

BY MARY GOW

# Durable and Enduring Design

## CREATING SPACES THAT MEET HUMAN NEEDS

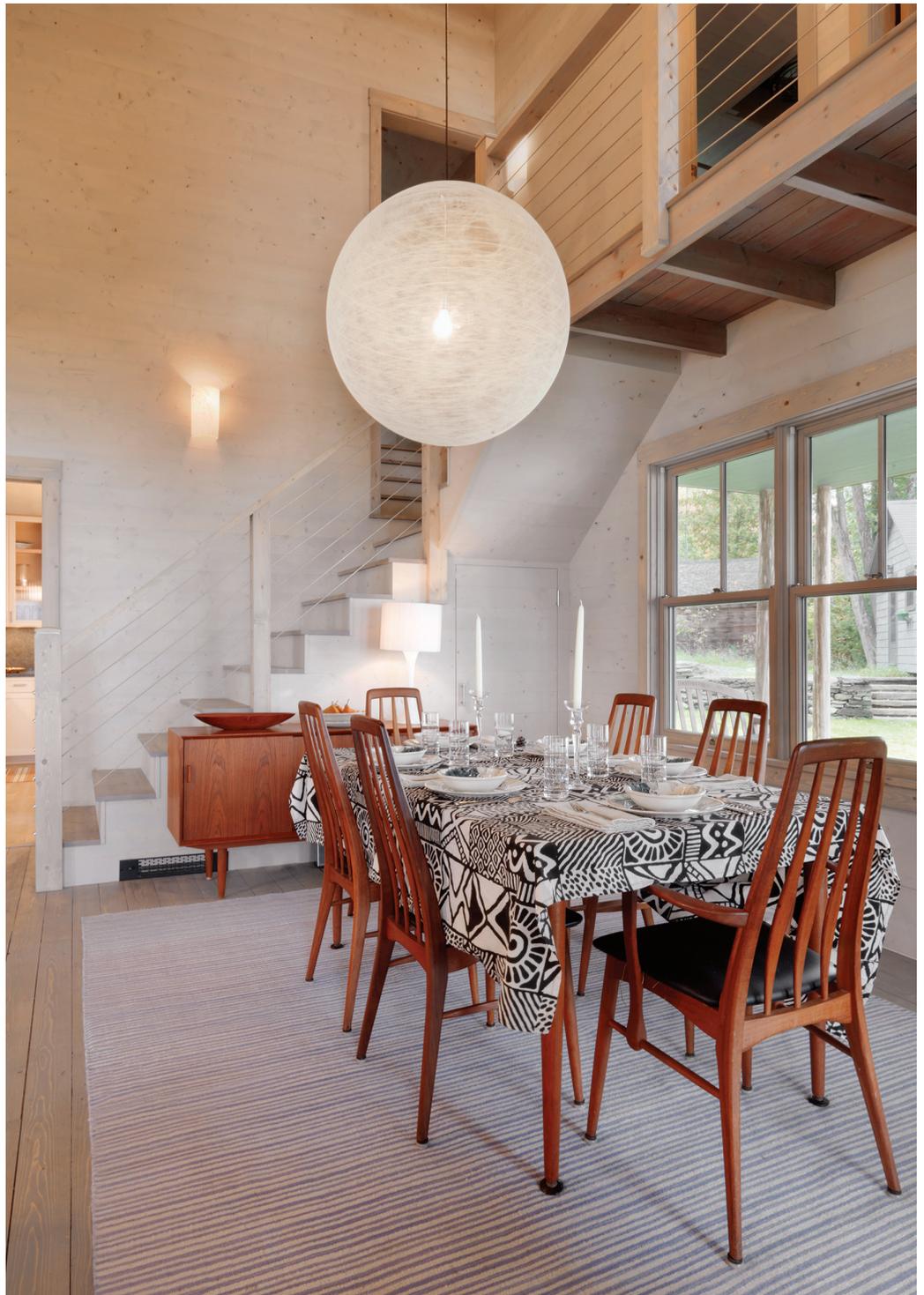
Committed to excellence, Cushman Design Group, based in Stowe, has been designing homes and commercial spaces that are nurturing, invigorating, sustainable, and energy efficient for three decades. Providing integrated design services, the CDG team of architects and designers brings together creativity, building technology, superb craftsmanship, and profound attention to clients' needs and lifestyles in every project.

"Our interest is in promoting what is best for our client," says Milford Cushman. "We seek to produce designs that are durable and enduring, classic without necessarily being traditional." Every CDG project centers on the client's individual needs and personal story. "We are really patient, listen deeply, and ask questions to understand our clients' desires. We want to be sure our clients are mindful and thoughtful in their decisions."

### "Prospect and Refuge"

The CDG team's goal is "to design handsome and beautiful spaces that live comfortably, provide aspects of prospect and refuge, are intuitive and nurturing to the owners, and are very energy and space efficient," says Milford. The words "prospect and refuge" connect to design theory about spaces that meet human needs. Prospect—looking outward—is the quality of extended vision, while refuge—looking inward—is the quality of being secure.

Sustainable design is a hallmark of CDG. "Being energy efficient means not taking any energy for granted. If a building just sips energy, the occupants will be warm," says Milford. CDG's expertise in designing homes that take advantage of a building's site and orientation and incorporating a very high-performing building envelope both go a





Thoughtfully designed buildings manifest the sacredness of everyday life and help us live healthier and more connected to the natural world, and good design instills beauty into space that is truly enduring.

— Milford Cushman, founder and president of Cushman Design Group

long way toward reducing the energy that will be needed for heating and cooling.

Sustainability is also a mind-set of choosing materials that are extremely durable, explains Milford. By maximizing building efficiency, homeowners who wish to also incorporate renewable energy choices such as photovoltaic solar panels have more options, as they don't need to produce as much energy for heating and cooling.

Cushman Design Group is known for sophisticated modern design that fits the Vermont countryside. "Many of our clients are asking for design that draws on their sense of urban sophistication and explores as well as interprets it through the context of Vermont's rural setting. Currently, design trends within this style predominantly feature natural materials, often local and native, and a focus on natural lighting, and emphasize extraordinary local craftsmanship," says Milford. ✨

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