JULIA M.
LEEMINGARCHITECT



2026



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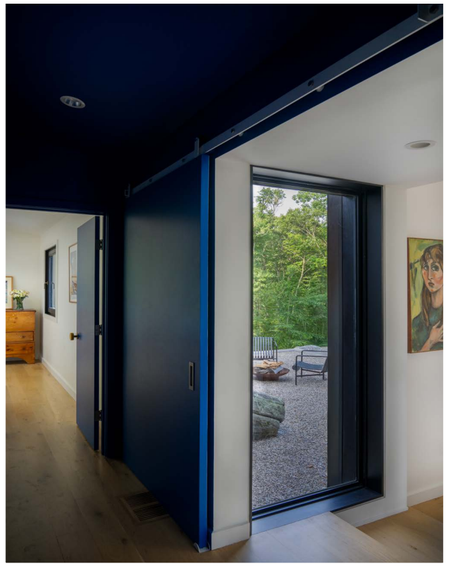
ABOUT ME

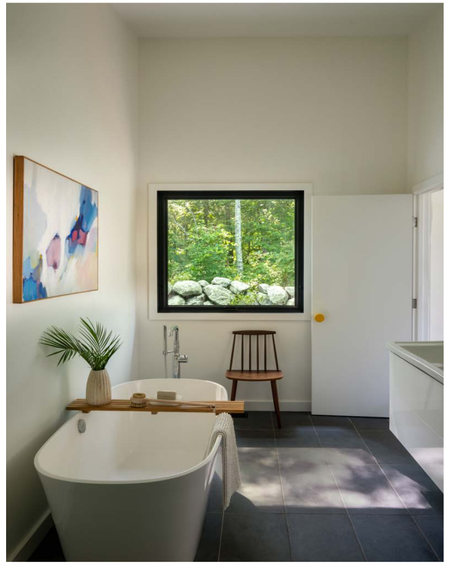
Raised in the US Foreign Service, I grew up traveling and learned to adapt to and appreciate unfamiliar surroundings. Urban contexts, building types and materials, and ambient sounds and smells were always shifting around me, and I developed a flexibility in how I think about space and design problems.

After receiving a Masters Degree in Architecture from Yale University in 2006, I worked for six years at Sage and Coombe Architects in New York City. I had the privilege of outstanding mentors and was exposed to a wide range of projects, from conceptual design to construction completion. In 2013, I began my own Architectural practice in Stonington, Connecticut.

In my work, I aim for simple, elegant design solutions that combine function and beauty. I gravitate toward natural materials and their inherent tones and textures. I am drawn to daylight and how it can enhance a space and interact with pattern and color. I strive to foster meaningful connections to the exterior landscape, and more importantly, with my colleagues and clients.

I am a LEED Accredited Professional and hold licenses to practice in Rhode Island and Connecticut.







RESIDENTIAL WORK



FARMHOLME ROAD

The overarching design goal was to create two dwellings: one for a nuclear family and one for guests and extended family. These dwellings would not only relate to the site and each other but also have their own deep sense of privacy and grounding in the landscape.

The buildings are single-story structures, and walk-out basements were a happy result of the natural topography of the site. The houses are organized around a gravel parking court from which each dwelling is entered, and both homes open up to the views opposite the court. The window openings on the court side are deliberate and measured to allow for natural light and ventilation, but also to preserve a sense of privacy for the interiors. On the back sides of each dwelling, large openings frame views and bring the landscape into the interior.

The interior plan of the primary dwelling had parallel goals to the overall siting concept: to create distant, private spaces for sleeping and bathing that connect to a public core for gathered living. The design evolved into a courtyard-style building, with bedroom wings on either side of the central living, dining, kitchen, and outdoor courtyard spaces. The foundation was designed to allow a single step from the living areas to the courtyard, which, together with the 9'x9' sliding doors, makes the connection between the two spaces seamless. The building massing steps down from west to east to follow the natural terrain on which the house was built.

Rather than endless walls of glass, each window throughout both dwellings was placed to frame a specific view—an approach inspired by how painters compose their work. The palette of the interiors—white, black, red, yellow, and blue—is an homage to the primary colors from which all colors are derived and to the modernist architects from whom the design took inspiration

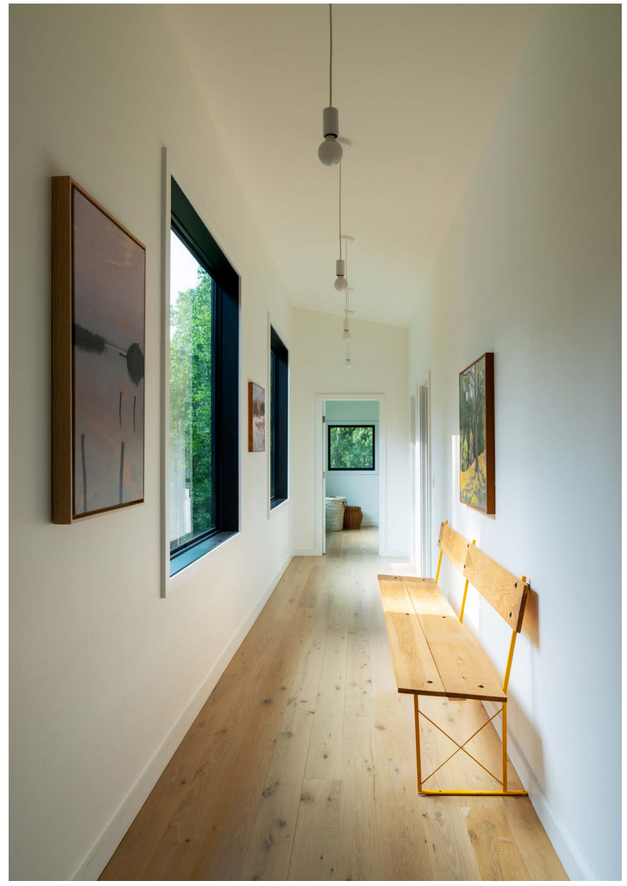
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The interior window frames are black, which makes the windows disappear and focuses the eye on the exterior. Vertical, clear pine siding relates to the verticality of the surrounding woods, and an applied black stain makes the buildings recede into the landscape. The roofs are shed roofs, each pitched to either open to the view or follow the contour of the topography.

The result is a family compound that sits gently on and relates deeply to its site, with interiors for meaningful living that are intentionally connected to the landscape.





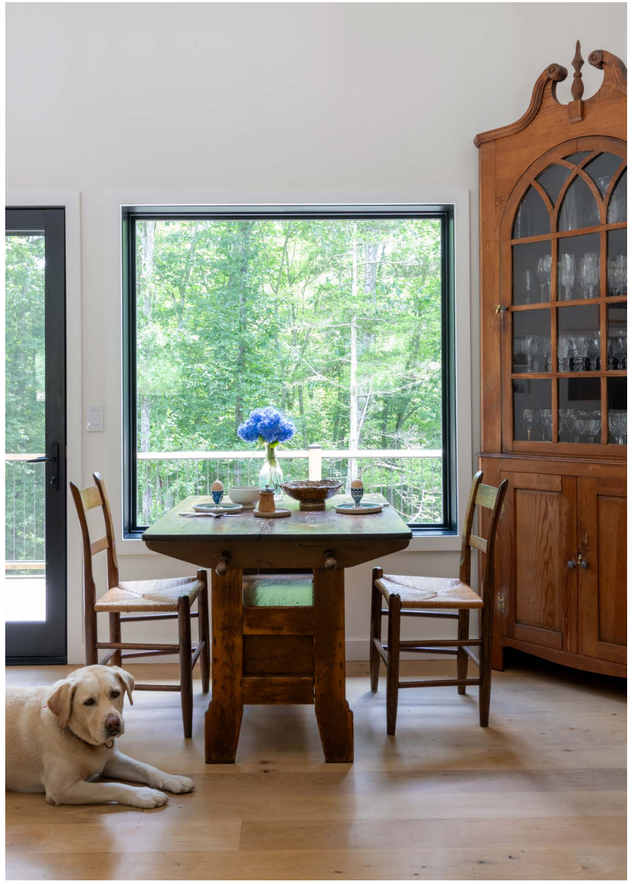



HENRI MATISSE













CUTLER STREET

Built in 1900, this originally two-bedroom, one-bath home needed to accommodate a growing family. With a rear two-story addition, we expanded the kitchen space at ground level and added a third bedroom and a second full bathroom on the second floor. By eliminating a redundant hallway on the first floor, we added a powder room and large openings that connected the main living spaces.

The overall design emphasized views from one space to another and focused on enhancing natural light and ventilation. We preserved the original moldings within the historic structure while introducing more contemporary details into the new addition.

















QUARRY PATH

Located at the end of Lord's Point, a peninsula in Stonington, Conn., this 1913 cottage sits on the shores of Fishers Island Sound. However, the existing cottage's layout and general orientation failed to take full advantage of its stunning waterfront location.

There was no sense of threshold when you entered the home, and the kitchen was tucked away at the front, separate from the living and dining area at the back, which had the best water views. The kitchen was also cut off from the small family room across the hall.

The resulting project goals were to create better flow between the living areas, maximize the home's water views, and enhance the natural light in each space.

In response, we designed a two-story addition—only 528 square feet in total—to sit slightly rotated towards the south from the original structure that would better frame the views of Fishers Island Sound. The addition includes a living space on the ground floor and a primary bedroom on the second, and a deck and porch fill the exterior spaces created by the rotation.

A mature cedar sat just to the south of the existing home, and the neighborhood expressed a strong desire to preserve it. We worked with an arborist to site the addition and specify protection measures during construction to ensure the tree's longevity and its relationship to the new structure.

We also renovated the existing cottage to reposition the kitchen to the water side of the house, creating an open kitchen, living, and dining space that flows into the addition's family room. A recessed porch now frames the entry to the house, and an ample laundry/mudroom sits in the former kitchen footprint.

On the second floor, we created the primary suite from an existing bedroom and the second floor of the addition. In the bedroom, a gabled ceiling makes the small space feel more generous. Windows frame idyllic waterfront views from both the bathtub and the bed.












YOU



SHIRLEY DRIVE

Set on the banks of Charlestown's Quonochontaug Pond, this 1962 cottage has been a beloved family vacation home for years. The original structure is true to its modern roots with a simple shed roof and large, intentionally placed windows in the living spaces. However, the original galley-style kitchen at the home's entrance lacked proper workspace and blocked the flow of movement into the living area. The living area also felt small and hemmed in by a larger bedroom on the main floor.

By repurposing the existing narrow kitchen into a mudroom and powder room, we afforded the home a more graceful entrance that highlights its water views and naturally leads into the living area. We relocated one of the bedrooms to the ground floor, creating an open kitchen and living room that maximizes public family space and opens up to stunning views of the pond. The skylights placed in this family space also serve to enhance natural light in the middle of the footprint. In selecting finishes and fixtures, we played upon the home's existing modern vocabulary and furthered its connection to the exterior by adding transom windows over the large windows below.











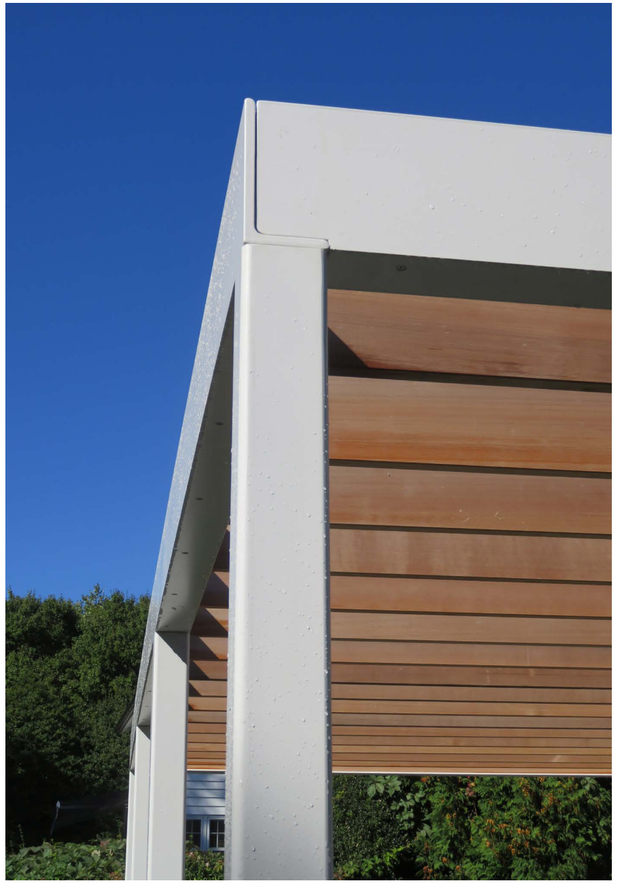
ORCHARD STREET

A second phase of work on this Stonington Borough property entailed defining destinct outdoor spaces to complement the previously renovated interiors.

We sited a pergola, pool, and pool house on the eastern and southern sides of the home so family gatherings could extend from the existing open kitchen, living, and dining space on the eastern side of the house. On the western side, we added a more private pergola off of the formal living room.

Crisp details unify the design—from stone pavers to roof overhangs to steel connections—and a consistent material palette connects the various elements of the project.









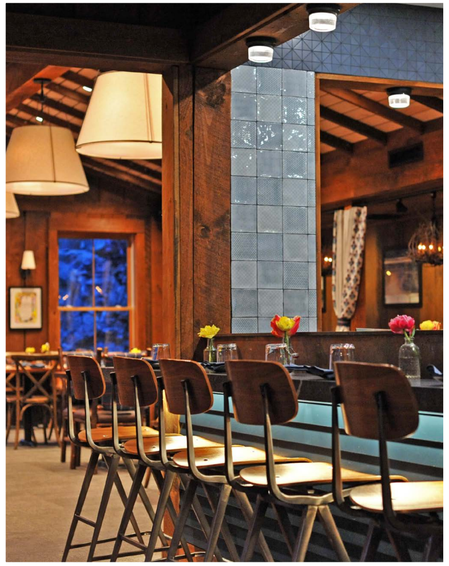
NORTH SHORE WAY

Situated on Lord's Point in Stonington, this existing 900-square-foot cottage had only one true bedroom, and the primary sleeping area was lofted over the living space.

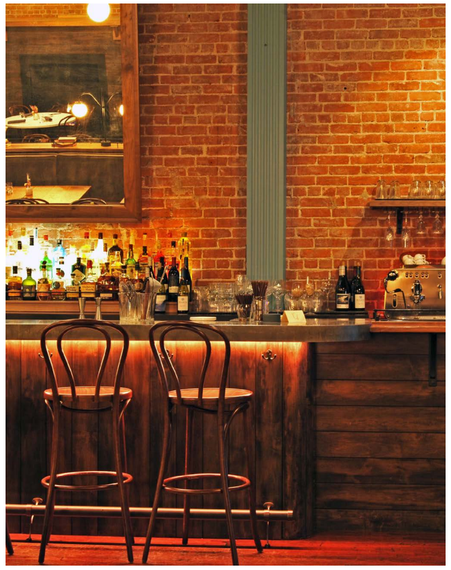
Paying close attention to the scale and massing of the existing structure, we added a 225-square-foot primary suite addition and inserted an entry deck between the existing and new structures. Windows were placed to take advantage of water views to the south and west while preserving a sense of privacy on the interior.











COMMERCIAL WORK



OYSTER CLUB

A popular dining destination in downtown Mystic, Conn., since 2011, Oyster Club wanted more space to best serve its patrons and staff. The restaurant's new second floor now offers greater dining space, while the first-floor addition houses a larger kitchen and back-of-house areas.

We altered the existing spaces to create visual connections across the bar, open kitchen, and dining room, and updated the finishes and fixtures to make the renovation feel like a natural extension of the original interiors.


OYSTER CLUB PRESENTS
BEYOND ROSÉ
SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 4PM









THE CAFÉ

Connected to the historic United Theatre in the heart of downtown Westerly, R.I.,The Café is both an independent restaurant and a support space for the theater's many events. We transformed The Café's vast, open dining space into a series of welcoming rooms and intimate nooks for dining, drinking, reading, and working.


THE
GREEN
ROOM


SARDI'S
WEST







CREDITS

ABOUT: Hoyt + Fondulas Photography

FARMHOLME ROAD: Sabrina Cole Quinn Photography; Field & Co. Construction

CUTLER STREET: Hoyt + Fondulas; Curran Heyniger Construction

QUARRY PATH: Sabrina Cole Quinn

SHIRLEY DRIVE: Sabrina Cole Quinn; H.J. O'Keefe Constuction

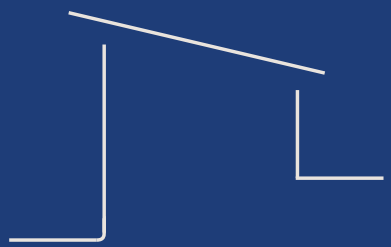
ORCHARD STREET: Curran Heyniger Construction

NORTH SHORE WAY: Mark Mitsko & Sons General Constrution

OYSTER CLUB: Hoyt + Fondulas; 3DS Construction; Kierstan Field Interior Design

THE CAFE: Hoyt + Fondulas; Coastal Custom Improvements Construction; Kierstan Field Interior Design

COVER, INDEX + CREDITS: Sabrina Cole Quinn



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