

A Passion for Repurposing

Natalie Weinstein designs this eclectic home for the king of his castle

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Images for Presentation

Right: The entry foyer sets the eclectic tone of this unusual home. An Asian figure greets you flanked by a pair of handmade plaster of Paris mirrors over metal console tables rescind from bankruptcy. The back wall of glass includes a doorway to an indoor/outdoor seating area adjacent to an outdoor kitchen and fireplace. The massive crystal chandelier lights your way to the treasures beyond.



Left: The hallway off the main entry leads to the master bedroom suite and one guest suite. The stairway leads to a paneled library/office. The grandfather clock, art and collectibles reflect the client's diverse taste.

One of the most interesting and challenging projects I have worked on is a 13,000 square foot North Shore waterfront home whose owner has amazing eclectic taste. He's travelled the world, his interests are varied, and his passion for his



The family room reflects the client's eclectic taste. Mirrored niches display Asian statuary while a refurbished Buddha salvaged from a sunken ship seated on a revolving pedestal holds court on the cocktail table. The balcony allows upstairs guests a view of the main level and outdoors. The glass walls flanking the fireplace look through to the indoor pool.

Right: The elegant dining room is large enough to encompass a full size grand piano and 2 huge built-ins for china, crystal and collectibles. The dining room table was made from a hundred year old carpenter's table and the chandelier is an amazing piece from the famed Barrett Iron Works in upstate New York.

home is unwavering.

The main level, with its breathtaking view of Long Island Sound has somewhat defined areas – master suite with fabulous bath and closets, guest rooms and huge dining room, kitchen and family room, off which is an indoor pool and spa.

A second floor hideaway encompasses a movie theatre



Warmed by an inviting fireplace a billiard table takes center stage in this area of the lower level surrounded by pub and leather seating. If billiards are not your game, perhaps it's chess, or just enjoying the statuary from Kenya nestled in the paneled walls.



A casino walkway niche for working "slots" from a Las Vegas casino is always fun since the homeowner provides the quarters!

with a medieval theme and a paneled library, along with additional guest rooms. Integrating his many collections in these large spaces was a fun and challenging endeavor where scale and proportion of furniture was critical.

The lower level, however, was even more exciting, because it was a clean slate. Whatever we imagined could be possible. Fortunately, my imagination and his concept of a fabulous home "get-away" were in sync with the artifacts and collectibles he had amassed. So what about a home gym? Great! How about a walk-in 2000 bottle wine cellar with outside sampling area? Terrific!

What about a cozy gathering spot by the fireplace to enjoy a glass of wine, enjoy a game of billiards and surround



The indoor pool and spa, clearly visible from the family room through large glass panels, is truly an oasis. It faces the outdoor pool and gardens with a magnificent view of the sound.



The 2000 bottle wine cellar is worthy of any fine restaurant. The recycled circular staircase is indicative of the client's passion for purposeful re-use.

yourself with African art? Wonderful! And would you be interested in a museum like glass walled ecology area for still more collectibles leading to a café that resembles an old fashioned ice cream parlor as well as an arcade of working slot machines? Absolutely!

What more could a designer ask for? With a client whose passion for repurposing translates into his home as well as his business, my shopping experiences with him were in his store rooms.

It was most fascinating and challenging for us to find new and unusual ways to repurpose his “finds” and treasures, and along with his vast collec-



The wood paneled indoor gym has every amenity for a great workout. The walls and ceiling are crafted from “meant to be” kitchen cabinet doors. The floor is hard surfaced rubber.

The master bath is truly a place to relax and rejuvenate. A spacious tub for two, along with comfortable seating and stone fireplace (not shown) overlooks the gardens and Long Island Sound





The theatre is not only a destination for viewing whatever film is desired in secluded comfort, but a vehicle for displaying the homeowner's amazing collection of armor and medieval artifacts purchased at a government auction.

tions of African, Asian and Medieval artifacts came an onsite full time work crew which made the job a lot easier. They worked month after month taking "recycling" to the next level.

So... Is this home just a little over the top? I'll say! Is it a Natalie Weinstein classic? Perhaps not – but it is definitely the home that makes this client proud and happy, a fun place for family and friends.

Clearly, this project was a growing experience as well as a challenge for me and my staff. We've had "larger than life" homes and clients in the past –

but this owner is a "one of a kind." Yet the collaboration of strong willed client and designer worked – not only once, but twice. (Look for his Florida waterfront apartment in a future *HOUSE* issue).

With mutual respect and good humor, we created a personal space that reflects the man and his vision.

Here's what he had to say about the experience...

"This house was most difficult to lay out, especially with the challenges of using my own things. Without Natalie, it never would have happened." ■



A stairway leading from the dining room into the theatre sets the tone of what's behind the massive doors. A pair of crossed swords from his medieval collection are the door handles.