

# NV NEW VIEW

Twenty Magnificent Homes  
by Northeast Architects

Beth Buckley

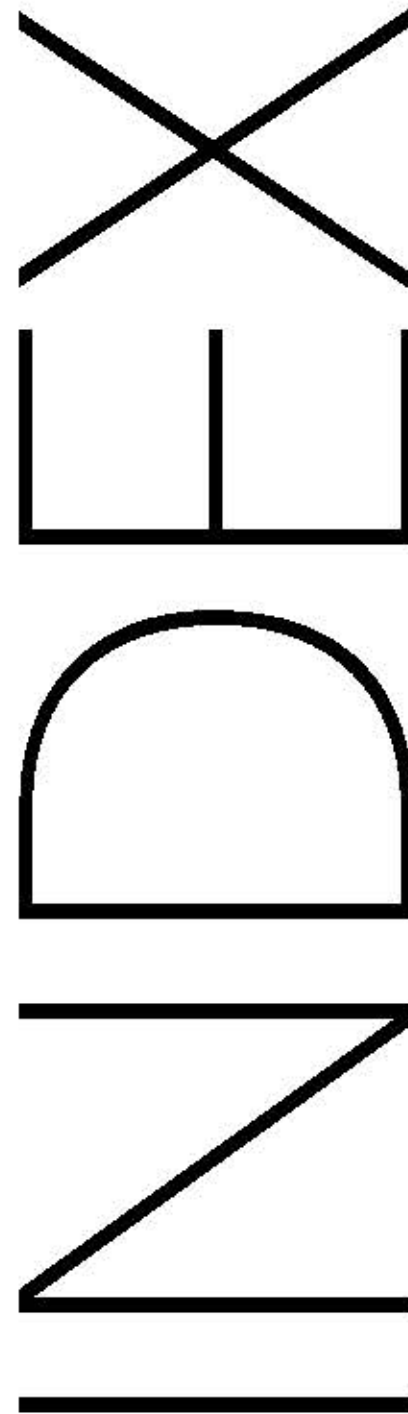
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Foreword by Anne Decker  
Introduction by Brian Mac

A Curated Visual Gallery



Sussan Lari | Photograph by David Mitchell



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"I have changed in many ways since I began to practice architecture and with the change, my appreciation of the value of design increased with it, including the influence that aesthetics has in our lives."

— Sussan Lari

Sussan Lari

Sussan Lari Architect, PC





From a young age, Sussan Lari defied expectations and cultural norms to chase after her dream of becoming an architect. Lari was born and raised in Iran, where students must declare their academic majors when they enter high school. At the time, Lari was attending an all-girls French Catholic private school, which only offered a home economics major. Even at a young age, Lari knew she wanted to be an architect, so she changed schools in order to major in math—which was a requirement in order to be admitted into an architectural school.

“I got my high school degree in math, and then I entered a national competition exam to enter the Tehran University School of Architecture,” she said. “I was one of 17 women admitted.”

Lari then moved to the United States, where she continued her education at the University of Pennsylvania, earning two master’s degrees in architecture and planning. She launched her career at the Eggers Group in New York, where she worked her way up to vice president. After 13 years at the firm, she founded Sussan Lari Architect PC in 1992. Headquartered in Roslyn, New York, the full-service architectural and design firm has completed more than 70 projects for residential and commercial clients throughout the region.

“I have a boutique firm with four full-time employees,” Lari said. “Although the skill sets of each employee are different, they are involved in the life of each project from the beginning to the end. They all participate in different stages and are intimately familiar with every one of them.”

Whenever starting a new project, Lari said that in order to get to know her clients, including their likes and dislikes, she asks them to create three separate lists: what they absolutely must have, what they desire to have, and what they dreamed they could have but don’t think is doable or feasible.

“At the end, they often get all the items on the first two lists and some of the items on the last list. It’s a collaboration that makes the process more enjoyable for them and they feel more connected to their home while it’s being designed.”







"Functionality, practicality, and aesthetic values are equally important. I will never sacrifice one for the other."

– Sussan Lari







For one of Sussan Lari Architect's newest projects, dubbed Henhawk, the clients were a young couple who were both attending graduate school. During the three-year duration of the project, the couple also had their first child.

"Their desire to have a beautifully well-designed house at that young age was inspiring. I had a strong sense of responsibility toward them and their trust allowed me to be creative, free and playful with architectural detailing." The lot had a massive magnolia tree, which was a big determining factor in the sitting and location of the house. Lari said she positioned the home's library/home office and master bedroom to provide expansive views of the tree and beyond.

While the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted construction for about two months, Lari said the home turned out the way the clients' envisioned. Moreover, it's indicative of what she considers to be a dream project, with features like plenty of natural light, natural materials, and being well connected to the nature surrounding it.

"Dream projects come from clients that are open to new ideas and do not come to us with a set design in their mind. Our design creativity very much depends on how open our clients are and how free we are in our design process."

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*Interior Design: Sussan Lari Architect PC  
Landscape Architecture: Sussan Lari Architect PC  
Builder/Contractor: RBJ Contracting Corp. as CM  
Photographer: Peter Rymwid and David Mitchell*

