

GREENWICH

Lin-Manuel Miranda

As **TALENTED** and **PASSIONATE**
as he is **EMPATHETIC** and **KIND**,
this **MEGA STAR** is proof that good
things happen to great people

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105 Ways to Live the Good Life

Whether you're a
newcomer or lifelong
resident, you'll want
to check out these
gems in design, dining,
fashion & family fun

Lin-Manuel Miranda,
Greenwich International
Film Festival's 2022
Changemaker Honoree

Home Work

The kind we like, that is. Experts weigh in on some spectacular ideas to bring your escape from the world to the next level

There's no place like home ... to relax, work, entertain, be pampered, play sports, sunbathe, or do almost anything. In changing times, people turn to the comfort of their dwellings, and local architects and designers say they're outfitting high-end houses like never before. They shared some inspiration and advice for living your best life in your home zone. **BY MARY KATE HOGAN**



With stunning views like this, who wouldn't want to work from home?

1 OUTSIDE IN CHARLES HILTON ARCHITECTS hiltonarchitects.com

With work from home becoming the norm, people are putting major resources toward their home offices. Some create one-of-a-kind dedicated workrooms with beautiful views, while others prefer a space that does double duty as a sitting area, library or a place for guests. The key is to incorporate the functionality of a corporate office, including the best lighting technology and WiFi, while keeping the décor suitable and stylish enough for a residential setting.

"People look for comfortable, generous-sized workspaces where they have a main desk and built-in storage, file drawers, shelves and cabinets that hide the office equipment when it's not being used," says Chuck Hilton of Charles Hilton Architects.

His firm has designed many upscale offices, including one with views so exceptional it may be hard for its owners to stay focused on work. This office is set in a shingle-style house right on the Sound, overlooking Tod's Point. "It's light, bright and clean and fits in with the house, yet it makes reference to the waterfront with a nautical theme," says Chuck. "They are boaters who love to be on the water."

Designed as a his-and-hers office for husband and wife, the twin mahogany desks with brass hardware are built into a bowed space with windows, recalling the bow of a boat. Pull-out storage space between the two desks keeps office supplies and equipment from competing with the views. The ceiling is decked with bead board and mahogany beams. Opposite the desk area there's comfortable seating for four by a mahogany-trimmed fireplace, perfect if one of the homeowners wants to host a meeting or if they're looking for a spot to relax after a long day at the "office."

CHARLES HILTON PHOTOS BY ROBERT BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY

2 GAME ON! CHARLES HILTON ARCHITECTS

Families who play together will never get bored in the latest well-appointed game and hobby rooms. Some are installing kitchenettes for kids who love to bake, dedicated arts-and-crafts rooms, painting studios, custom pool tables, deluxe ping-pong tables and home theaters. For outdoor "gaming," in addition to amazing pool houses, certain athletics-minded homeowners are even making room for basketball, squash or tennis courts. One racket-sports-obsessed client of Charles Hilton Architects requested a one-of-a-kind tennis pavilion on their Georgian estate in Greenwich. It has special details such as rackets carved into stone and windows that reference tennis balls.



above: Tennis anyone? This impressive pavilion on a private estate in Greenwich rivals some area clubs.

3 SPA RETREAT SBP HOMES sbphomes.com

"The ultimate good life is when your house is a vacation place," says Doron Sabag of SBP Homes. To that end, his clients are building luxe spa features—spaces to retreat and relax. "We see more and more people asking for infrared saunas in the basement and sauna rooms attached to the master bathroom," he says. "We're doing that in almost every [client's] house."

At one waterfront home in Old Greenwich designed by SBP and Turner-White Architecture, the spa is so unique and spacious that the owners won't be checking into Miraval anytime soon.

The couple, who are Scandinavian and South African, view sauna time as not just a private health treatment but also a social activity and something to benefit the whole family. So their new sauna can accommodate ten to twelve people and the steam room up to five. The steam room is finished in a beautiful Negra Marquina marble, selected by interior designer Amy Hirsch, with curved chaises, radiant heat, niches, benches and a ceiling covered in fiber-optic lights that illuminate constellation patterns. The sauna is lined in a light aspen wood and kept to precise temperatures using a special heater from Finland.

Both have floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Long Island Sound with sunset views. There's a terrace off the spa with radiant heat and a fire pit, so they can sit outside even in the colder months. Says Doron, "It was designed to be very soothing, to take away the stress of the day." »