



Furniture designer Karen Comerford relaxes in the Poltrona chair in her Bridgehampton showroom, which offers a unique selection of contemporary hardwood furnishings, modern light fixtures, accessories and art. *Opposite:* An eclectic vignette in the showroom highlights the bleached walnut and steel Monique Dining Table set below the Infinity Chandelier. On the far right is the Shane Desk paired with the Cherner Arm Chair.

PORTRAIT & BOTTOM RIGHT: JONATHAN BECKERMAN.

For Karen Comerford, all it took was a few years spent in the Midwest to put her on track toward a career in design. While living in the area, the former New Yorker sought an escape from her day job as a Hallmark illustrator, and enrolled in textile design classes at a Kansas City art school. “It felt natural for me to transition to creating two-dimensional designs for textiles,” she says. Shortly after, Comerford landed a textile design job in New York for the home furnishings department of Macy’s and, in 1999, relocated to the Hamptons, where she began focusing her efforts on three-dimensional projects. “I had the idea of creating a niche business of locally handcrafted hardwood furnishings,” she says. Thus, Comerford Collection was born as a resource for one-of-a-kind, minimalist furnishings with elegantly understated details, incorporating touches of metal, steel, leather and glass. While Comerford acts as chief designer, collaborations with local artists and artisans yield the Bridgehampton shop’s eclectic mix. “Over the years, we’ve managed to maintain a theme of modernism, without alienating individuals who appreciate traditional design.” comerfordcollection.com; 631.537.6200

Comerford carries the innovative LED light fixtures of Laguna Beach, California-based Cerno. Shown below is Claudio, one of their newest pendants, crafted with walnut and a light-diffusing polymer.



COLLECTOR’S CORNER

KAREN COMERFORD



Greatest influences:

I admire the work of Patricia Urquiola and the Barber Osgerby duo. For color direction, I look to the paintings of Helen Frankenthaler, and Anish Kapoor’s work reminds me to think out of the box.

Most engaging design period:

I love ancient Moroccan architecture—the interior courtyards, exotic tiles, saturated colors.

Personal style:

I’m a mix between a precisionist, eclecticist and modernist. I like edited, refined spaces but am often drawn to idiosyncratic elements that personalize a home.

Keep an eye on...

Rich Brilliant Willing for their great name and innovative use of materials. Token in New York City, Kai-wei Hsu in Brooklyn and Tod Von Mertens in New Hampshire.

Eames or Mackintosh?

Eames because he had a really cool partnership with his wife. I admire the respect they had for each other.