

New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

Seductive Elegance

Whether classic or contemporary, sheer beauty never loses its appeal.



The front of the house presents a formal yet modern symmetry that relaxes as the house unfolds toward the back. A grid of zinc-coated copper defines the entry. The same metal is used on the exterior trim and the decorative visors above the windows. An entry court flanked by groups of hawthorn trees reflects the landscape's classical nine-square grid.



A SIMPLE TRUTH

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The trick for this contemporary suburban Boston house—one that the design team



clearly mastered—was making the complex design look beautifully uncomplicated.





WHAT DOES SIMPLICITY LOOK LIKE?

It may be an odd question, but when you're designing a new home, it's one that requires an answer. Because what is a home, really, if not the physical expression of qualities like simplicity, or tranquility, or elegance? Arriving at the answer, though, is often less about aiming for a preconceived notion than making a series of small decisions that lead you, as if by happenstance, to the place you want to be.

Designer Beth Martell calls it "the serendipity of design," and after thirty-five years in the business, it still amazes her. So when asked to design the interior of a new home for clients in Weston, Massachusetts, she understood the decisions they made together at the start would lead them where they wanted to go.

Martell knew her clients—a husband and wife with four teenagers—well. She had aided in a renovation of their previous home, and worked with other

ABOVE: The fireplace's sculptural treatment adds subtle movement to the living room. The panels of the Nada Debs cocktail table can be reconfigured for a variety of looks. **RIGHT:** Artwork by Richard Serra pops against the white walls.

FACING PAGE: The entrance area features an open stairway supported by the walls and outfitted with glass guardrails.



