

A Tale of Two Styles

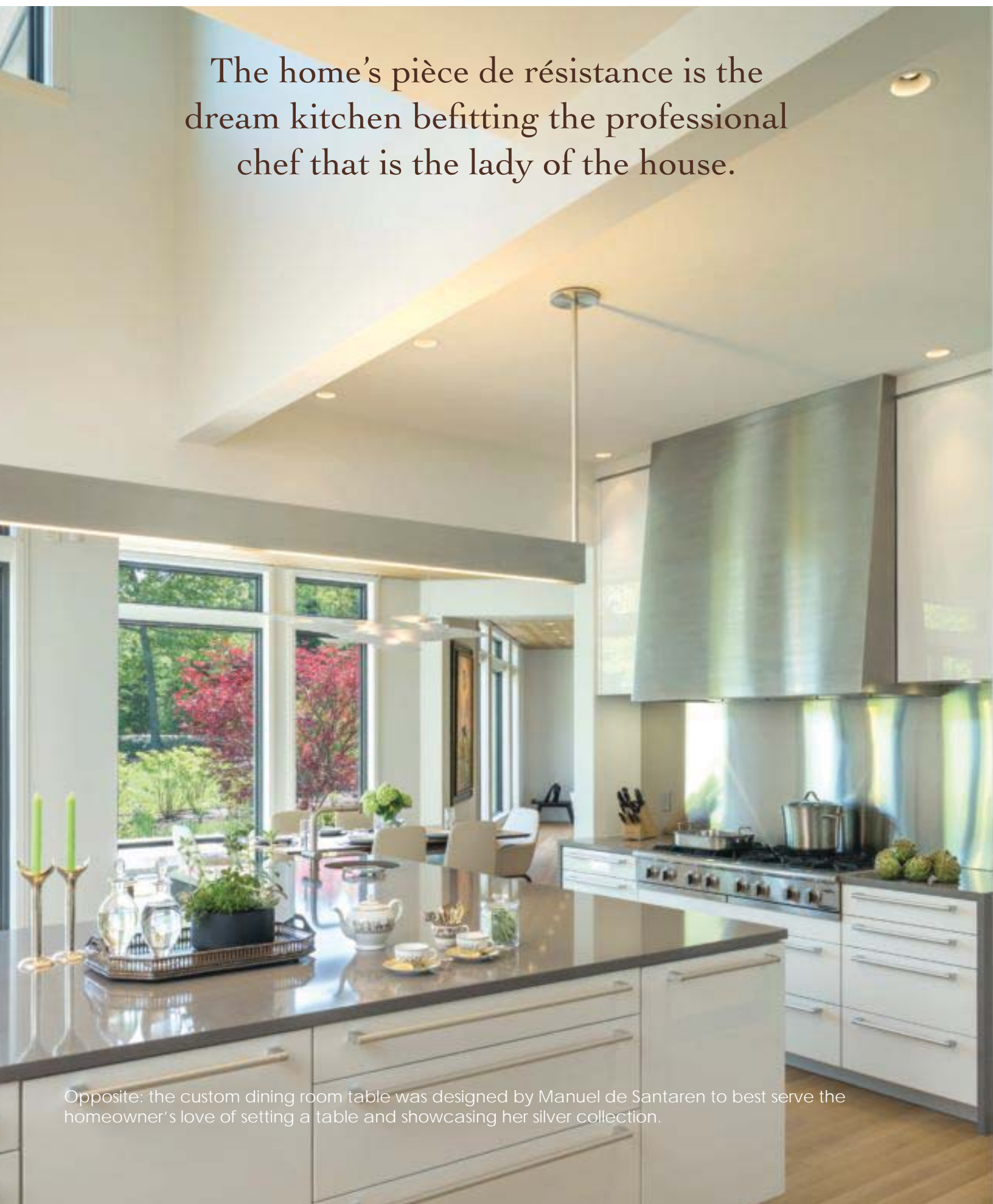
A Shingle Style exterior reveals a minimalist heart





Architect: **MGa | Marcus Gleysteen Architects**
Builder: **Sanford Custom Builders, Inc.**
Landscape architect: **Gregory Lombardi Design**
Landscape maintenance: **Parterre Garden Services**
Interior Design: **Manuel de Santaren, MDS, Inc.**
Architectural Millwork: **Fine Finish, Inc.**
AV Design: **Creative Systems**
Photography: **Richard Mandelkorn**
Text: **Sandy Giardi**

The home's pièce de résistance is the dream kitchen befitting the professional chef that is the lady of the house.



Opposite: the custom dining room table was designed by Manuel de Santaren to best serve the homeowner's love of setting a table and showcasing her silver collection.



Wainscoting, paneling, trim. These characteristics spring to mind when you think of a traditional Shingle Style residence in New England. Now picture a contemporary home. What comes to mind? An economy of natural light? A chilly interior that often prizes style over warmth, eschewing personality for form? If you're Marcus Gleysteen of MGa | Marcus Gleysteen Architects, that's not what you see at all.

What you do see is a sculpture of "plaster, wood and light" that is yours for the making, because you've been tasked with creating a 19th-century inspired Shingle Style new construction that blends

in seamlessly with the tranquil neighborhood on the outside, yet satisfies the homeowners' magnificently minimalist sensibilities inside.

With this in mind, MGa fashioned a highly contemporized version of a Shingle Style house with transitional elements (restrained details, unencumbered glass windows, a lack of trim) that hint at the style beyond the residence's grand, nine-foot Shaker-style door. And on the inside? "An expression of personal taste and attitude that is unapologetically contemporary, clean, crisp and open," says Gleysteen.

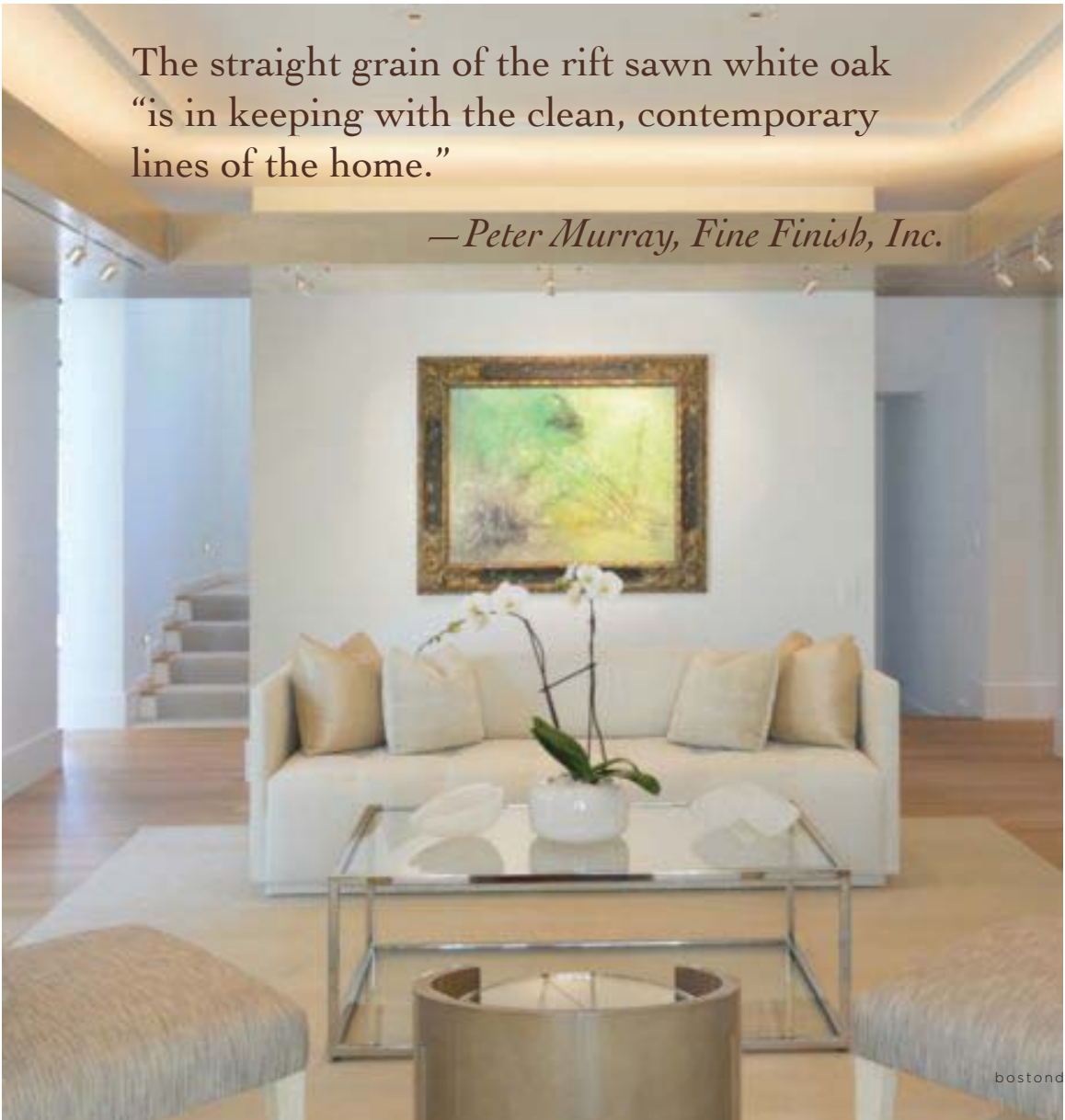
With a modern home, the sky's the limit.





The straight grain of the rift sawn white oak
“is in keeping with the clean, contemporary
lines of the home.”

—Peter Murray, *Fine Finish, Inc.*



SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF GENTLY ROLLING LAWNS AND GARDENS DELIBERATELY
DISTILL NEW ENGLAND LANDSCAPES.

—GREGORY LOMBARDI



A disciplined, manicured lawn segues into a natural expanse of meadow. The formalized edge of the lawn and stone lines echo the geometric forms found within the home.



Gleysteen continues, “There’s just a wonderful contrast of style from inside to out. But the detailing on the contemporary façade and the traditional components are very compatible.”

Marc Kaplan, owner of Sanford Custom Builders, Inc., maintains that this home’s interior is impeccably sleek with straight lines and geometric shapes. This restrained form is challenging for a builder. Without architectural millwork to mask imperfections, “you need to be incredibly precise.”

Gleysteen attributes the home’s arresting interior to the configuration and proportion of the space, and its exceptional natural light, streaming in from palatial, nine-foot windows. The glass serves as a lens to the stunning backyard landscape by Gregory Lombardi Design, inviting in the expansive lawn, formal gardens and yellow-green meadow backdrop as décor.

The homeowners, who cherish modern architecture and fine art, together with MGa and lauded interior designer Manuel de Santaren, have created a home told “in a language of restraint.”

Designed with a wide-open floor plan, the home flows easily from one room to the next. There is a no-fuss tenet, right down to Creative Systems’ almost invisible home integration network. Yet even with this level of minimalism, rooms are intimate and warm.

The dwelling’s warmth is a credit to its finishes and materials. Ceredis rift white oak graces virtually every room, and textiles like chenilles, leathers and silk velvets were chosen, says de Santaren. Simple, taffeta draperies lend “romance and softness to the house.”

The dream kitchen is befitting of the professional chef that is the lady of the house. It’s a high-gloss, efficient space where she can cook up her creations before serving them in the elegant formal dining room. Because cooking is so central to the client, the family room, dining room, even a wonderful view from the second floor, draw the focus right back to the kitchen.

This is not to say that the rooms look inward. Quite the contrary. From the foyer, one is treated to spectacular views of gently rolling lawns and gardens. The indoor-outdoor connection continues throughout the home, framing symmetrical terraces, perennial beds and a lush rose garden, depending on one’s vantage. Guests don’t get a sense of the breathtaking outdoor vista until they’re inside. Yet another happy surprise from a home that defies convention.



Download the Boston Design Guide Digital Edition to watch an exclusive video about this project.