Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

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## IN DESIGN AWARDS 2013





Clean Lines (LEFT) White plastic Eames chairs surround a distressedwood trestle table from Restoration Hardware. Nutella painting is by Kevin Berlin. Boy's Life (RIGHT) A Globe lamp by Artemide lights the desk in a boy's room. The monkey painting is by Jill Greenberg. See Resources.

## THE FIRST THING you see when you enter this Greenwich residence is a smiling DE-SPEG furry creature perched

on a pedestal, and a neon art piece stating, "Please do not touch the artwork." Tall order for a family with three kids, one of whom routinely attempts to play hockey in the house, but totally tongue in cheek for homeowner/art dealer Josephine Schlank, who believes artwork should be accessible and everywhere.

In collaboration with architect/designer Farnaz Mansuri, the duo "organized the layering of the space via the art," says Mansuri, who then reconfigured the rooms to create a flow totally devoid of dead ends. "There are no corridors, which allows you to slip from one space to another."

After determining the living room should function as a gallery with very few furnishings, Mansuri set her sights on the den that does double duty as a family gathering place and entertainment area. Here, the gray linen sofa complements the oak floors stained deep eggplant, and the Lucite coffee table sets off the unusual-Mansuri calls them "creepy"—glass-enclosed sculptures.

For a family that eats three meals a day together, a welcoming kitchen was essential, so she opened up the existing kitchen and dining room to give the space views to the outdoors. Next, the cabinet panels were redone and open display shelves were added. A painting of a jar of Nutella next to the wood trestle dining table makes the point that art is welcome everywhere.

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