

New England HOME

CT

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

*LIGHT &
BRIGHT*

Fresh Looks for 2020

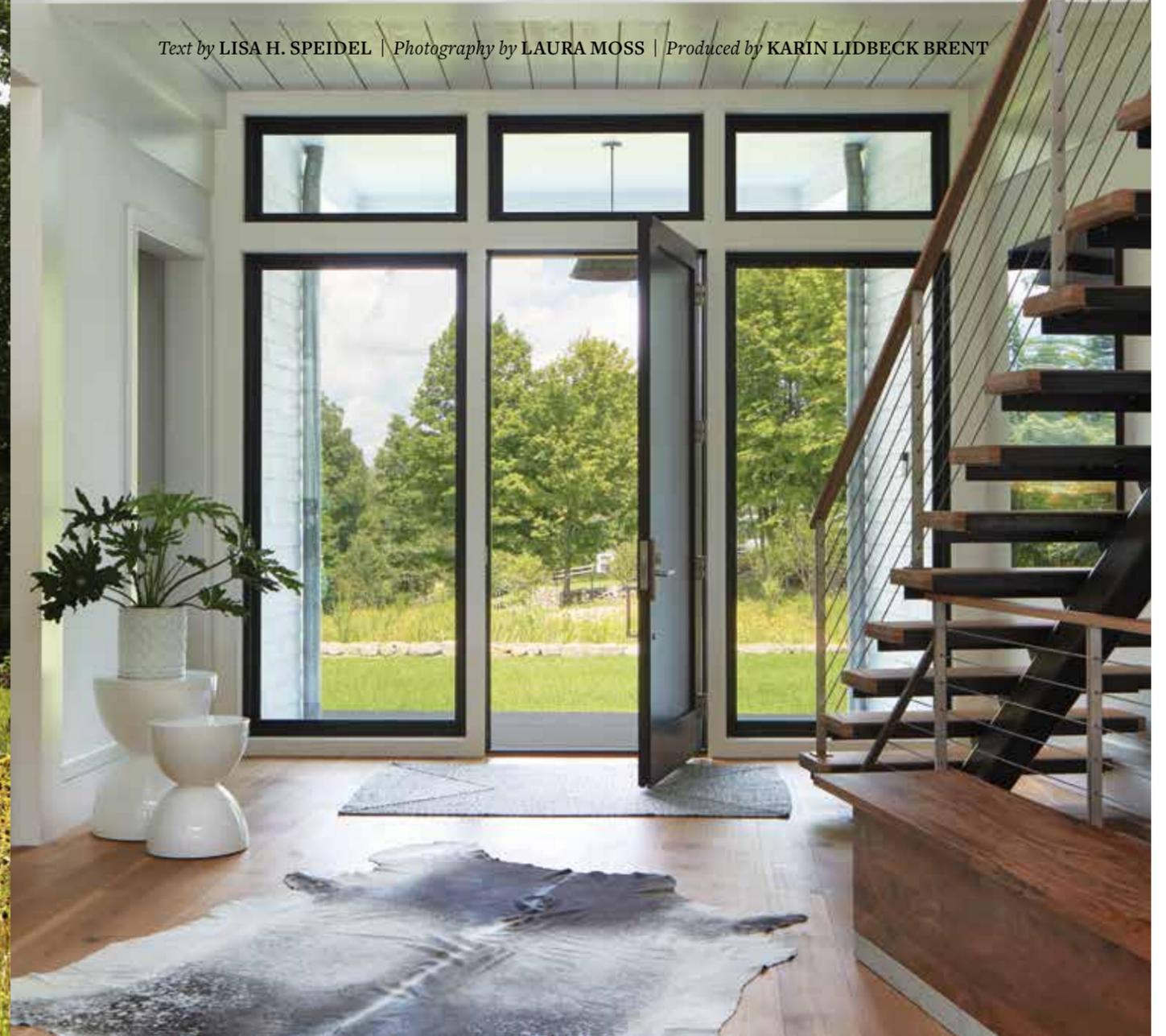
The overarching aesthetic for the exterior is a play on a modern farmhouse. Builder and homeowner Ryan Fletcher notes that while black windows are having a moment now—and he purposely steered clear of fads—“I think they work with this house.” **FACING PAGE:** An open and airy glass entryway connects the house and the four-bay garage.



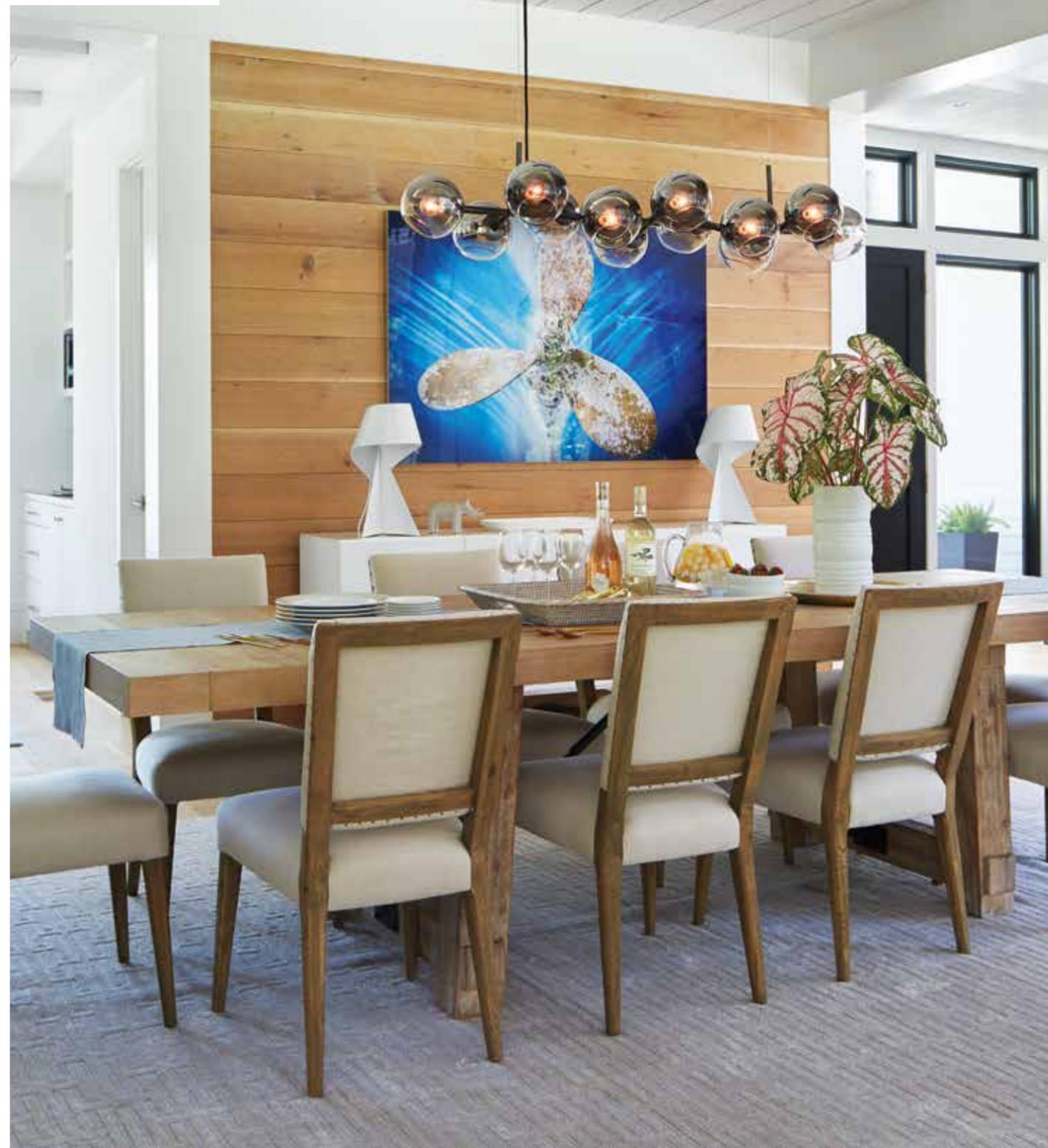
Mr. Congeniality

Builder Ryan Fletcher's many friends will tell you his Redding home is as hospitable as it is well-crafted.

Text by LISA H. SPEIDEL | Photography by LAURA MOSS | Produced by KARIN LIDBECK BRENT



Blue Corroded Propeller, a photograph by Peter Mendelson and a nod to one of Fletcher's favorite pastimes, holds court in the dining room. Rough-sawn painted-wood ceilings throughout lend consistency to the first floor's open plan. **FACING PAGE:** The oft-used wine wall was sourced from Canadian company Cable Wine Systems.



There are plenty of people who say their house is good for entertaining, and then there are those who actually *use* their house to entertain. Builder Ryan Fletcher definitely falls into the latter category.

When he bought an old apple orchard in Redding, five minutes from where he grew up, he set out to build a house conducive to hosting company year-round. "I wanted a place that people *wanted* to come to and hang out at," he says. His quest was successful. Every weekend the guest bedrooms are full of friends from high school, college, or Fletcher's time in the Marines. "They call it their hotel; my girlfriend and I even had custom robes made for everyone [imprinted with the name of our street]."

To make the house crowd-ready, Fletcher

THE AIM WAS CLASSIC WITH A MODERN BENT. “NOTHING THAT’S EDGY,” SAYS RYAN FLETCHER. “I WANTED IT TO BE TIMELESS.”



LEFT: Clean lines and a neutral palette define the kitchen, which boasts a seventeen-foot-long island topped with engineered stone. **RIGHT:** A Four Hands sectional and chair are the centerpieces of a classic and comfortable family room. Fletcher gravitated toward timeless pieces. The colorful image on the far wall is of a beloved vacation spot, Lake Tahoe.



went with an open floor plan centered around an oversize stone fireplace—a perfect backdrop for cozy winter gatherings. A seventeen-foot-long island in the kitchen is primed for morning coffee and conversation. And then there’s the temperature-controlled wine wall separating the family room and dining room. A lovely semi-transparent feature that retains the first floor’s open feel, of course, but it’s also highly functional: “We go through a lot of cases of wine,” says Fletcher with a laugh.

When it came to incorporating cool design details, Fletcher admits one of the perks of owning a high-end residential construction company is his exposure to myriad architects

and designers. “I took ideas from various projects,” he says, “none of this came from thin air, and I didn’t recreate anything.” The ceiling detail came from a house in Darien, the open-tread staircase from a project in Rowayton, and the custom-milled, character-grade white oak floors with an oiled finish from another house in Fairfield County. The floor-to-ceiling corner windows in the family room are based on a design by renowned architect Hugh Newell Jacobsen.

Another perk? Fostering relationships with architects like Christopher Pagliaro of Christopher Pagliaro Architects and designers like Tina Anastasia of Mark P. Finlay Interiors,



ARCHITECTURE:
Christopher Pagliaro,
Christopher Pagliaro
Architects

INTERIOR DESIGN:
Tina Anastasia, Mark P.
Finlay Interiors

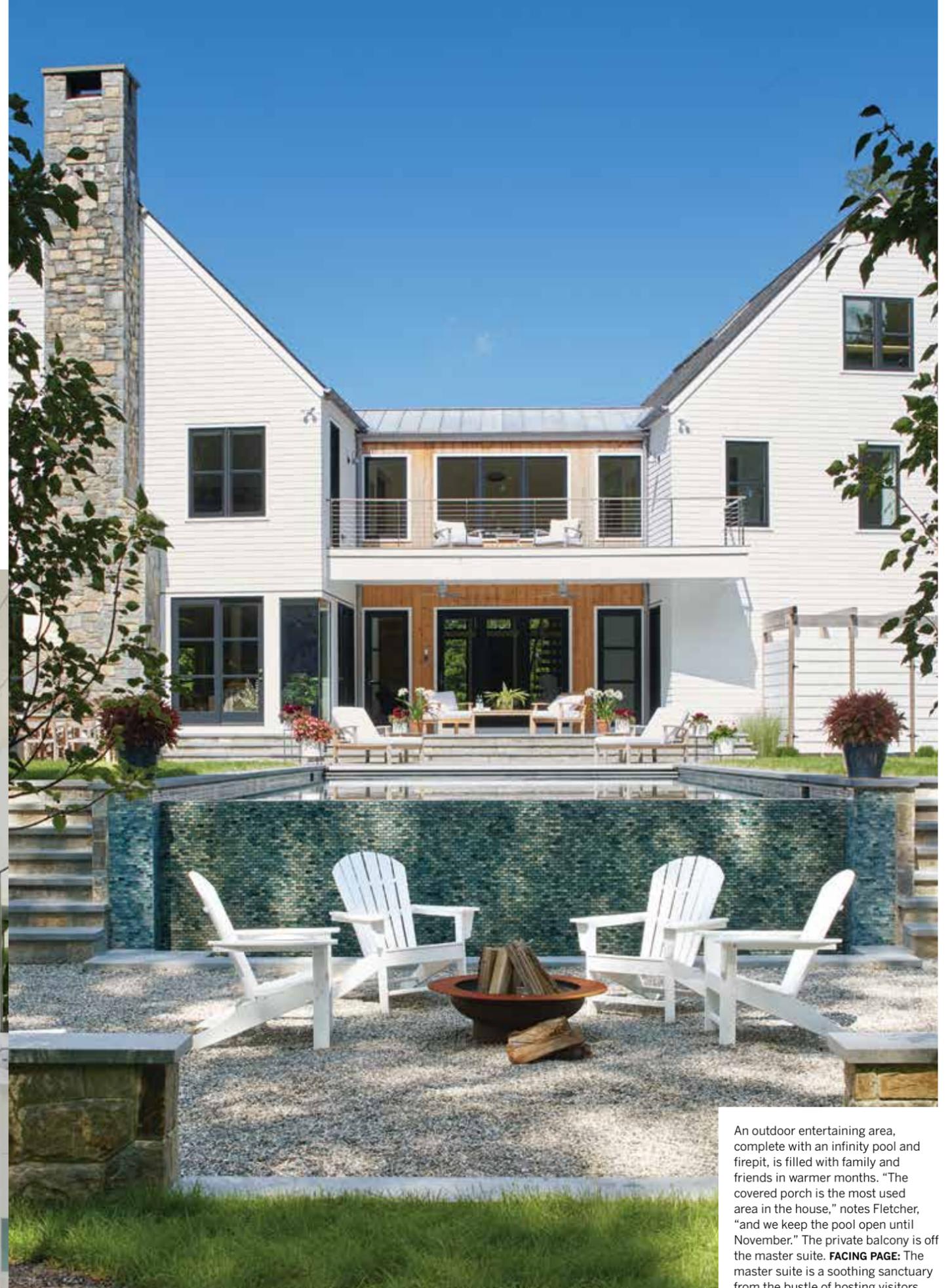
BUILDER:
Ryan Fletcher, Fletcher
Development

the latter with whom he partnered on the soft goods and overall aesthetic. The aim was classic with a modern bent. “Nothing that’s edgy,” says Fletcher. “I wanted it to be timeless.” Anastasia, whom Fletcher credits with helping to soften and modernize the design from its original man-cabiny roots, was also intent on making it personal. She worked with him to pull images that reflect his travels and passions, including skiing and boating and jaunts to Lake Tahoe. “We wanted to bring Ryan into the house,” she says. “It’s easy to change the vibe with artwork and take small risks.”

There were no risks taken on the exterior, however. A builder’s house must be bulletproof. “There’s not a piece of wood on the house that’s going to rot,” he says proudly. And while it’s common for those in the trade to critique their own work—the mudroom *could* be slightly bigger, the house *could* be greener (all those beautiful windows are to blame), and the timeline could have been faster (“When you’re building your own home,” says Fletcher, “you come last”), there’s no time for any Monday morning quarterbacking.

After all, Fletcher and his girlfriend—who, as fate would have it, he met through Mark P. Finlay Interiors—have parties to throw.

EDITOR’S NOTE: For details about this home, see Resources.



An outdoor entertaining area, complete with an infinity pool and firepit, is filled with family and friends in warmer months. “The covered porch is the most used area in the house,” notes Fletcher, “and we keep the pool open until November.” The private balcony is off the master suite. **FACING PAGE:** The master suite is a soothing sanctuary from the bustle of hosting visitors.