

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010

# VERANDA



# COMFORT ZONE

HIGH-STYLE DECOR FOR A HIGH-STYLE CLIENT IN GREENWICH

Tables act as sculptures in a neutral room. Sofas in VW Home linen, cube and tea tables, chairs in Manuel Canovas fabric, all custom. Poillerat cocktail table, African and French stools. Lamps, Hervé Van der Straeten for Ralph Pucci International (RPI), Art, Manuel Gearinck, Rug, Stark.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY VICENTE WOLF  
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN BY PETER GLAZER PHOTOGRAPHY BY VICENTE WOLF  
PRODUCED BY CAROLYN ENGLEFIELD TEXT BY STEPHEN TREFFINGER



**D**  
DESIGNERS FLOCK TO THE HIGHLY REGARDED  
ATELIER OF RALPH PUCCI INTERNATIONAL  
FOR ITS WELL-EDITED COLLECTIONS OF FURNITURE  
AND ART. WHEN PUCCI WANTED TO DECORATE

his own family house in Greenwich, Connecticut, he turned to longtime friend Vicente Wolf.

"Vicente totally gets it," says Pucci, an industry luminary whose showrooms in New York, Fort Lauderdale and Los Angeles represent talent from around the world. "The textures, the colors, the simplicity, how to utilize space. It just works."

Wolf, who runs an interior design firm in New York while also writing books—his *Lifting the Curtain on Design* is just out—created a line of furniture exclusive to Ralph Pucci International.

"I've known Ralph for fifteen years," says Wolf. "We go out to lunch. We have a mutual admiration.

This is our second house together."

Pucci's personal taste tends toward the modern and somewhat stark. His wife, Ann, prefers a more traditional look with touches of color. "We're not trendy, we're timeless," he says.

As in the past, Wolf struck an appealing balance for the couple. "My basis is modern. I think in a modern way," says Wolf. "But Ralph knows I can mix. The mix is what made them both comfortable working with me. I gave them a sense of 'less is more' while still being soft."

Wolf created a flow, a yin and a yang, constantly playing the traditional off the modern. The house is entered through a two-story, somewhat formal celadon foyer from which the living spaces can be glimpsed. Many of the rooms open onto one another in white, pale gray and chocolate brown. Chromatic elements are repeated, each space sub-

The designer's signature mix includes unmatched chairs at the table. **THIS PAGE:** Armchairs in Rogers & Goffigon linen fabrics and side chair in Edelman Leather, all custom. Tablecloth in Manuel Canovas fabric. Light fixture, David Weeks for RPI. Custom mirror. All flowers, Vicente Wolf. **OPPOSITE:** Vicente Wolf sofa in Edelman Leather suede and J. Robert Scott velvet, Jens Risom chairs in Larsen fabric, Wolf ottoman in Edelman Leather, and Chris Lehrecke drum table, all for RPI. Art, Robert Kelly.



M  
"MY BASIS IS MODERN....I GAVE THEM  
A SENSE OF 'LESS IS MORE'  
WHILE STILL BEING SOFT," SAYS WOLF.

In the casual dining area, midcentury furniture huddles up to a Wolf-designed banquette. Eero Saarinen table, Knoll. Verner Panton plastic chairs, Vitra. Banquette in cowhide and pillows in suede, both Edelman Leather. Roman shades in VW Home linen.



tly referencing others. The foyer's pale green, for instance, is used on chairs in the dining room.

In the large living room, the designer sought to throw off the formality of the architecture. "With the furniture, I wanted a sense of unbalanced symmetry," says Wolf. "Straight shapes mixed with curves. This would give the room a very relaxed quality while having it still look elegant."

With that in mind, Wolf placed a Korean cabinet under an oval window to the left of the fireplace and a French console under an identical window to the right. He designed a long sofa and a semicircular sofa for opposite sides of the room, then connected them by using the same linen on both.

"I don't see just one point of view," he says. "The two small coffee tables are the same size. They have the same tops material-wise, but one's square, and the other's curvy. Two things are the same but

completely different. That's the way I design."

The house also contains furnishings by other first-rate designers with collections at Ralph Pucci International, such as Hervé Van der Straeten and David Weeks. Though the interior is sophisticated, none of it is too precious or off limits.

"That's a testament to Vicente," says Pucci. "All the rooms are comfortable and beautiful to look at, yet inviting and not intimidating."

The old buddies' collaboration was not without negotiation. When Wolf initially suggested grasscloth for the bedroom walls, Pucci's initial reaction was "no way." But the owner quickly warmed to the slightly shimmery, cocoa-colored wallpaper.

Pucci says if he has another house to decorate, he'll call his friend again. "I never said to Vicente, 'No, that's not what I had in mind.' There's not one piece in the house that was a compromise." □



Seamless glass shower doors open up the space to create light and tranquility. THIS PAGE: Tub and fittings, Kohler. Art, Laurent Elie Bodessi. Ceramic table, Christophe Delcourt for RPI. OPPOSITE: Grasscloth, Donghia. Bergères in linen and vintage table, all VW Home. Vase, Lalique. Custom headboard in J. Robert Scott wool. Linens, Anichini. Comforter in Randolph & Hein fabric. Sconces, Hinson Lighting. Art, Gail LeBoff. Roman shades in Shyam Ahuja silk. Carpet, Stark.