

# home

BY MARY KATE HOGAN



## DESIGNING WITH INTENTION



**T**he daughter of a jeweler, this young designer with Connecticut roots pivoted from fashion to interiors and is making her mark on New York and Greenwich homes. From a waterfront mansion to a nautically-themed house for a well-known lifestyle brand exec, Taylor Lagerloef creates homes that are beautiful, functional and highly personal. We caught up with Taylor to learn what inspires her, her storage secrets and design details from her favorite projects from five years with her own firm.

PORTRAIT BY GRACE RIVERA; INTERIOR BY WILLIAM JESS LAIRD



in Paris. However, I quickly realized that fashion was not for me. It felt too individualistic. I began interning with an interior designer [in France], and things started to click. What drew me in was the sense that interior design extends far beyond aesthetics. For me, it's about shaping the spaces where we live, where we connect, where we create memories. Interiors become the backdrop for people's lives, and a home isn't just a beautiful place to live. It's a deeply personal archive of clients' lives. That's what made me fall in love with this business.

#### **How would you describe your style and your approach to design?**

My personal aesthetic is contemporary, deeply rooted in the use of unique textures, and with a clear nod to mid-century modern. I admire the work of the mid-century masters such as Eero Saarinen, Hans Wegner, Carlo Scarpa. I often draw from their use of form and material. I aim to reinterpret those references by updating proportions, finishes and functionality to reflect how my clients live.

My approach is always client-centered. I begin each project by understanding my client's priorities and lifestyle. From there, I develop design that blends the function of a home with individuality and creates a flow that feels intuitive but also inspiring. It's important to me to honor a client's taste. Many of them travel extensively, and their treasured memories come from those

**opposite page:** In an open floor plan, this dining room that connects the living room and butler's pantry is anchored by a Hellman Chang table with custom chairs and an eye-catching Ochre glass chandelier. **left:** The stair tower is grounded by custom wood paneling, enlarged to suit the double-height foyer and enlivened by a dramatic 24-foot chandelier from Bocci.

**below:** The whole house is designed to maximize views of Long Island Sound. **architect:** Cardello Architects **builder:** Hobbs Inc.

#### **Can you share a bit about your connections to Fairfield County?**

I was raised in Westport, and I still have family in Westport and in Greenwich. [Her father, Warren, is a co-owner of Famille jewelers in Greenwich.] Fairfield County was the center of my childhood and my upbringing. It still feels like home. I moved to Paris to study, and that experience opened my eyes not only to design, but to culture, different ways of life and the energy of being in a city. From there, I fell in love with the richness of big cities between the architecture, the history and the vibrancy. This ultimately led me back to New York, which is where I've built my life and career. Still, I've never lost my connection to Connecticut. Given the proximity,

I continue to work with clients there. Over the years, I've built a trusted network of local vendors and tradespeople that I still collaborate with today. It's wonderful to merge the energy and perspective from my current life in New York with the strong roots I have in Greenwich.

#### **What led you to pursue a career in design?**

I was absolutely a kid who was always rearranging my bedroom furniture. Also, I was always the one who was trying on my mother's jewelry. I loved wearing her pearl necklaces. I was always sketching and creating. Creativity was a natural part of me.

At first, I thought I was going to pursue fashion, and that's why I enrolled at Parsons





**left:** Drawing inspiration from yacht interiors, this dining room with wet bar features sailcloth paneling, a teak table, chairs and molding and polished chrome accents. **architect:** Tanner White **builder:** SBP Homes

experiences. I love weaving that into their homes, whether it's through materials, color palette or collected objects. I want their space to be beautiful but also a reflection of their personal journey.

#### **You learned the ropes working for Cindy Rinfret. How was that?**

It was everything I could have hoped for in a first job, post-college, but also as a first step toward building my own company. From the beginning, I was open about my long-term dream of running my own firm. She was incredibly supportive and educated me in all aspects of the profession—from designing to working closely with clients, plus behind the scenes and the day-to-day of running a business. I wanted to be involved in every facet of the job. I'm forever grateful for the experience, which gave me the confidence to launch on my own company.

There were many incredible projects that I'm so lucky to have been involved in while working for Cindy. One experience that really stood out was a historic waterfront property in Greenwich that was originally a carriage house, about 150 years old. The client wanted to renovate in a way that felt authentic but also honored the history, all while making it functional for modern living. It was truly a lesson in merging old and new. We kept the original floors and barn doors but then introduced fresh details, such as moldings, hardware and mill work. We retrofitted antiques, such as an old French console that was transformed into a vanity for the formal powder room. This project taught me the power of restraint and respect for a home's architecture and also how you can breathe new life into a space.

#### **Let's talk about some of your projects. Can you share a bit about the Overlook house?**

This is one of my favorite Greenwich projects, on Byram Shore Road. From the beginning, the architecture and interior planning were centered around optimizing the views of the Sound and nearby islands. The house itself has an open floor plan, which includes a double-height foyer, a combined living and dining space, and a stair tower that spans three levels; and it was imperative for the interiors to feel cohesive while still giving each space its own sense of character.

I selected materials and finishes that would not only complement each other but also stand the test of time, which was especially important in a waterfront property, where sun and salt exposure can be very harsh. The interior furniture and lighting layouts were designed to enhance the architecture without obstructing the views. We also wanted to bring the outside in—super-important for a house like this where the client wanted to host and entertain—with windows and doors that could open up completely so the house really was indoor-outdoor.

**below left:** Nautical details abound. **right:** The textural four-poster bed from Mr. Brown Home is dressed with a custom navy and white headboard; the ceiling is covered in a linen wallcovering by Aesthetics.





*“MY PERSONAL AESTHETIC IS CONTEMPORARY, DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE USE OF UNIQUE TEXTURES, AND WITH A CLEAR NOD TO MID-CENTURY MODERN. I ADMIRE THE WORK OF THE MIDCENTURY MASTERS SUCH AS EERO SAARINEN, HANS WEGNER, CARLO SCARPA.”*

— TAYLOR LAGERLOEF



**top:** To create a minimalist vibe in the kitchen, the designer chose a stone backsplash that mimics the house's original stone detailing, and a waterfall island with reeded wood façade is covered in Calacatta marble. **inset and bottom:** Neutrals and stone surfaces lend a soothing vibe throughout this Scandinavian-inspired home.



**What about the Riverside waterfront?  
Thinking we may know the owner?**

Yes, this renovation was one of my first projects after starting my firm, and the client is Shep Murray, co-founder and CEO of Vineyard Vines. He had a distinct vision, and we came together with the builder, Doron Sabag of SBP Homes, to interpret that through a design lens that felt elevated and livable but still honored Shep's ideas. Because the house was right on the water, Shep wanted the interiors to illustrate a nautical lifestyle with modern sensibilities. We had fun with that, interpreting it in unique ways such as upholstering the dining room walls in sail cloth. We designed one area of the house to feel like the cabin of a yacht and even transformed the basement into a complete tiki bar.

**You have such a diverse portfolio.  
What's the story behind this charming  
Scandinavian cottage?**

My client had purchased a house in town that had this great cottage on the property where her daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren were going to live. For the project, the house was taken down to the studs. The owner's

**above:** A light-filled family room with eating area decked out in neutrals and natural finishes serves as the heart of the house.

**right:** Woodland-themed wallpaper and colorful glass are among the sweet features in this girl's bedroom.





**left:** A textural wall of reeded wood and hanging sconces serve as the backdrop for a peaceful primary bedroom. **below:** The carriage house is filled with hidden storage that's concealed behind clean-lined cabinets with minimal hardware. In the mudroom, a clever wooden dog gate can be recessed into the cabinetry and pulled out as needed. **architect:** Louis Campana **builder:** QuinnDico

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daughter is an author and owns something like 4,000 books. They have two young kids, a dog, a cat—it's a full house—and the need for storage was crucial. When we started the process, she wanted the house to feel Scandinavian but in a minimalized way. So, designing storage was about hidden features and clean lines.

We wanted something to truly delineate the spaces and make it feel cozy and inviting. There's a room partition that I designed with dog gates built into it. In the mudroom, there's hidden storage for coats, hats, gloves and shoes. Then you turn the corner and you're in the living and kitchen area and can have a fire going; it's just really warm and intimate. In the office, there's hidden book storage. When you're looking at the fireplace, we have bookcases to the left and right, but there's a hinge that opens to reveal a second layer of bookcases behind. I design with function in mind, and I'm so happy to say that all of my clients use their houses to the fullest.

I'm really proud that my clients feel so connected to their homes.

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