

CONNECTICUT STONE

Nature has inspired art for centuries. "Bringing the outdoors inside" is on many a client's wish list. Often, walls are broken, windows installed and ceilings vaulted to meet this end. Alternatively, nature can be brought into the home, quite literally, by integrating natural materials into structural and decorative features. Connecticut Stone has been partnering with designers, architects and builders for decades, offering a virtually endless array of natural stone products.

Tyra Dellacroce of Connecticut Stone describes the design process as an attempt to gauge a client's aesthetic taste and lifestyle. "An active family with young children may desire countertops for durability and ease of maintenance," she explains. Other clients may have a particular color wish or texture from which all other choices follow.

Working together with Peter Cadoux Architects and Quarterhorse Home Builders, Tyra found it important that the design and aesthetic also reflect the client's vibrant personality and love of color, pattern and texture. In this project, the client was especially drawn to a granite that reminded her of peacock feathers—"a swath of iridescent blue, green and gold clusters that appear and disappear as you approach from varying angles," Tyra describes. Not unlike fashioning an entire outfit around a favorite silk scarf, the remaining space was designed around this stunning Labradorite Blue Australe Granite from Madagascar.

The design—and sartorial—challenge was, how to pull it all together? In this case, the choice to was amplify the blue hue and add texture. The glass backsplash brought texture and vibrancy to the space. "It was the perfect complement to the blue iridescent cluster featured in the granite, and it really pulled the space together," notes Tyra. A free-form sculptural basin is executed in a metallic hue, which, along with the nickel-finished hardware, echoes the granite's luster. A distinctly tactile finish to the basin complements the granite's smooth surface. In this space, a rather mundane ritual becomes a celestial experience.

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