

Heart and Soul

DESIGNER CATHERINE ZADEH CRAFTS A TIMELESS HOME IN WATER MILL THAT'S AS UNIQUE AND FINELY HONED AS HER DISTINCTIVE LINES OF JEWELRY.

BY JEAN NAYAR



When jewelry designer Catherine Zadeh (zadehny.com) moved to New York City, she found her element. "Growing up in Iran and then Paris was not easy," she explains. "I had a hard time fitting in. I felt neither French nor Persian—I always felt lost and out of place. When I moved to New York City in my late 20s, I finally felt I could be myself without fear of judgment. I felt free, excited and empowered to make my future whatever I wanted it to be." But when she moved into her home in Water Mill with her husband and family a few years ago, she found her bliss. "The house has a peace and serenity that I have not found anywhere else in the world," she says. "It's my happy place."

Part of what makes her home so special is that, like her jewelry, she designed it to embody the ideas and values she cherishes—quality, simplicity

and timelessness. And, since so much of her personal contentment comes from her creativity, to live in an environment that so closely aligns with her spirit is essential. "Nothing is off limits in my jewelry," she says of her singular and fearless approach to design. "We pair precious metals with parachute cord, recycled Asian water buffalo horn, exotic wood and vegetable ivory," she says of the gender-neutral bracelets, pendants, rings and other jewelry she designs for men and now women, noting that all of her materials are sustainable, water-resistant and incredibly sturdy. "There is a perfect French word to describe it, *sobre*, meaning simple, refined," she says.

Zadeh deployed the same unconventional yet universally appealing aesthetic throughout her home, a contemporary barn-inspired dwelling, which she gutted and reconfigured to create spaces that she describes as "modern, timeless, beautiful and humble in their simplicity." Evidence of her unique attitude toward design is especially apparent in her home's details, where her love of materials comes through with crystal clarity. Warm walnut wood, for instance, is used throughout, especially in the kitchen and master bathroom, and contrasts with materials of other textures, such as the large gray Mexican beach pebbles around the



Clockwise from top: Catherine Zadeh at home in Water Mill; Zadeh's Jane necklace is made with hand-carved zebra wood and 18K white gold (\$2,900); the minimalist and contemporary exterior of Zadeh's house



CATHERINE ZADEH: PORTRAIT BY ELMC; SNEAKER: HOME; PHOTOGRAPHY: YULIU LI; JEWELRY: PHOTOGRAPHY: THE BRAND



From top: Zadeh's bathroom features curvy Kino Guérin-designed installations; the home mostly features a simple brown and white color scheme; the kitchen's sleek walnut cabinets; Zadeh's San Remo 14K white gold bracelet, \$2,250, and the Bon sterling silver macramé bracelet, \$195.



deck. Animated with a play of light and grounded with a mostly brown and white color scheme, her home also embraces and salutes the work of other artists, like the beautiful Kino

Guérin-designed curvy installations in her bathroom and bedroom or the tables in

her basement, which were designed after she visited London and saw a retrospective of the work of painter Agnes Martin.

In the barn-inflected home, there's also an equestrian air, which is echoed in her newest line of jewelry, called the Hamptons collection, created in conjunction with Chloe, her second of three daughters, who recently

joined her company and catalyzed the new designs with a simple doodle reminiscent of a stirrup. "Equestrian without being explicitly equestrian," says Zadeh. "And my first foray into the horse world," adds the designer, noting her long-standing captivation with the equine aesthetic of Hermès. "A single scarf, worn with jeans and a T-shirt, can exude such an effortlessly chic style," she says, pointing to a similar quality that comes through not only in her jewelry but also her home. "When you get it, it's timeless," she says. "I wanted a timeless, effortless style of living—beautiful, open and quiet. So I imbued my home with the same aesthetic and the same feeling of warmth, love and comfort." ■

