

DECEMBER 2024

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DESIGNER ON HOME, HOLIDAY & FAMILY

Prudence Bailey



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Often times I am asked on how we choose our profiles. There's some basic criteria we follow, most notable is If you want to see the profile's narrative on film, even casting which actor will play their part, we're intrigued.

Let's explore what makes a banal plot. You have the high school quarterback who dates the homecoming queen. After they graduate from colleges they attended in the same state, he works in the family business. She earns a law degree and opens a practice in their hometown. They have 2.7 kids and live happily ever after.

No, no, no.

We need drama, defeat, resilience. There has to be some tension and you find yourself rooting for the hero. This past year we have profiled disciplined students in the arts and athletics. We've featured families who run businesses, pay it forward, and give back to the community. This month's profile on Prudence Bailey shows the trajectory of this talented woman's design career that did not come easily. What does every profile have in common? They call Darien their hometown.

There has been stories on why Darien is our chosen home, its advantages in education, the arts, sports and its growth. Looking at the edge of the precipice of a new year, this is an appropriate time to reflect and manifest ahead.

Here's to celebrating our connections, reflecting on life's journey, and looking forward to the promise of 2025. May it be filled with hope and possibility.



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A DESIGNER LOOK WITH PRUDENCE BAILEY

If you're a fan of interiors with a gutsy blend of bold patterns, curated furnishings and pieces in gilded finishes, designer Prudence Bailey will be on your algorithms. She is strikingly tall and sports a blonde pixie cut, which looks all the more chic with her classic fashion sense. Her portfolio is a drool-worthy experience, it's as if she was made to be a part of her vignettes. Get to know her signature designs, and you can name a room designed by Prudence the way you would identify a collection created by a leading fashion designer.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Touring her spaces and you'll find beds swathed in fabrics with enlarged florals, further boosted against a canopy in a complimentary color. She'll set modern art against Mongolian furred seating. Gold hardware is big with Prudence, and so is customized pieces for a personal look. You can't help but wonder how she thought to spruce up a spindle chandelier with custom printed caps and paint the lighting fixture in shamrock green.

And oh what fun she has with color! "It's so important in not only influencing our emotions but how it can shape our perception of space in profound ways," she says. Prudence also works with color to make a room feel bigger or smaller, cozy, happy, stately or relaxing. "I think color can be very misunderstood in design because of when it's not done well. There is definitely an art in using color. With the right strategy, color can manipulate how we perceive space so it will always be critical in interior design," Prudence says.

LOCAL RECOGNITION

Prudence was one of the designers included in the recent 203 Showhouse for the Darien Community Association. The project enlisted local talent to reimagine and repurpose pieces that seamlessly came together in one epic installation. She had the task to redesign the foyer. The result would make Scarlett O'Hara swoon in delight. The marble checkerboard floor and emerald green seating beneath the stairwell is traditional yet modernized. Prudence added drama to the stairwell by having the bannister painted black. Executive Director Erin Noonan was amazed by the foyer's transformation, considering it a stunning entrance to this historic home by its mix of luxurious materials, intricate details and reimagined pieces. Says Erin, "Prudence struck the perfect balance between honoring the grandeur of the past and creating a timeless, elegant space."

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

Prudence's upbringing reverberates in her ethos. She describes being surrounded by a family who espoused creativity and goodwill. "I grew up with a mom who was a noted philanthropist in California. It influenced me to help where I can and when I can with organizations that support the homeless, children in need and woman looking to start a new life," she says.

Her grandfather is the celebrated photographer Robert Cameron, who was considered to be the paean of aerial cityscape photography. In an interview with Paul Goldberger after his death at age 98, the architecture critic for The New Yorker described Cameron as having a very

knowing eye. Prudence recaps his technique of hanging on the rungs of his helicopter to shoot the books Above San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Paris along with a total of 36 cities in the series. "He was the most amazing man. I miss him dearly," she says.

Prudence's grandmother Janny was another influence. Her saying that nobody's perfect resonated. "While my family were perfectionists in every way, it was okay to make mistakes. Everyone does!" she says. Every year Prudence and her daughter Olivia visit their family in California, an essential trip to stay connected, as they are the only members of the family on the East Coast.

STARTING ON HER OWN

She graduated from the University of The Pacific with a BA in Art with an emphasis in Graphic Design and Illustration. After graduation, Prudence launched her own freelance graphic design business. She worked for such retailers as Victoria's Secret and Banana Republic as a merchandise manager, and then moved into software. Eventually she worked in financial services.

Prudence always had a sense for design. When friends routinely asked for help in designing their own homes, she had the idea to begin her own company. In 2015, Prudence Home and Design was born.

COMING TO DARIEN

Prudence moved to town 15 years ago because her former husband lived in Darien. Interestingly her father grew up here. He had lived at 40 Noroton Avenue and then 26 Searles. The family moved to California in the 1960's. "I always felt I came full circle by living here," she says.

In the past 15 years she has lived in several neighborhoods. She adores her current community for being so close knit. Kids play outdoors, there are neighborhood parties, and everyone looks out for one another. Says Prudence, "The sound of kid's laughter outside is the best sound!"

Her home sparkles in her style with personal mementos here and there. There are endless vintage treasures she's collected over the years along with photos taken by her grandfather. "He was close friends with Louis Armstrong since the 40's and I have a picture of him playing in a Parisian club before he was famous," she says. Prudence further adds that she can edit for her clients but not herself. "If I love something I need to see it everyday," she says. The result is a functional home with lots of cozy places to retreat to. This includes two rescue dogs, Scout and Snuggles, and two rescue cats, Stache and Honey.

THE HOLIDAYS

Growing up and Christmas was a hallmark holiday for Prudence. "I really try to stick to the traditions that I had as a child in my own home," she says. One of the customs that has reigned is to open a gift on Christmas Eve. "It is always Christmas pajamas for us to wear that night and open presents in for the morning —great for holiday pictures," she says. On Christmas morning they start with stockings, have a family breakfast, and then they open all the main gifts. This consistency keeps the nostalgia alive.

Resources:

Wreath: Nielsen's Florist

DARIEN ONCE HAD AN AIRPORT



Tired of hearing leaf blowers? You should have heard the Darien Airport! Yes, really, there was an airport in Darien. It wasn't around for long, and it certainly was more on paper than on the runway, but it did exist for a while — just about 100 years ago.

America was still sorting out the effects of the First World War, including the great leap forward in aviation technology. It began in the age of the Wright Brothers and planes made of cloth stretched over wood. It ended on the doorstep of an age of metal planes powered by big radial engines and the certainty that we all would be flying airplanes one day. Thanks to Glenn Curtiss and his remarkable JN4 — the ubiquitous “Jenny.” The Jenny had been developed as a

flight trainer for the U.S. Army during the war. It was easy to fly and inexpensive to build, and Curtiss delivered hundreds of them to the army during the war. After the war they became “War Surplus,” and up for sale to the public.

At least one Jenny came to live on a crude airfield in the sparsely developed East Side of Darien. A primitive runway was cut along part of Highview Road, southward into what was to become the Point o' Woods Richmond Drive area, and heading towards the Post Road. Planes using the runway merely had to get off the ground in time to clear the roof of the Rotisserie Restaurant on the Post Road, which was owned by Baldy Jack Rose, allegedly “a notorious gangster.”

A cleared field and a dirt runway were to be just the beginning, of course. A hangar and a maintenance facility were part of the plan, as was a hotel to accommodate travelers, and a training facility that would help to grow the population of local pilots and owners of airplanes.

In retrospect, Darien Airport was the kind of dream that had little chance of surviving a Great Depression. This was coupled with a storm of highly sophisticated aeronautical advances that was powered by the military and commercial interest of every nation on the planet. This also ran contrary to the land development dreams of builders and buyers for more neighborhoods of upscale Colonial Revival houses for families who really would rather own a boat than an airplane.

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Nice List

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saracampbell.com.

2. Cheers to You Gift Bundle, \$69.25.
www.nielsensflorist.net.

3. Boxercraft Flannel Pants, \$32.
www.theathleticshoefactory.com.

4. Wicker Pram with Eggshell Knitted Bedding, \$149. weemondine.com.

5. Antoinette Paris Girl's Dress, \$180.
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6. So Eggstra Brows, \$35.
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pet corner **louie wilson**



Name: Louie Wilson

Age: 3 years

Breed: English Bulldog

Favorite activity: Barking for someone to open the front door so I can lounge in my favorite patch of sun while guarding the house.

Known for: Sleeping on people's laps in the morning so nobody can leave for work or school.

My family would rather we not: Stare at them with weepy eyes while they eat a meal which they should be sharing with me even if it's not good for my gut health.

My family is happy when: I sit next to them on the sofa and tell them everything is going to be OK.

Interesting fact about my breed: We are not natural swimmers, despite some Instagram show-offs. We need to wear buoyant life jackets when spending time near the water.



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HOW TO STYLE A CHRISTMAS TRUCK

Forget the mantle or tree, take imaginative holiday styling outdoors. A truck's flatbed, or the hatch of your car, is more than a place to haul the recyclables. It's a prime location for showcasing seasonal flare.

The setting is ideal for photo-worthy Christmas pictures, another location to stretch the festivities, or a retreat from December's pandemonium. From warm blankets, pillows and a classic wreath, we have simple suggestions that will achieve the ultimate setting.

SEVEN STEPS FOR A STYLED HOLIDAY TRUCK

1. View the flatbed as you would any space that's ripe with styling possibilities.
2. Choose classic patterns and materials -- like plaid and faux fur -- along with seasonal colors to reinforce the yuletide effect.
3. Bring in festive pieces that can weather the outdoors. Durable blankets and linens are both functional and chic.
4. Go natural. Fasten a wreath to the back window and gather smaller pine trees and branches to build on the theme.
5. Use crates or white birch logs to add levels to the vignette.
6. Pull in holiday accents like a wintry pillow, sled, or string of lights to further accentuate the traditional decor.
7. Add functional items to be enjoyed for a convivial gathering, such as a classic thermos, warm throws and candles.





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HOLIDAY READING LIST

Caroling, decorating and celebrating the season -- what's on your holiday to do list? Reading is on ours! Whether you're in search of a compelling read or a book idea to give to your favorite bibliophile, check out this list of recommendation provided by Elm Street Books that will take you into the New Year.



1. *Impossible Creatures* by Katherine Rundell (middle grade fiction)

Follow Christopher, a boy from our world, and Mal, a girl from Archipelago, a mythical creatures world, as they join forces to save both of their worlds. Exploring themes of greed, duty and sacrifice, while also

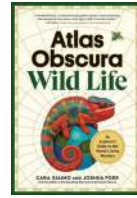
emphasizing courage and wisdom from facing the unknown. An absolute favorite of the year recommended from our children's buyer.



2. *EAT NYC: The Iconic Recipes That Feed the City* by Yasmin Newman

Inspired by her experiences in the city, as both a visitor and seasoned travel writer, EAT NYC helps you discover NYC through meals, by taking you into alleys and corners where everyday life takes place. Divided into "morning," "noon" and

"night," there is something for everyone.



3. *Atlas Obscura Wild Life* by Cara Giamo & Joshua Foer

From bizarre beasts to incredible animal behaviors, this book is packed with fascinating facts and tales that'll make you see the natural world in a whole new way. It's like a travel guide for animal lovers, taking you to far-off destinations and uncovering nature's most extraordinary secrets. Perfect for curious minds, adventure seekers, or anyone who loves learning about the wild wonders of our planet.



4. *Johnny Carson* by Henry Bushkin

This inside look at the legendary late-night host is packed with stories about the highs, lows, and behind-the-scenes drama of the king of late-night TV. Longtime friend and lawyer, Bushkin doesn't hold back, sharing tales of Carson's charm, his struggles, and the complicated personality that made him a household name. Whether you're a longtime fan of "The Tonight Show" or just curious about Hollywood history, this book gives you a front-row seat to the life of a true TV icon.



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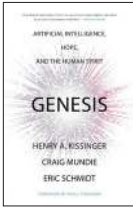
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5. *Genesis: Artificial Intelligence, Hope and the Human Spirit* by Henry Kissinger, Eric Schmidt and Craig Mundie

In this book, the authors dive deep into the future of AI and what it means for humanity, while exploring how this technology is reshaping everything from politics to ethics and raising questions about what it means

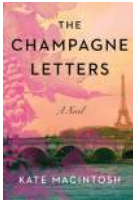
to be human in an AI-driven world. Whether you're tech-savvy or just curious about where the world is headed, this thought-provoking book forces you to reflect on the future of the human spirit in an age of machines.



6. *The City and Its Uncertain Walls* by Haruki Murakami

This book is classic Murakami—mysterious, dreamlike, and full of surprises. The story takes you into a strange city, where reality and memory begin to blur. Mixing the everyday with the surreal and exploring

themes like loneliness and the search for meaning. Readers will be pulled in by the novel's mysterious vibe and thought-provoking twists. If you're up for getting lost in a world where anything can happen, this one's for you.



7. *Champagne Letters* by Kate Macintosh
(release 12/10)

Pour yourself a glass of your favorite bubbly and settle in to enjoy this delightful historical fiction novel! The story has dual timelines, the first tells how Barbe-Nicole Clicquot, a young widow, established the preeminence of the

Veuve Clicquot Champagne house in the 1800s. The second

timeline follows a distraught present day Natalie who flees to Paris after her husband abandons their 20 year marriage. Natalie finds a book of Clicquot's letters to her great granddaughter and is inspired and guided by Clicquot's wisdom and life lessons. A captivating and sparkling read.



8. *Didion and Babitz* by Lili Anolik

An intriguing look at two iconic L.A. writers, Joan Didion and Eve Babitz, who captured the spirit of California in very different ways. Didion's sharp writing contrasted with Babitz's free-spirited vibe. This book dives into their lives, their friendship, and the cultural scene that shaped them. If you're into literary history or just fascinated by old-school California, this is a fun and insightful read.



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Traditional Mince (Meat) Pie

About ten years ago my husband had asked for handmade mincemeat pies for Christmas. It has since become a tradition in our home and adds to our holiday cheer. The smell of the filling simmering away, wafting through the house, unlocks memories. I did not begin as a fan of “raisin pie,” which I joked with him when he first made the request. What I’ve discovered is that when done well, this is a wonderful treat.

The history of mincemeat pies is intriguing. Dating back hundreds of years and originally including meat, it was a provision that people could store well for months due to the combination of spices and rum.

Obviously this storage is not a modern concern for us, but mincemeat has stood the test of time and remains a regional tradition in many English speaking countries.

I’ve taken a modern approach on mincemeat, as in not an original 1700s recipe, and thus it does not include suet or actual meat. While many traditional pies still include at least suet in lieu of butter, this is not common in the United States.

The ingredients is a long and diverse list but each addition brings something to the party. The mixture of fresh apple and citrus, paired with spices and dried fruit, combine for the perfect holiday treat.



INGREDIENTS

FILLING

2 large tart apples, chopped/diced finely	1/4 cup unsalted butter
2/3 cup dark brown sugar	1/2 tsp ground allspice
1/2 cup dried apricots, chopped/diced finely	1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 cup dried cherries	1/2 tsp ground ginger
1/2 cup dried currants	1/4 tsp freshly ground nutmeg
1/2 cup dried figs, chopped	1/4 tsp ground cloves
1 tbs finely grated orange zest	1 cup rum, divided
1/2 cup golden raisins	1 cup apple cider
1/2 cup raisins	1/2 cup fresh orange juice

CRUST INGREDIENTS

(This is a simple pie crust recipe, but you can easily use a store bought crust — no judgement!)

2 1/2 cup all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled
1 tsp salt
1 cup cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
6 to 8 tablespoons ice water



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DIRECTIONS

CRUST

Use a food processor to combine the flour and salt with a few pulses. Add the diced butter 1/4 cup at a time and pulse to combine. Once combined and crumbling add ice water 2-3 tablespoons at a time to combine and form a ball. Remove from processor and separate and form into two discs. Seal in plastic wrap and place in fridge until needed.

FILLING

Dice the larger dried fruits and apples to be around the size of the smallest dried fruit and currant. (You do not want large chunks of dried fruit.) The process takes about 30 minutes for all the ingredients to be evenly chopped.

Pro tip: The mixture can get sticky. I keep my knife cold and spray it with cooking spray.

In a large skillet, melt the butter and simmer the apples. After they tenderize, around 5-10 minutes add the dried fruits, salt, spices and the brown sugar along with 1/2 of the rum. Simmer and stir as the rum evaporates. After about 10 minutes add your orange juice and zest and simmer another 15-20 minutes. Remove from heat add the remaining rum and stir.

Refrigerate up to 48 hours.

ASSEMBLY AND BAKING

Gather the star cutouts out of your favorite festive shape for top crust. Powdered sugar for topping the pies after they cool.

Heat oven to 400 degrees

For hand pies you can use standard muffin or mini muffin tray if you don't have a tart tray or order mini disposable tart trays. You can also make a regular 8" - 9" pie.

Roll out the dough and cut to whatever size tray/plate you are using. Fill each pie crust with your filling, using 2 tablespoons for mini muffins, 1/2 cup for standard muffins or tarts.

Cut out lattice tops or stars or a combination of shapes for the top of the crust.

Bake until golden brown for 25-30 minutes, check often as ovens may vary.

Cool for 20-30 minutes and sprinkle top with powdered sugar if desired.

Enjoy!



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DECEMBER calendar of events

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MUSEUM: KENNETH TURINO "THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST: FOUR CENTURIES OF CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA."

6:00 p.m.

Community Room at City Hall in Norwalk

www.lockwoodmathewsmansion.com/events

MIDDLESEX WINTER ORCHESTRA

CONCERT, DHS AUDITORIUM

7:00 p.m.

dhs.darienps.org

DECEMBER 5 - 6

MERRY MEADOWLANDS: A HOLIDAY HOME AND MARKET (DAY AND EVENING)

dariendca.org

DECEMBER 7

AN OLD-FASHIONED HOLIDAY AT TILLY POND

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

www.darienct.gov

DECEMBER 10

AUTHOR TALK: RUTH REICHL, THE PARIS NOVEL

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

www.darienlibrary.org

DECEMBER 11

TOKENEKE WINTER CONCERT, TOKENEKE COMMON ROOM

9:30 a.m.

dhs.darienps.org

DECEMBER 13

HOLMES WINTER BAND AND ORCHESTRA CONCERT, HOLMES COMMON ROOM

9:45 a.m.

dhs.darienps.org

LITTLE ARTISTS:

METALLIC HOLIDAY TREES

4:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

www.darienlibrary.org

MERRY MEADOWLANDS: A HOLIDAY HOME AND MARKET (DAY AND EVENING)

dariendca.org

DECEMBER 14

WINTER SHOWCASE: GREENWICH A CAPPELLA AND FAIRFIELD A CAPPELLA

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

www.norwalkct.gov

NATIONAL MONKEY DAY

beardsleyzoo.org

DECEMBER 14 & 15

"SNOW WHITE"

6:30 p.m. (9th), 3:00 p.m. (10th)

www.crystaltheatre.org

DECEMBER 15

CELEBRATE AND LEARN ABOUT CHANUKAH

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

www.newcanaanlibrary.org

DECEMBER 17

HINDLEY WINTER CONCERT, HINDLEY COMMON ROOM

9:30 a.m.

dhs.darienps.org

DECEMBER 18

DHS HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR CONCERT, DHS AUDITORIUM

7:00 p.m.

dhs.darienps.org

CENTERPIECE WORKSHOP WITH THE GREENHOUSE GROUP

dariendca.org

Act your heart out!

Whether for fun or to develop your professional abilities, learn theatre skills at Crystal Theatre and join the ranks of our many alumni including Broadway, movie and television actors appearing in *Camp*, *In the Heights*, *Rent*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *The Notebook*, *Les Misérables*, *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Spring Awakening*, *As The World Turns*, *Orange is the New Black*! We welcome all students. Visit our website for show classes and camps!



Crystal Theatre

norwalk, connecticut | est. 1987

66 Bayview Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06854

203.858.2709 | www.crystaltheatre.org



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HELLO Neighbor

If you are considering selling or would like an update market appraisal on your home, please reach out! I'd love to help.

DARLEEN MEIER
REAL ESTATE AGENT

203-981-8550

DARLEENMEIERHOME.COM
HOULIHAN LAWRENCE
#1 BROKERAGE IN DARIEN



DARIEN DIRECTORY

DEPARTMENT/OFFICE	CONTACT NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Assessor	Anthony Homicki, CCMA II	203-656-7310	ahomicki@darienct.gov
Building Official	Mike Vitti	203-656-7347	mvitti@darienct.gov
Finance	Jennifer Charneski	203-656-7334	jcharneski@darienct.gov
Fire Marshal	Robert Buch	203-656-7345	bbuch@darienct.gov
Fist Selectman	Jon Zagrodzky	203-656-7338	
Harbor Master	John Keena	203-984-7389 (C)	darienharbor@darienct.gov
Planning & Zoning	Jeremy Ginsberg	203-656-7351	jginsberg@darienct.gov
Police Department	Don Anderson	203-662-5310	danderson@darienct.gov
Selectman's Office	Monica McNally	203-656-7386	mmcnally@darienct.gov
Darien Senior Center	Elizabeth Paris	203-656-7490	eparis@darienct.gov
Director of Human Services	Ali Ramsteck, LCSW	203-656-7328	aramsteck@darienct.gov
Superintendent of Schools	Alan Addley	203-656-7412	aaddley@darienps.org
Tax Collector	Kathy Larkins	203-656-7314	klarkins@darienct.gov
Town Clerk / Registrar of Vital Statistics	Christa McNamara	203-656-7307	cmcnamara@darienct.gov
Town Hall	2 Renshaw Rd.	203-656-7300	