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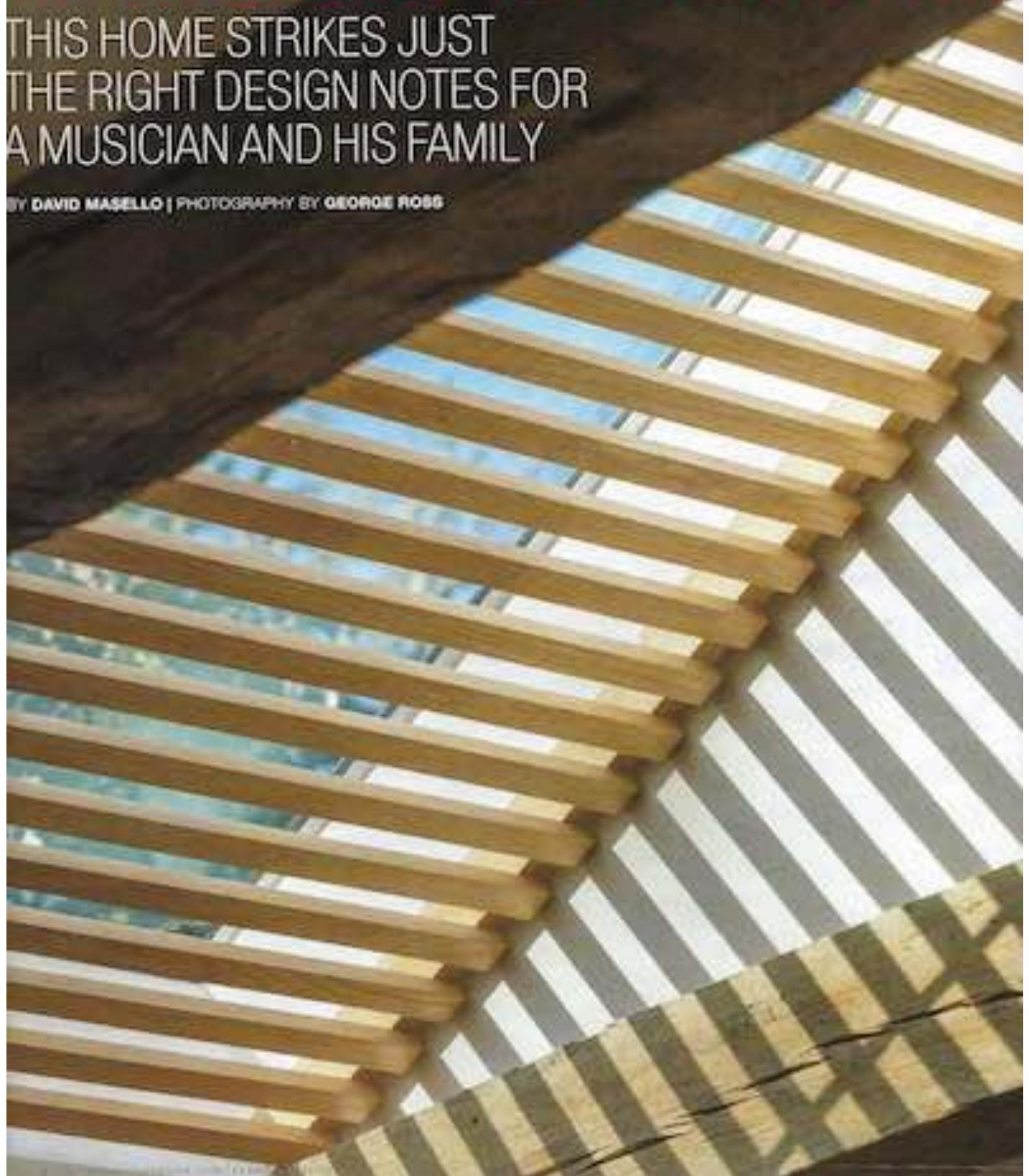
**HOBBI  
AWARDS**

# THE KITCHEN ISSUE

# House of Rock

THIS HOME STRIKES JUST  
THE RIGHT DESIGN NOTES FOR  
A MUSICIAN AND HIS FAMILY

BY DAVID MASELLO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE ROSS





**Material Concerns**

A new skylight (OPPOSITE PAGE) floods the main living area with a diffused light—cedar planks filter the light while echoing a design motif on the home's exterior. In the kitchen, an island made of whitewashed oak sports a walnut top. Orange industrial stools provide a pop of color. See *Resources*.



## WHILE EVERY FAMILY

house has its own character, this residence in Old Greenwich has its own sound. The husband is a rock musician with enough star amplitude to fill Madison Square Garden when his band plays there. “Let’s just say his group is very popular, especially among thirty- and forty-year-olds,” says Laura Kaehler, the architect who helped him and his wife, an arts educator, reconfigure their house to better accommodate their creative lives, as well as those of their two small children.

By reconfiguring the garage so that its door was positioned on the side of the house instead of being the main architectural detail on the street side, Kaehler has imbued the residence with a new identity. The architect also designed a handsome screen composed of cedar slats for where the garage door had once been. She carried that horizontal rhythm and material inside the home, too, so that the exterior and interior now harmonize.

The exterior work, albeit crucial and dramatic in the effect it achieved, was less ambitious than the work Kaehler accomplished inside. “We left nothing but the exterior walls when we began our work reconfiguring the interior,” she says. “And once we started putting it together again, we then collaborated with designer Joanna Heimbold of Millwright Design in Riverside.”

**Outside And In** (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT ACROSS SPREAD) In the entry, a walnut door with hardware from Rocky Mountain Hardware complements Douglas fir vertical paneling, while a Lindsey Adelman Bubble chandelier from Room illuminates the space. Kaehler created a screen of cedar slats in place of the original garage door and continued that rhythm by adding new clapboard siding. The Osiris chandelier by Matthew Fairbank adds a sculptural element to the formal dining room. The dining room chair seats are upholstered with fabric from Clarence House. See *Resources*.





For the couple, whose entertaining habits include the strumming of guitars and singing of songs with guests, it made sense for there to be a large, central gathering space. Kaehler fashioned an area that melds kitchen, living room and family room. She designed pitched skylights and partially covered them with a ribbing of cedar boards, a riff on the work done outside. By doing so, the space is now characterized by a filtered, dappled light by day. By night, it's possible to see stars. To further emphasize the casual informality of the house, Kaehler added massive decorative beams, made of reclaimed wood, that course the expanse. "That space, with the kitchen fully visible and immediately accessible, is very exposed, very sunny, and yet completely warm in feel," she says.

She and Heimbald worked diligently on the seating in the kitchen and main gathering area, whose focal point is a new stone fireplace. On the kitchen side, Kaehler designed a banquette, while, on the other side of the wall is another built-in bench. "Both of those seating areas need to be multipurpose and able to weather young, active kids," says Heimbald. "I used a variety of throw pillows there because they're colorful and fun. We used lots of big, bold colors in the rooms because that's the spirit of the homeowners." As a counterpoint to lots of color elsewhere, Kaehler designed kitchen cabinets that she describes as being "simple Shaker style," along with a spacious eating/working island that incorporates a neutral, "pickled-like" natural oak.

Another engaging kitchen detail appears on the backsplash, where interspersed among monochromatic rectangular tiles are square ones depicting birds. "The owners found an artisan in England who makes these fascinating bird tiles," says Kaehler, "and he sent us many types of birds. The homeowner and I mapped out exactly where we wanted them to go on the wall."

**All In The Family** (CLOCKWISE FROM THIS PAGE)

The heart of the home is a space that combines the kitchen and family room. The owners' existing walnut table was incorporated into a banquette designed by Kaehler. The cushions and pillows are upholstered in John Robshaw fabric. The long banquette on the family room side uses a leather from Rogers & Goffigon. The new chimney and fireplace is composed of a stone veneer; the sconces are through Get Back, Inc. See *Resources*.





**Colorful Creations** The reclaimed-wood, sliding barn door to the art room (ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT) is through Rustica Hardware and is finished with antique pewter hardware. A bathroom (LEFT) is fully lined with mosaic tile from Trend Group. See Resources.

**Sound Check** (OPPOSITE PAGE) When the musician homeowner wants to play and compose, he goes upstairs to his recording studio. The Tibet-inspired prints are from Clarence House. The dragon motif harkens to the band's new branding venture, which embraces the mythical creature. See Resources.

Although the family eats most meals at the large table beside the banquette, other special occasions take place in the more formal dining room. There, Heimbold used a taupe-hued wallpaper pattern of blue and white flowers that she interrupted, in a sense, with a large round minimalist painting. "To give the room a more architectural feel, we chose a sculptural brass chandelier," she adds.

While the home is meant to be lived in, it's also a place to work. The husband often retreats, with fellow band members, to a fully-equipped upstairs recording studio, a place for both serious playing and impromptu jamming. "We worked hard on all the colors and materials, as the space had to meet a lot of sound specifications," says Heimbold. Given the continued success of the resident musician and the joy the family feels at living there, both Kaehler and Heimbold have clearly struck the right design notes. ✨

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