with inset glass panels. "We wanted it to be special," says Sanders. "The house has big shoulders, so it needed something of a statement. We wanted it to look unique and nothing like a spec house." Hay specified light oak flooring throughout, which keeps the house from not feeling too heavy or dark. Taupey light gray walls and crisp trim evoke that airy feeling the clients wanted. A dining room off the entrance is more formal than the rest of the house. "She wanted surfaces that look great at night," says Hay. "This is definitely an adult dining room." Hay combined subtle shimmer and textures to create an effect that almost glows at night: a buffet with modeled mirror facade, soft, velvety upholstered chairs, and a Phillip Jeffries cork wallcovering with silver metallic thread peeking through. Curtain panels aren't full-on sheers but have an ethereal effect. "There is nothing granny or heavy in this house," says Hay.

The real scene stealer, though, is smack in the middle of the the house kitchen. The husband is in the food industry, so Sanders and Hay were with creating it to his exact specifications. "We started with the kitchen middle of the space, like an open-kitchen restaurant, and radiated out fr there. It's one of the most interesting kitchens we've done," says Sanders Hay, "The husband was very specific. Open shelves were a mandate. Th challenge was how to make them look interesting and attractive when is open to the rest of the house." Hay specified cerused oak shelves and lain tile that looks like wood. "It has that modern farmhouse feel, while durable and keeping that light-as-air feeling."

An oversized island with quartzite countertops houses appliances like erator drawers, so fresh food is readily available while entertaining. "He commercial facilities tamed into residential character," says Sanders. But workhorses—double ovens, fridge, freezer, wine storage, pantry—are in a ing space, almost a secondary kitchen. "What I like about these clients had definite thoughts about cooking and the wife is very organized—rea tentive and thoughtful about all the details of function for an active fam Sanders. "As a result, the house is really wonderfully detailed and built c

Stylish Simplicity (TOP LEFT) Planters from RH flank the side entry. The sconce is from the Midtown Collection by Northeast Lantern. **Show Stopper** (TOP RIGHT) The modern Chipp staircase railing frames glass panels and is a real wow moment upon entering the house. **Calm And Collected** (OPPOSITE PAGE) The clients wanted a spa-like feel in the master be where Creation Baumann curtain panels frame a Kravet daybed that wears a Duralee fabric. The woven shades are from Conrad. Kravet chairs flank a quartzite fireplace. The co table is through Chelsea House. *See Resources.*

Easy Living (TOP) Architect Rob Sanders designed wraparound porches to encourage indoor-outdoor living. **Keep It Cool** (ABOVE) Stacked Travertine ledger stone from the Tile Room gives the family room a chic edge. Slipper chairs from Duralee and a Curry swivel lounge chair by Kravet complement a Monaco round metal and wood table through Interlude Home. **Lounge Act** (OPPOSITE PAGE) Unexpected choices like the vintage zebra rug and metallic poufs in the music room give an otherwise subdued interior a dose of high-wattage glamour. The resin floor urchin, bowl and deer bust are through Oly Studio. The framed butterfly art is by Christopher Marley. *See Resources.*

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begins, l
often do
a growir
ily need
space. In
case, Connecticut-based architect Rob Sar
had already been around the block with t
Canaan couple: He helped rework an awk
addition on their 1920s house when a thir
was set to arrive. Five years later, and grov
of their current house, a late 1950s ranch c
fect piece of land became available. They p
"Luckily, we were still on speaking terms
the first project," Sanders laughs. "They ne
step up to a larger parcel, and this offered
opportunity to do exactly what they want

More space aside, they desired a house t
not too formal, but elegant enough for ent
They wanted it to fit in the vernacular of C
cut but with a younger outlook. "You hear
farmhouse being tossed around a lot," says
"This is more of a modern shingle style." Sa
brought Nantucket-based designer Kathle
on board for her signature crisp and stream

MODERN SHINGLE STYLE

A NEW HOME FITS INTO THE CONNECTICUT VERNACULAR WITH AN INFORMAL BUT ELEGANT AESTHETIC

BY **ALEXA STEVENSON** | PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JANE BEILES**

Making A Genetic Connection

WINE EXPERTS TRACE ZINFANDEL'S ANCESTRY FROM CROATIA TO CALIFORNIA

Exploring Roots
The city of Split (LEFT) in Croatia was home to the inaugural Tribidrag symposium. A vineyard (ABOVE) in Croatia.

Last spring, wine scholars descended on the Roman city of Split, Croatia (recently in the spotlight for its 1,700-year-old Diocletian's Palace, where, in HBO's *Game of Thrones*, Daenerys kept her three dragons), to hear from grape geneticists who had spent decades unraveling the mystery behind the origin of the Zinfandel, known in America as "the foreign grape." At a two-day Tribidrag symposium, experts, including Joel Peterson from Ravenswood Vineyards; David Gates, maker of Ridge Vineyards Zinfandel; Europe's leading wine authority Jancis Robinson; and Carole Meredith, grape geneticist and professor at UC Davis, presented their findings.

To start things off, Mike Grgich of Grgich Hills Estate, the catalyst for this grape-sleuthing, recounted the story of his detecting a similarity between his Napa Zinfandel vines and grapevines he remembered from his youth in Yugoslavia, now Croatia. He phoned Meredith and told her that Zinfandel just might be the same grape as Plavac Mali from his native country, and Zinfandel just might be indigenous to Yugoslavia. He urged Meredith to investigate. In 1997 Meredith enlisted Ivan Pejić and Edi Maletić, professors at Zagreb University, and the 20-year investigation was kicked off.

Together Meredith, Pejić and Maletić tracked down Plavac Mali to a grape that had been planted centuries before in Dalmatia called Tribidrag, arguably one of the world's oldest grapes. At the symposium, you could have heard a pin drop when Meredith took the stage to announce her findings that indeed the origin of Zinfandel is Croatia, its indigenous grape. And furthermore Zinfandel, Primitivo from Italy and Plavac Mali from Croatia are all the same grape. Their detailed scholarship even determined that the Zinfandel grape first arrived in New York from Vienna.

But what took so long to find this out? Experiments like collecting 150 samples of Plavac Mali (which has many close relatives with strange names: Crljenak Kaštelansk, Grk, Dobričić) from 40 Croatian vineyards and bringing them back to UC Davis for genetic testing.

Just as the scientific descriptions of DNA profiling were getting into the weeds, a moment of high drama ensued when a man yelled out that it was Montenegro, not Croatia, where Tribidrag originated. His comment, reflecting the ongoing competition of countries formed after the break-up of Yugoslavia, was dismissed as lacking in sufficient proof. Day two was less serious and far more intoxicating featuring tastings of California Zinfandel, Primitivo from Italy, and flights of global Tribidrag incarnations from India, Albania, Chile, South Africa and Australia, with an Aussie Zin, Cape Mentelle, taking the highest compliments. *—Baroness Sheri de Borchgrave*

THE BARONESS RECOMMENDS

Five top-rated California Zinfandels

From old vines in Sonoma Valley, **Ravenswood Old Hill Zinfandel 2013** ($60) spends 18 months in French oak and is complex and refined. *ravenswoodwinery.com.*

Broad-shouldered and masculine, **Ridge Lytton Springs Zinfandel 2014** ($40), from very old vines, has licorice, cassis and blueberry notes. *ridgewine.com.*

From an organically farmed, high elevation vineyard in the Sierra foothills, **Turley Judge Bell Vineyard 2013** ($65) shows boysenberry and cherry cola flavors. *turleywinecellars.com.*

With a softer character, **Carol Shelton Monga Zinfandel 2014** ($42) from Cucamonga in San Bernardino exhibits pomegranate fruit and savory spice. *carolshelton.com.*

From a Lodi vineyard planted in 1906 in the Central Valley, **Michael David Winery Earthquake Zinfandel 2014** ($24) has a lovely aroma of black raspberry, blueberry and sage. *michaeldavidwinery.com.*