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THE GREAT OUTDOORS

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When the owners built their new home in Conyers Farm in Greenwich, CT, they imagined a pool house near the main property. The topography of the land, however, made that impossible, so they decided to do the next best thing: they upped the stakes and created a beautiful, spacious retreat, making it a destination all its own.

Working with architect David LaPierre from the firm Cardello Architects, the homeowners envisioned a space that could accommodate large gatherings of 100 or more people, but would also serve as a private spot where a few family members could relax for a quiet evening and sleep on the couch. The Georgian-style pool house complements the architecture of the new main residence and features three separate rooms, each about 500 square feet. The three sections include the kitchen and indoor living area, an outdoor seating pavilion, and a changing area with a bathroom and locker facility.

The full kitchen is anchored by a floating center island and seating for three, with pendant lights by Restoration Hardware. Tucked discreetly away under the counters are refrigerator drawers and a wine refrigerator.

The indoor living space features an arched ceiling with recessed lighting, arched custom-made mahogany doors by Sorpetaler, and a custom-made window over the sink that ties it all together. The mahogany doors open up to the pool area on each side of the pavilion. The room is furnished with a cream-colored pullout sofa and a large flat-screen television, and the travertine flooring is covered by a large sisal area rug for cozy evenings spent indoors. “Our goal was to create a sense of volume so it would feel like the main house,” says David.

The open-air pavilion features an outdoor seating area with a fireplace for chilly fall evenings. It was fitted with drop-down roll screens, so that as soon as the sun sets, the family’s activities are not interrupted by uninvited flying “guests” that come from the wetlands behind the property. Three arched doorways facing the pool create a seamless façade with the rest of the structure. The pavilion’s vaulted ceiling makes the space feel much larger and is accented with a mahogany ceiling fan. “The intention was to give the space flexibility,” explains David, “so you can open everything up, move the furniture around and create a larger entertaining area when needed.”



Travertine flooring was used throughout the interiors and also spills out onto the terrace. A large modular seating grouping sits at one end of the terrace, and loungers surround the pool. There is room for a tent for larger gatherings. The property backs up to an equestrian farm, and the pool house also serves as a nice privacy buffer from the rest of the neighborhood.

The composite recycled material Azek was used on the exterior, and the roof is Vermont Gray, quarried in Vermont. The natural landscape was left alone, according to David, so the native grasses could grow up to the pool and terrace edge, creating a more casual ambience.