

# Bright Ideas

Sister Parish Design's creative director gives her cottage a bold refresh.



Editor at Large Clinton Smith shares what's next and what's newsy.

For design scion Eliza Crater Harris, 2020 was a milestone year. She and her husband, Will, welcomed a new baby boy. They moved into a house in Connecticut's Litchfield County that dates back to the nineteenth century and quickly proceeded to decorate. At the same time there's a global pandemic happening, Crater Harris continued to serve as the creative director of her family's storied fabric and textile company, Sister Parish Design, ushering in a new performance line of fabrics and an innovative collaboration with

Eliza Crater Harris at home in Salisbury, Conn., surrounded by a mélange of fabrics from her family's textile and wallpaper company, Sister Parish Design. **(1)** The curtains are in the Augusta pattern in pink. **(2)** A tablecloth from Marigold Home adds to the mix. **(3)** The chairs are upholstered in the Mahalo performance fabric in Prussian blue.





- (1) Farrow & Ball Cook's Blue covers the ceiling and mantel in the dining room.
- (2) The valances feature Sister Parish Design's Serendipity pattern in beige.
- (3) The company's Palms Grasscloth in green-gold brings color, pattern, and texture to a formerly dark space.
- (4) Dining chairs sport slipcovers in Sister Parish Design's Sister's Stripes With Lattice Fabric in blue-brown.

Parsons School of Design on sustainable design concepts for new products.

Fast forward to today, and the couple's cozy cottage has proven to be the perfect respite from their nine-to-five duties, no doubt due to Crater Harris's pragmatic approach to decorating and deft touch at mixing seemingly disparate color and pattern combinations to create a harmonious whole. "I decorated everything in a very kind of maximalist way, not only because that's my design sensibility, but also because it was

COVID, and I was wanting a sense of escapism within my own house," she says.

"I started in the rooms that we were using most," Crater Harris says of the process, beginning with her son's nursery, then moving on to a tricky dining room that has five doorways (not to mention even more windows) leading in and out of it. "It kind of acts like a hallway," she says of the now grasscloth-clad space. "It was just really dreary, so I needed to fix this room

**(1)** In Crater Harris's den, a collage by Marian McEvoy brings natural elements indoors. **(2)** A custom throw pillow was fabricated out of Sister Parish Design's Burmese performance fabric in three colorways—indigo, meadow, and summer blue—and the Burma performance fabric in spruce. **(3)** The sofa's Mahalo performance fabric in Prussian blue by Sister Parish Design complements a patterned throw **(4)** from Chairish.





*“I KEPT IT TO ONE COLOR SCHEME, AND THE PATTERN DOES BRING THIS KIND OF SERENITY TO THE ROOM.”*

—Eliza Crater Harris,  
Sister Parish Design

A cozy den—with all sorts of creature comforts, including plump upholstery for lounging—features the aforementioned new Sister Parish performance fabrics. Their soft hand makes them equally suited for indoors or out. “All the fabrics are made out of recycled water bottles,” says Crater Harris. “It feels really good, it’s made in America, and it’s beautiful. We are so proud to sell it.”

As for the main bedroom, a striped red-and-white tree-of-life wallpaper in the company’s Sintra pattern envelops the space. “I kept it to one color scheme, and the pattern does bring this kind of serenity to the room,” Crater Harris explains. The company’s iconic Desmond wallpaper on the ceiling offers a subtle contrast, a pattern one can get lost in. Says Crater Harris: “It looks like a starry night.” Indeed, these are the rooms dreams are made of.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Sister Parish Design is available at Studio 534, Boston Design Center, [s5boston.com](http://s5boston.com). To see more patterns, visit [sisterparishdesign.com](http://sisterparishdesign.com).

(1) The main bedroom’s wallpaper is Sister Parish Design’s Sintra in red.  
(2) The antique chairs are upholstered in the company’s Waddingfield fabric in coral.

immediately.” Instead of trying to camouflage all of the passageways, Crater Harris turned her attention to them, bestowing each with its own fanciful fabric-laden valance. “I thought it was better to accentuate rather than to try to disguise them.”