

EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN

CONNECTICUT | NEW JERSEY | NEW YORK



**THE 2017
KITCHEN+BATH
ISSUE**

\$5.95 US



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Kitchens are for conversation: that's a truism that begins with the conception and construction of the space, and runs all the way through to its use for food and family. And this kitchen is ideal for conversation—as well as a paragon of collaboration. Its coffered ceilings and warm materials provide a vibrant, beautiful and practical space brought to life through the partnership of the homeowner, designer Catherine Cleare and Hemingway Construction, under the direction of Peter Sciarretta and Doug Horn.

A floor of wide plank walnut welcomes the visitor to the open floor plan, which encompasses the kitchen, breakfast nook and family room. Two islands, both topped with Carrara marble (as are the countertops), provide focal points for preparation and gathering. Each island includes a sink and dishwasher to make quick cleanup a group endeavor. Pendant lights hang like jewels from the coffered ceilings, which gracefully delineate the boundaries of separate spaces in the home without using walls. Cabinets feature glass-fronted accents and interior lighting, and a flat-screen TV—nestled in a recessed space close to the breakfast nook—can be swung out and positioned for enjoyment from several vantage points. This kitchen is the picture of luxury, offering the best-quality materials and generous storage space.

The strong collaboration and commitment to beautifully executed luxury extends into the breakfast nook. Here, the ceiling soars in a deep vault from which a stately lantern descends to illuminate the family's meals and conversation. The eye moves organically from the light to the lush forest greenery beyond, which can be admired through the elegant single-paned windows. The table width was thoughtfully selected to accommodate two people on each side, with seating provided by the cushioned banquette and chicly patterned chairs. The chairs are upholstered in durable fabric—a thoughtful detail supporting this high-traffic space, where spirited conversations will flow back and forth again throughout the life of the home.



