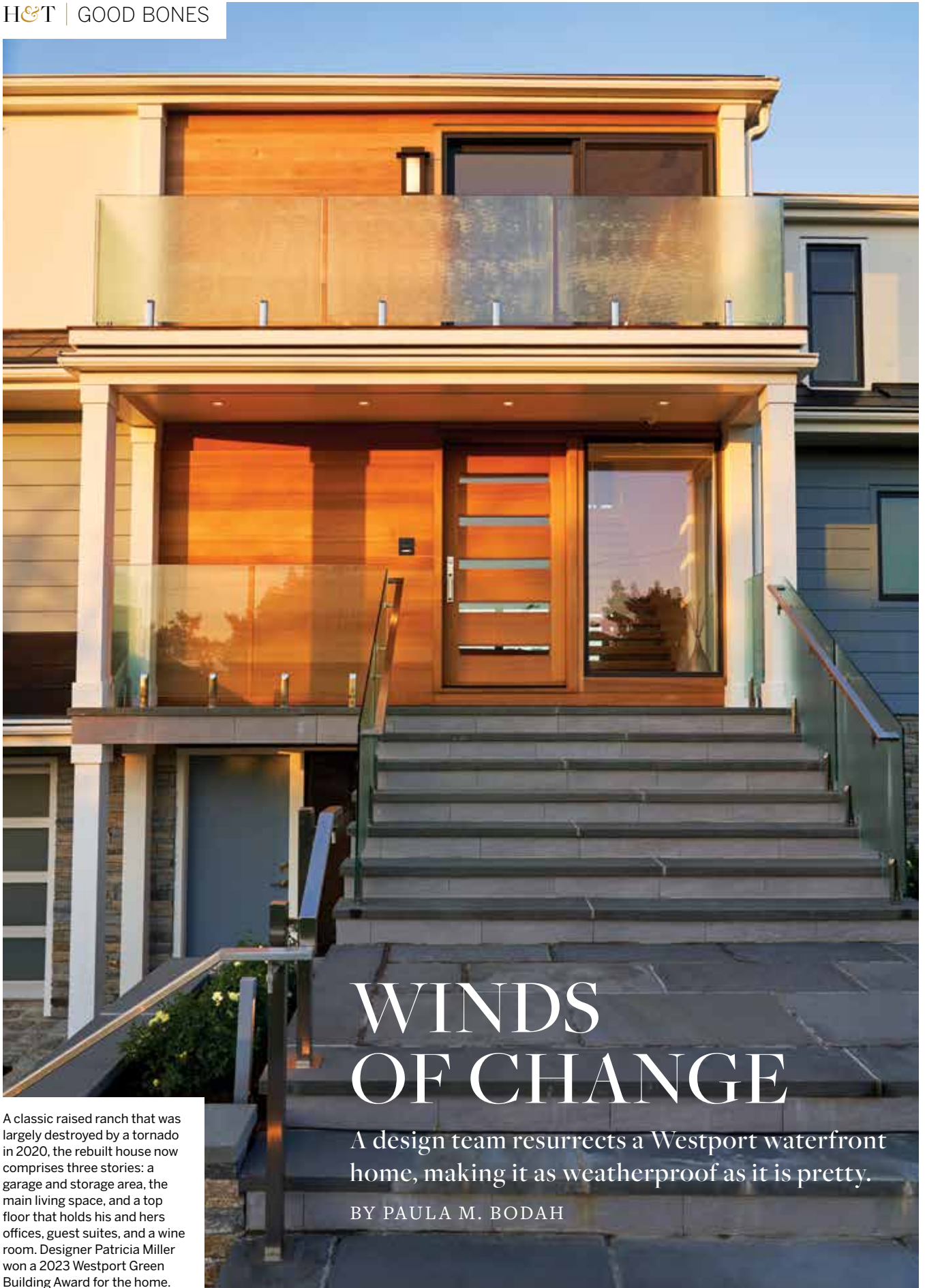


New England HOME CT

BLUE Attitude

SETTING THE MOOD





WINDS OF CHANGE

A design team resurrects a Westport waterfront home, making it as weatherproof as it is pretty.

BY PAULA M. BODAH

A classic raised ranch that was largely destroyed by a tornado in 2020, the rebuilt house now comprises three stories: a garage and storage area, the main living space, and a top floor that holds his and hers offices, guest suites, and a wine room. Designer Patricia Miller won a 2023 Westport Green Building Award for the home.

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hat do you do when a tornado rips the roof off your house, taking part of the second floor with it? The new owners of this Westport home used the rare occurrence, a byproduct of 2020's Hurricane Isaias, to take a second look at their renovation plans for the water-front home.

Luckily, they hadn't moved in yet, relates Patricia M. Miller, who spearheaded the design team charged with expanding and updating the house. The



ABOVE: A combination of pitched and flat roofs and a blend of exterior materials give the home plenty of personality. The pitched roofs sport Tesla glass solar panels for energy efficiency. **BELOW:** Alder-trimmed doors fold out of the way, screen doors disappear into pockets, and the deck's railing is glass, all to maximize the indoor-outdoor connection.

disaster, which somehow left nearby houses unscathed, gave Miller and builders Marc and Joseph Fuscaldo the opportunity to create what essentially became a brand-new



dwelling that uses the latest technology for sustainability and energy efficiency.

Zoning regulations demanded that the house, a two-story raised ranch built in the 1960s, keep to its original footprint, but the homeowners wanted to expand the two-car garage. “There was an office in back of the garage, so I knocked out the wall to create a tandem four-car garage,” Miller explains. “It was as simple as that.”

Less simple were FEMA regulations that meant the garage level was no longer suitable for living space. “It didn’t count as a story,” Miller says. “It could only be used for storage.” She devised a plan to move the front door to the second level, then added a third level, working with zoning laws to satisfy height restrictions.

A mix of pitched and flat roofs and a



ABOVE: The glass railing of the stairs leading to the top floor keeps the house bright and airy. The oak door with stainless-steel accents opens to an elevator. **BELOW:** Hardware-free high-gloss cabinetry gives the kitchen a high-tech minimalist look and feel, while the navy blue island and oak floors add warmth. Cove lighting and underlighting, supplemented with clean, contemporary pendants, provide plenty of illumination without the need for recessed ceiling lights.



blend of siding materials—a poly-ash composite that mimics gray cedar shingles for the garage and first floor, cream-colored stucco for the top level, and a section of natural cedar that adds an extra dose of character to the entry and the deck above it—give the front plenty of visual interest. The rear has new steel framework and hurricane-proof glass windows, the better to withstand the next major storm.

Inside, the house strikes a warm, contemporary tone with white-oak floors complemented with walls and trim of oak and alder. “Alder is a beautiful wood,” says



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: LED lighting above the vanity and shower and around the mirrors eliminates the need for ceiling- or wall-mounted lights in the primary bathroom; a bottom-up shade affords privacy for the tub. An outdoor shower is one of the joys of a waterfront home. The handsome wine room with its alder racking system was designed by architect and wine-cellar specialist Evan L. Goldenberg to keep the homeowners’ coveted wine collection at the perfect temperature.



Steel framing and hurricane-rated windows ensure the house will stand for generations to come. An enchanting lighting design by UK designer Trent O'Connor, controlled with smart home technology from InnerSpace Electronics, gives the home its magical nighttime glow.

*FURNITURE AND ACCENTS IN NEUTRAL HUES
KEEP A LOW PROFILE, LETTING AWE-INSPIRING VIEWS
OF LONG ISLAND SOUND TAKE PRECEDENCE.*



Marc Fuscaldo. “It’s so natural looking and it works well with white oak.”

Furniture and accents in neutral hues keep a low profile, letting awe-inspiring views of Long Island Sound take precedence. And behind the scenes, InnerSpace Electronics installed state-of-the-

art smart technology, earning themselves a HOBI award in the process.

Hurricanes may be a natural part of life on the coast, but this rebuilt beauty will stand fast against the winds for generations to come.

EDITOR’S NOTE: For details, see Resources.

ARCHITECTURAL AND INTERIOR DESIGN:
Patricia M. Miller Residential Design
BUILDER: Fuscaldo Builders