

# Connecticut COTTAGES & GARDENS

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**CONNECTICUT COTTAGES & GARDENS  
TRANSFORMS THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE**

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Welcome To

# *The People's Project*

14 Connecticut designers (and artisans, contractors, painters and products)  
give the Governor's Residence a modern-day makeover

BY ALLEGRA MUZZILLO | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH SCOTT MORTON | LIGHTING BY ERIC RICHARDS

# In celebration of the Residence's 100th anniversary,

Connecticut Cottages & Gardens and the Governor's Residence Conservancy, a private nonprofit group, hand-picked a team of world-class designers—all with ties to the Nutmeg State—to preserve and refresh its public areas, including the pool house and guest cottage. The stunning transformations on the pages that follow are a real breath of fresh air; they give the Residence just the touches needed to restore it to its former glory. Each room not only befits a state's chief executive and his family, but also sets a welcoming tone for all who cross the home's esteemed threshold.

Call it a page taken straight from the Gettysburg Address: "Of the People, By the People, For the People ..." Every stitch of upholstery, every brush of paint, every custom piece of furniture—everything that didn't already belong to the Conservancy—was supplied in kind by Connecticut companies, contractors, decorative painters, upholsterers and more, in the hope of turning the Residence into a respite enjoyed not only by the Governor, First Lady and their children, but by the general public, too.

Designed by Boston-based architectural firm Andrews, Jacques & Rantoul for Hartford industrialist and physician George C.F. Williams, construction on the Residence broke ground in 1909. Situated on the corner of Prospect and Asylum avenues, and serving as the boundary between Hartford and West Hartford, this substantial brick home was built in the popular Georgian Revival style, with a hip roof, single-bay porch, rectangular plan and staunchly symmetrical facade, all typical of the day and the region.

In 1943, the handsome property at 990 Prospect Avenue, a mere three miles from the Capitol building, was acquired to house Connecticut's first family, and to host official functions. Wartime goings-on and the building's location and design were said to offset a more open-door policy, and caused the Residence, shrouded by tall trees and set back 200 feet from passing traffic, to remain largely a private building.

Since that time, however, the Residence has opened itself to guided public tours and social functions for state residents. While it now boasts 15,000 square feet of living space, a pool, 19 rooms and 9 fireplaces on a pared-down four acres, the work of preserving the history of the home has been an ongoing process undertaken by the Conservancy.

While the Residence has undergone several remodels (the first in September 1945, and most recently in 1992), arguably no couple has been more excited about updates than Governor Dannel P. Malloy and First Lady Cathy Malloy. "We were surprised by how many people hadn't had access to this house, and we were interested in making it more inclusive," says Mrs. Malloy. "Our ultimate goal is to open the property to the public and add it to the list of historic venues in Hartford." Since work on this house began, 100-plus artists have contributed to the property. "We feel it's a great beginning to getting people engaged in that effort," she adds.

**Connecticut's First Couple** Governor Dannel P. Malloy and his wife, Cathy, stand sunlit on the terrace, off the Residence's transformed reception area.



**Well Received** Jamie Drake's re-  
a study in contrasts. Original 19th  
stands out against a bold band of  
Summer Sun Pink; all Benjamin M  
Ring's End. (ABOVE) Striped satin  
Drake for Schumacher is a pres  
(OPPOSITE PAGE) To juxtapose with  
tailoring, the room's existing tab  
Schumacher fabric with Samuel  
The vase on the table is by Fran  
See Resources.





LIVING ROOM

## Susan Bednar Long

*S.B. Long Interiors, Inc.*

Susan Bednar Long rose to the challenge of resurrecting the Residence's living room. Disjointed and uncomfortable, "like a tired hotel lobby that was once grand, the room had lost nearly all of its charm over time," she says. A self-proclaimed "modern traditionalist," the Greenwich-based designer, who was born and raised in Connecticut, took color cues from the legendary decorator Bill Blass's New Preston home. "I used masculine colors, such as charcoal, brown, camel and cream and hints of blue," she says, "to emphasize the room's good bones, like the ornate moldings and the fireplace." The deep-chocolate contrast wall and graphic lines that continue along baseboards and above doorways—plus the gray detail around the



ceiling perimeter—create a modern variance that offsets the busy-ness of the traditional millwork and highlights previously overshadowed antiques.

“Since the room is used for official state gatherings, ease of flow into the sunroom and an open, inviting plan were important to the Malloys,” says Bednar Long. Wingback chairs and a Chippendale secretary have moved to the opposing wall for counterbalance. A reupholstered loveseat, along with two custom-made mohair club chairs, a custom ottoman and a new rug now form a more intimate arrangement in front of the hearth. The result? “Though dignified, the room has an undeniable simplicity. It has a warmth and classicism that makes everyone feel well received,” says Bednar Long.



**Modern Tradition** Fabrics for upholstery and window treatments are all from Rogers & Goffigon Ltd. (far left) Nested side tables and ivory urn are from Baker Furniture. Oriental rug is from Fovama. Hurricanes on mantel are from Lazy Susan USA. Glass bottle and tray on ottoman are from Arteriors. (above) An original Chippendale secretary is flanked by a reupholstered wingback in a horizontal stripe and a classic x-bench. (left) Christopher Peacock Paint in Bitumen outlines the doorway's casing in stark relief. All paint is from Christopher Peacock. See Resources.



**SUNROOM Philip Gorrivan, Philip Gorrivan Design**

1-4 Ceiling paint, Violet Petal; stripe paint, Smoke Embers; trim paint, Nimbus; wall paint, Pewter, Benjamin Moore through Ring's End, ringsend.com. 5 Throw pillow fabric, Banks in peacock. 6 Throw pillows and wing back chairs fabric, Woods End in kohl. 7 Sofa fabric, Roxbury in verdegris. 8 Window seat cushion and Mary Elizabeth chair fabric, Cologne in fig. 9 Throw pillow fabric, Concerto in peacock. 10 Throw pillow on window seat fabric, Maharani in plum. 11 Drape panel fabric, Homer in verdegris. 12 Wing chair throw pillow fabric, Alhambra Matelasse in plum. 13 Club chair throw pillow fabric, Wexford in peacock. All fabrics are from Philip Gorrivan for Highland Court through Duralee (T), 212-752-4040, duralee.com. See pages 62-63.



**LIVING ROOM**

**Susan Bednar Long, S.B. Long Interiors, Inc.**

1 Loveseat fabric, Sark in tern. 2 Throw pillow trim, P1106.04. 3 Drapery fabric, Twill in lynx. 4-8 Christopher Peacock paint: Mayfair White, Abbey Walls, Scullery White, Bitumen and Porcelain, peacockpaint.com. 9 Throw pillow cord trim, P1108.01. 10 Skirt on console trim, P1105.01. 11 Trim on throw pillows, P0166.03. 12 Loveseat trim, P1101.01. 13 Table skirt fabric, Ruff in chocolate. 14 Double welt on ottoman, Aripeka in musel. 15 Chair fabric, Wool Velvet in hazelnut. 16 Leading edge on drapery fabric, Caryopsis in spelt. 17 Ottoman fabric, Picardie in pug. 18 Wing chair fabric, Crall in ceramic. All fabric and trim from Rogers & Goffigon Ltd. (T), 203-532-8068. See pages 60-61.



**DINING ROOM**

**Sandra Morgan, Sandra Morgan Interiors, Inc.**

1 Chair fabric, Brina in alabaster, Kravet (T), 800-645-9068, kravet.com. 2 Walls and ceiling wall-covering, Bamboo in Ivory and yellow, Cowtan & Tout (T), cowtanandtout.com. 3 Curtain fabric, Bellini Stripe in yellow and ivory, Cowtan & Tout. 4 Blue and white porcelain on table, Sandra Morgan Interiors. 5 Trim paint, Scullery White, Christopher Peacock Paint, peacockpaint.com. See pages 66-67.