

RUE

MAGAZINE YOUR PATHWAY TO STYLISH LIVING



Cozy Homes,
Our Favorite
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The
Business
of Being
**Nate
Berkus**

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of brilliant
decorating ideas

PRO TIPS

home highlights

MEANINGFUL MINIMALISM

This East Coast home is a lesson in negative space.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY REID ROLLS

Her award-winning staging and design firm, LTW Design, is known for well-styled, photo-ready homes. But for Leia T. Ward, interior design should serve as a canvas for real life. "Our clients want spaces that are calming and make them enjoy coming home. They want a refuge," she explains. "In order to create this, the right amount of negative space is the secret sauce. Leaving enough room for them and their children to bring life into and run around—we want that to be the busyness that fills that negative space. It allows for the chaos to live with the calm."

This home is a great example of that ethos. "It's located on the Hudson River in Westchester, New York. It's just a 30-minute train ride to NYC, so the neighborhood is very hip and vibrant and has a lot of young families." Leia created a space she describes as "warm minimalist"—a nearly-monochromatic space with shades of grey, warm white, and natural oak.

Moving from TriBeCa to the 'burbs can feel daunting, but for Leia's clients, this home provides enough breathing room for them to spread out. "They have busy lives and didn't want any clutter," the designer says. "The balance between what you put in the home and what you don't put in can be a true art."

→ **Custom Curves**
"We hired Ted Bradley to make a custom piece that was unique and unpredictable to best fit the space," Leia says of the light fixture. "I wanted a fixture that contrasted the clean, straight lines of the stair railing and furnishings throughout. It feels sculptural, almost like a piece of art rather than your typical entry fixture."

↘ **Durable Design**
"We really aimed to provide a solid foundation upon which there was room for them to build and layer as they travel and live in the home through the years," the designer says.

↓ **Beaming Beauty**
"As you enter the house, you have a partial view of the living room, kitchen, and dining room, so it was important to create a design that was cohesive through all of the rooms," Leia says. Oak beams add architectural interest to the boxy living room and tie in the treetop views outside.





