

# family friendly

DESIGNS FOR REAL LIFE

The kitchen island is topped with leathered Nero Mist granite and painted Farrow & Ball Hague Blue. To seamlessly tie together the home, all the walls in the public spaces got a coat of Benjamin Moore Light Pewter paint.

## Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine

A thoughtful kitchen renovation cleverly connects past and present.

by LISA H. SPEIDEL

*Cook and converse*

**When your youngest son** is relegated to sleeping in a closet and both boys crave a backyard to run around in, it might just be time to trade the city for the suburbs. The 1920s Tudor the family found in West Hartford had the space they sought and the character they loved. A little tweaking would bring the three-story home to perfection.



Like downsizing, upsizing brings its own set of challenges, as the owner can attest: “We had only lived in one- and two-bedroom apartments until we lived in this house,” she says. “That’s why we needed Georgia. We had no furniture.”

Georgia, the namesake of West Hartford-based Georgia Zikas Design, is who the owners tapped to execute a whole-house reno that was family friendly at its core. As with any modern-day update, the kitchen area was key.



**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:** A custom ottoman that rivals the size of a twin bed in the living room is a perfect perch for parents to rest feet (or little boys to use as a springboard to jump to the sectional). In the foyer, designer Georgia Zikas (pictured) alternated new two-by-two spindles with the original turned ones for a stylish—and safe—update. Down came two walls to create an open-plan kitchen, breakfast area, and family room.



“Because the kitchen was quite new, it pained us to tear it out,” says the owner. “So we were insistent on repurposing.”

To minimize what was destined for the landfill, Zikas reused the Carrera marble from the original kitchen island, transforming it into the living room hearth and surround. “It wasn’t cheaper because we still had to fabricate it,” she says. “It was really about upcycling, in an effort not to be wasteful.” Likewise, they saved the handmade tiles and the fumed oak floor. “They didn’t want to replace life’s scars; that was a theme throughout,” says Zikas—“not erasing the past.”

The showstopping new island is “Frankensteined,” as Zikas calls it, completely from old cabinets. It meshes seamlessly with the family’s midcentury-modern aesthetic and the overarching premise of merging old and new.

And speaking of new, both boys now have their own spacious rooms. One even has a desktop made from a reclaimed walnut countertop. Behold, his first lesson in upcycling. **11**

**Interior design:** Georgia Zikas, Georgia Zikas Design, [georgiazikasdesign.com](http://georgiazikasdesign.com)

**Builder:** Jason E. Levesque Construction, [jelbuild.com](http://jelbuild.com)

*Original fumed oak flooring*



# Tough Mudders

Two mudrooms balance form and function with bold design moves and clever storage ideas. by LYNDA SIMONTON



## A BRIGHT SPOT

It was a daring move, but painting cabinetry a sunny yellow pushed this mudroom into the fun zone—and don't we all need more of that? Thanks to designer Emily Fuhrman's creativity, this room is more than just a pretty space. Family-friendly design packs every inch including a bench upholstered in high-performance fabric from Perennials, porcelain flooring that mimics parquet, and surprisingly washable vinyl wallpaper.

**Architecture:** Teo Sigüenza, Teo Sigüenza Architect, [teosiguenza.com](http://teosiguenza.com)

**Interior design:** Emily Fuhrman, Sage & Ginger, [sageandginger.com](http://sageandginger.com)

## WORKHORSE

For a family with six children and two dogs, the mudroom is the hardest working room in the house. Interior designer Tori Legge made sure this room checked all the organization boxes and reflected the homeowner's sophisticated design aesthetic. While the rest of the home features bright white walls, here, high-gloss navy blue sets a stylish tone—and it's impervious to dirty hands and wagging tails.

**Architecture:** Louise Brooks, Brooks & Falotico, [brooksandfalotico.com](http://brooksandfalotico.com)

**Interior design:** Tori Legge, Stirling Mills Interior Design, [stirlingmills.com](http://stirlingmills.com)



# Pantry Power

Stylish storage solutions for the family. by LYNDA SIMONTON



Yamazaki Tosca White Dual-Handle Storage Basket, \$35; Crate & Barrel, Westport, [crateandbarrel.com](http://crateandbarrel.com)



Tyler Square Basket with Rope Handle Low, \$89.95; Crate & Barrel, Westport, [crateandbarrel.com](http://crateandbarrel.com)



Guzzini White Italian Pantry Bins, \$12.99–\$17.99; The Container Store, [containerstore.com](http://containerstore.com)

For **Christopher Peacock's** design-savvy and hyper-organized client, a functional and beautiful pantry was a must-have for her Greenwich kitchen renovation. So, instead of tucking it away from the fray, the Christopher Peacock team designed a broad-yet-shallow supply pantry that allows for maximum visibility when the sliding doors are open. The homeowner embraced the KonMari Method by adding a stylish mix of jars and baskets—all labeled to meet her needs. [peacockhome.com](http://peacockhome.com)



Minimalist Pantry Labels, \$12–\$40; Paper and Pear, [paperandpear.com](http://paperandpear.com)



Bare Lidded Vessels, \$160–\$200; DBO Home, Sharon, [dbohome.com](http://dbohome.com)



Silo Crocks by Farmhouse Pottery, \$46–\$225; Kerri Rosenthal, Westport, [kerrirosenthal.com](http://kerrirosenthal.com)



Glass Slant Jar with Matte Black Lid, \$14.99; The Container Store, [containerstore.com](http://containerstore.com)

Hang on pegs



Onion Baskets, set of 2, \$29.95; Williams Sonoma, Westport, Danbury, [williams-sonoma.com](http://williams-sonoma.com)