

## Bonnie Paige on a New Design Direction for 2026

### The Shift and The Purpose:



As we move deeper into 2026, interior design is finally shedding the minimalism that defined the past decade. Grays, neutral sets, and open floor plans that once signaled modern are now finding something new in their place. A warmer, more well lived and centered approach is taking root—one that prioritizes character, comfort, and personal narrative over fleeting trends.

**The mood is Modern Heritage:** a thoughtful fusion of historic references and contemporary living. Designers are championing handcrafted details, patinated woods, antique textiles, and pieces with stories. Darker, character-rich timbers (walnut, oak, reclaimed elm) are everywhere, paired with tactile finishes like limewash, plaster, and handmade tiles. These spaces feel lived-in, layered, and quietly luxurious—not because they're expensive, but because they feel real.

**Curves are the new straight lines.** Arches, rounded islands, sculptural furniture, and soft geometry are softening architecture and softening us in the process. They bring movement into rooms that once felt static. Oversized, furniture reinforces this shift toward comfort—deep sofas, generous chairs, and pieces that invite you to sink in rather than perch.

**Color is back, and it's unapologetic.** Kitchens in particular are embracing saturated hues: forest greens, rich burgundies, deep navy, and warm terracotta. Painted floors—whether boldly patterned or subtly washed—have become the easiest way to inject personality. Earthy neutrals (creamy caramels, buttery taupes, muted ochres) serve as grounding backdrops, while occasional shades of pink or electric blue, wallpaper and scenic murals add joy without chaos.

**Wellness has moved to a built environment.** Dedicated meditation rooms, spa-like bathrooms, home gyms with natural light, and garden rooms are no longer indulgences—they're essential. The emphasis on natural materials, and sensory richness reflects a broader cultural vision: after years of remote work and uncertainty, we want our homes to make us feel good.

The focus is on longevity, repairability, and traceable provenance—vintage finds, local craftsmanship, and materials that age beautifully. Layered textiles (tassels, trims, heirloom quilts), lacquered statement pieces, and sculptural lighting all contribute to spaces that feel collected rather than curated.

In 2026, the most desirable homes aren't the most "on trend." They're the ones that feel unmistakably yours—warm, textured, imperfect, and joyfully comforting. Design has stopped trying to impress and started trying to embrace. That, more than any single color or form, is the true direction forward.

### Eagle Woodworking Moves into a New 40,000 SF Facility



“We’ve officially settled into our new 40,000 sq. ft. space in Methuen, MA,” said Eagle partner, Blake Schwartz, “and it’s already helping us serve customers better. With expanded capacity, more streamlined workflows, and upgraded machinery, we’re producing more drawers and cabinet doors with the same Eagle attention customers can count on.”

## VELUX Global Executive Vice President Visits Connecticut

The Global Executive Vice President of VELUX, Anders Dam Vestergaard, visited from Denmark, and made some stops in Connecticut with Senior Sales Representative, Steve Bushnik and District Sales Manager, Tim O'Neill. On November 5, they met with T&M Building personnel, including Steve Temkin, Marketing Director Joe Duva, Project Manager Graham Davis, and Director of Construction Andre Ugalde at the VELUX facility in Windsor, where they demonstrated how the Cabrio balcony skylight operated. T&M Building plans to install a Cabrio Balcony Skylight in the model home at their new development at Edith Lane in Bloomfield.



L-R: Steve Bushnik, Graham Davis, Tim O'Neill, Joe Duva, and Andrew Ugalde at the Windsor VELUX facility seeing a demonstration of the Cabrio balcony skylight.

Then they viewed a T&M house under construction where two windowless bathrooms had natural light brought in, one from a skylight and one from a SUN TUNNEL®. T&M Building plans to feature A SUN TUNNEL® in the laundry room of the Edith Lane model.



L-R: Steve Bushnik, Anders Dam Vestergaard and Tim O'Neill in an upstairs bathroom in a T&M home under construction in Glastonbury.

From there they went to a home nearing completion in Glastonbury where three skylights help illuminate the kitchen and nook. T&M Building is excited to continue this partnership with VELUX Skylights to bring a brighter future to each new home.



L-R: Steve Bushnik, Anders Dam Vestergaard, Joe Duva, Steve Temkin, and Andrew Ugalde

## Hartford Fence Wins National AFA Award



The American Fence Association awarded Hartford Fence Company of West Hartford, Connecticut with the 2026 National Project of the Year, at the FenceTech conference in Indianapolis. Winning for their Fence and Gate work at the shadowHOUSE in Farmington, Connecticut, the project features a striking contemporary design language communicated through all black materials ranging from glass railings and horizontal aluminum fence, to automated slide gates and powered dining pergolas. It was described by the AFA as “the best look at what is possible for the future of fence”. ■