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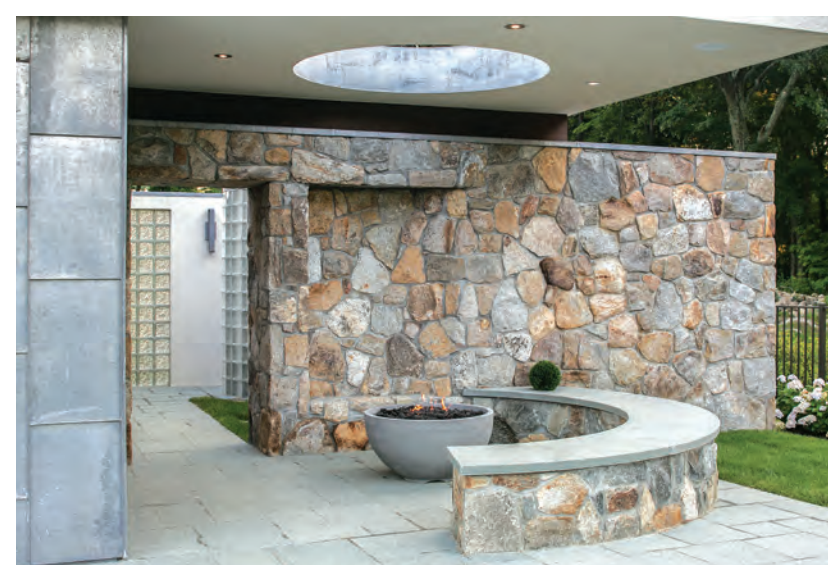
The Great Escape

A REDDING ESTATE'S NEW POOL HOUSE IS A DECIDEDLY MODERN FOIL TO ITS TRADITIONAL SHINGLE-STYLE MAIN RESIDENCE

BY DAVID MASELLO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY NEIL LANDINO JR.



Sculptural Solution
A Jonathan Wagner-designed pool house incorporates local fieldstone and a cantilevered roof punctuated with holes that create moving patterns of sunlight and shade. Pool is by Haggerty Pools. See Resources.



IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT A VACATION RETREAT lies a mere 200 feet from a person's front door. Yet, whenever the occupants of a traditional shingle-style home in Redding want to get away and immerse themselves, not only in a different place, but also in a different aesthetic, they walk across a patch of manicured lawn to their new pool house. "The client tells me that he and his family spend more and more time in the pool house than they ever imagined," says Jonathan Wagner, the Weston-based architect of the newly built 550-square-foot structure. "They like the open space inside, its airiness, its simplicity. They think of it as a retreat. The first directive they told me was that they wanted a piece of sculpture in the landscape, and that's what they occupy every time they are in their pool house."

Many such structures wind up being miniature versions of the main residence. But here, the clients had a vision for a dwelling wholly different in spirit from their cedar-shingled house. "The very fact that they wanted a contemporary building like this speaks exactly to who they are, how they really understand the power of modern buildings," says Wagner. The architect is proud of being a Connecticut native, and he embraces every natural element of the state. "Natural fieldstone walls are one of those details that makes something Connecticut," he says, "and I was intent on incorporating the material here." The new structure makes ample use of that very stone—a material that is as easily found on centuries-old walls that trace properties all over the state as it is on decidedly modern dwellings in places like New Canaan.

Poolside Pleasures (OPPOSITE PAGE) A covered dining area features an Allegro Classics table made of stainless steel and frosted glass surrounded by Brown Jordan chairs, custom colored to reflect the orange hue within the kitchen. **Material Matters** (THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) Weston-based architect Jonathan Wagner was careful about establishing proportions, particularly in keeping the dwelling's expanse of glass the same width as that of the pool. A bench made of stone and concrete circles around an Eldorado Stone fire bowl. The kitchen area is sheathed in a gray-coated zinc; a skylight above bathes the room in natural light. See *Resources*.



Kitchen Cachet (LEFT)
In the kitchen, Zoffany wallpaper complements the slate-colored glass countertop from Leicht. The orange hue of the skylights adds a dash of drama. See *Resources*.

In Full View (RIGHT)
Wagner created a series of fieldstone walls that overlap. They establish outdoors spaces, visually expand the envelope of the poolhouse, and foster privacy. A window in the living area takes in views of the property. See *Resources*.





An Inside Look
 (OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT) A slate fireplace surround complements the 9-inch-thick, 10-foot granite hearthstone and sculptural granite corner stone, both found by Wagner at Connecticut stone quarries. In keeping with the clients' love of entertaining, a built-in bar area was installed against a fieldstone wall. See *Resources*.

Nice Nook (RIGHT)
 Custom cubes in the living room were built by Naula Workshop under the direction of interior designer Robin McGarry. Lamp is from Design Within Reach. Sofas made by Custom Upholstery are covered in a DeLany & Long fabric; pillow fabric is from Duralee. See *Resources*.

The architect established a dialogue between the main house and pool house by referencing materials rather than aesthetics. While the primary residence uses stone as its base, here it rises as full-scale walls that extend into the landscape. Rather than repeating cedar on the exterior, it is used inside the pool house to create a subtle and beautiful banding of colors. "The horizontal tongue-and-groove woodwork is not unlike Chinese puzzles," explains Wagner. "The whole point of using natural materials is that they shouldn't, and really can't, perfectly match. That's part of their appeal."

The core of the structure is a double-height cube, its uppermost part ringed by operating clerestory windows. Concealed from the outside within a gray, zinc-coated element, the kitchen area features a window over the sink that also works as a pass-through to a fire pit. The kitchen is often bathed in natural light via a dramatic skylight that is encapsulated in a burst of orange. That same hue is referenced in the furnishings via the lacquered surfaces of a series of walnut

cube tables, dining chairs and throw pillows. Interior designer Robin McGarry wanted the interiors to be bright and cheerful, and to contrast with the architecture that she characterizes as earthy. "The last thing the clients wanted was a neutral palette inside the pool house," McGarry explains. "They wanted vibrant colors to brighten up the space."

McGarry was also intent on keeping the main interior area flexible. The clients, who increasingly live and entertain in the dwelling, like to watch television there, so the designer had an extra-deep (45 inches) U-shaped sofa made to create what she calls "a very loungey area." And custom cube tables were fitted with casters so they could be easily moved around the room.

When outdoors, the clients can dine beneath a stucco ceiling punctuated with five five-foot-diameter holes. "They cast the most beautiful shadows during the day," Wagner says, "and the clients are enamored with them. They create a kind of sexy, Palm Springsy, James Bond aesthetic to the whole project." 🌟