

KEEPING THE CALM



DESIGNER MARINA HANISCH UNDERSTOOD THE ASSIGNMENT: BUNDLE UP THIS COASTAL HOME WITH A WINTRY MIX OF WHITES THAT FEEL AS WARM AND COZY AS THEY LOOK.

LAYERING WHITE

The entry introduces the design elements found throughout this home designed by Marina Hanisch. It's all about creamy to bright whites layered with smooth and nubby textures.

EARTHY TONES

Warm woods offer balance to all the white. Hanisch often juxtaposes worn and new finishes, such as in the dining room where she paired painted chairs with a table made from reclaimed wood. "It tells a story of how contrasting woods can live together," she says.



A sisal rug bordered with leather brings more natural texture into the mix.



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now blankets the ground, and this is when Greenwich, CT-based interior designer Marina Hanisch is in her element. “The winter season is a great source of inspiration,” she says. “The serenity of the outdoors drives me to create spaces that feel warm, inviting, and tranquil.”

Her design approach is on full display in the New York home she designed for a young family. She painted walls and trim Benjamin Moore Chantilly Lace. “The whites I like have creamier undertones, so they don’t feel stark,” Hanisch says. Her exception is the ceilings, where she likes a bright white for a sense of height and subtle contrast. Hanisch carried the creamy white paint throughout the home for an easy flow, adding supplemental lighting and reflective finishes in rooms that don’t get abundant natural light.

She says her secret to creating a compelling all-white scheme is rooted in variety. Hanisch follows these best practices: She chooses her top colors (yes, white is a color!) and paints 2x2-foot samples on the wall. The large swatches make it easier to see how the light



ORGANIC FURNITURE

Reclaimed and bleached teak coffee tables, *opposite top*, by New York designer Andrianna Shamaris, are functional sculptures. “They’re the showstopper of this space,” says Hanisch, shown *opposite bottom*.

CUSHY STYLE

Hanisch’s goal for the family room was to make it a cozy place where the family could snuggle. A sectional in a pale silvery-blue fabric that reads as a grayish white gets a visual warm-up from the creamy tones of the rug and upholstered ottoman.



Dark accents delivered in thin lines like the navy stripes on the ottoman upholstery offer a visual anchor.



SMOOTH AND SHINY

A modern polished nickel pendant adds a reflective surface into the breakfast area, where organic materials dominate. A three-piece wicker banquette with an easy-to-clean faux leather cushion stretches seating under the window and counters the smooth Carrara marble top on the oak table base.

interacts with the color. Once she's chosen a paint color, Hanisch varies the sheens. She prefers a flat finish on walls for a smooth look and contrasts that with a satin sheen on trim for a soft shine and durability. From there, she layers different shades—ivory, ecru, cream, eggshell, or alabaster, for example—through accents, fabrics, and accessories.

Freely mixing whites rather than matching gives Hanisch the ability to create subtle contrast. "There are bright whites and soft creams and off-whites, and each of those colors brings a different depth to a space," she says. "I like a range so the whites evolve and develop as you're looking at each room." In the family room, a sectional that may appear white at a quick glance

actually has silvery-blue undertones that help it stand out against the walls and a cream-color upholstered coffee table. In the primary bedroom, the white palette expands to welcome sandy shades in an upholstered bed and a plush shearling bouclé bench.

Organic materials such as wood and woven pieces are key to Hanisch's scheme. Oak, walnut, rattan, and wicker ensure the whites aren't too cold. "We were drawn to elements that you'd find outdoors," Hanisch says. "They help the home feel lived in, relaxed, and cozy." Add in a fireplace—a feature in the living room—and these whites look just right. "There's nothing more beautiful than a creamy palette," she says. "It's the perfect blend of warmth and elegance."

"ADDING NATURAL WOOD ELEMENTS, RANGING FROM PALE OAK TO RICHER WALNUT, WILL WARM UP AN ALL-WHITE LOOK."

—MARINA HANISCH, designer

ADDING WARMTH

Sculptural pendants and adjustable oak stools stand out in the classic white kitchen. "While an all-white kitchen feels clean and timeless, this space needed warmth to create cohesiveness with the rest of the house," Hanisch says. The modern stools, she says, offer contrast to the room's traditional architecture.





FLEXIBLE BACKDROP

Longevity tops Hanisch's list when designing kids bedrooms. "I want to ensure the design can grow with them," she says. She warmed white walls in the girl's room with the rattan bed and woven window shades, then added an easy-to-swap layer of pink and whimsical accents.

STRICT PALETTE

Powder rooms are a chance to have some decorating fun. Hanisch did that without deviating from her color story by hanging a pineapple-print wallpaper and a botanical mirror.



CLEAN-LINED FURNITURE

Interesting shapes, splashes of color, and varying finishes create a youthful ambience in the boy's bedroom. "Striking the ideal balance between whimsy and functionality was crucial to ensure enduring appeal," Hanisch says. Bunk beds, detailed with Baltic birch, can be used separately as lofts or twin-size beds, and trundles can be pulled out for sleepovers.



VISUAL TEXTURES

The primary bedroom gains its snuggle-in quality from a soft-on-the-feet braided mohair-and-wool rug, cozy shearling bench, and upholstered bed. Hanisch was deliberate in her use of neutrals for a mash-up of crisp whites, sand, cream, and ivory. "It's almost spalike, but warm and elegant," she says. The tiered rope pendant is a statement piece that visually warms the room. ■