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above: Double Saturn pendants from Bone Simple Design illuminate the display cases from above, and tall loveseats designed by Moss Design are covered in Rosemary Hallgarten's Wool Pique fabric; (from left) president and co-owner Greg French, store manager David Glucksman, and principal and co-owner Harry French; Benjamin Moore's Polo Blue updated the exterior, along with outdoor sconces from Carolina Lanterns & Lighting and vintage planters from Outdoor Design & Living.

DESIGNER GEM

HENRY C. REID JEWELERS UNVEILS A STUNNING NEW JEWEL OF A SPACE BY **LAUREN FETTERMAN**

When only the best will do, Henry C. Reid Jewelers always delivers. Offering everything from gorgeous diamond rings to beautiful watches to the perfect hostess gifts, the fine jewelry and gift store has been serving Fairfield County since 1910, and last year, the time was right to transform its more traditional-feeling retail space at 1591 Post Road in Fairfield into a fresh, transitional and chic design. But the redesign was about more than just looks—the store wanted to further enhance the elevated shopping experience the brand is known for, where every customer is treated like family.

“We actually started planning this project a few years ago, but by the time we got through approvals and zoning, the pandemic hit,” says president and co-owner Greg French. “It was at that point that we decided to move forward with the renovation to give our clients and town an updated experience as well as contribute to our beautiful downtown’s evolving façade.”

To take on the task and fulfill his vision, Greg turned to interior designers Meghan



above: Meghan De Maria (left) and Courtney Yanni (right) of Moss Design with Christian P. Arkay-Leliever.

De Maria and Courtney Yanni of Moss Design, who later brought hospitality designer Christian P. Arkay-Leliever into the fold. The design team already had a built-in rapport—the trio had become instant friends after meeting at Rooms With a View in 2019—and they brought a unique blend of residential and

hospitality design to the project.

“Greg had a vision and so many great ideas, and he allowed us to just go for it, which was so exciting,” says De Maria. Working closely with Greg and his father, principal and co-owner Harry French, Moss Design homed in on the overall look of the store, including the finishes, color palette, ambient lighting and soft goods, and collaborated with Arkay-Leliever to determine the optimal floor plan and layout. A gut renovation of the store ensued, and the jewelry shopping experience was reimagined from the inside out.

The updated exterior, now painted a captivating blue and bearing the family crest, is illuminated by gas-lit lanterns from Carolina Lanterns & Lighting, while large windows showcase jewelry and flood the interior with natural light. Inside, customers are greeted by white oak flooring, rich blue cabinetry, sophisticated light fixtures and glossy white display cases arranged in an elegant horseshoe design. “The contrast between the darker exterior and the bright, light interior is transportive,” says Yanni.



above: The bar and wall cases are painted Benjamin Moore's Blue Danube. The vintage sterling silver displayed on the bar was collected by Henry C. Reid and is available for sale. In the floor on the right, pieces of glass give customers a peek at goldsmiths working below. **below:** In one of the seating areas, a Tini VI table from Oomph Home, painted in Derbyshire by Sherwin-Williams, is topped with a floral arrangement by Diane James Home.

"It feels as sophisticated and elegant as the jewelry it showcases."

Special touches turn each shopping trip into a memorable occasion. While viewing the display cases, couples can cozy up in one of the tall custom loveseats by Moss Design. "Buying an engagement ring or anniversary gift is a very special moment that shouldn't be rushed," says De Maria. "The loveseats create that moment. They have a beautiful



curvilinear line that hugs you together." Customers can also stop by the chic, built-in bar and enjoy a drink while they admire the collections, or sink into one of the two comfortable seating areas flanking the entrance while waiting for a repair.

Every design choice was carefully chosen to ensure the jewelry remained the star. "There is intentionally no hardware on the display cases—they're light and clear, and the jewelry just pops," says Arkay-Leliever. And Greg's favorite part? The four pieces of glass embedded in the floor, where customers can view jewelers at work below. "I wanted to break down the barriers and show people that we have talented goldsmiths right below our feet working while they watch," says Greg. "This is the difference—we do everything in-house. It's so much fun."

The new space offers customers a luxurious yet welcoming shopping experience that caters to their every need. "When you're walking in downtown Fairfield and you see the Henry C. Reid storefront, you can't help but go inside," says Arkay-Leliever.

Henry C. Reid Jewelers, Fairfield; 203-255-0447; hcreidjewelers.com
Interior designer: Moss Design, Southport; 917-292-6153; mdmossdesign.com
Hospitality designer: Christian P. Arkay-Leliever; 203-685-5177; arkay-leliever.com
Architect: Peter Cummings Inc., Fairfield; 203-767-0643; petercummingsinc.com

TRUE BLUE

This beloved color features prominently in the redesigned space:



top and middle: Ship's Wheel pendants from Dunes and Duchess and the standing display cases are painted in Benjamin Moore's Blue Danube. **bottom:** In one of the seating areas, chairs were covered in Designers Guild's Marshall Aqua stripe fabric and Kravet's Blue Velvet.