



Q+A

Manhattan architect and chairman of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art, Peter Pennoyer discusses the merits of classicism.



What is classical architecture?

Classical architecture is based on a set of guidelines, rules and proportions—most clearly articulated in the Renaissance—that addresses the composition of a building. It's an incredibly rich tradition that allows for great imagination, variation and invention.

Can you live a modern life in a classical house?

A modern plan and classical architecture are not incompatible. My wife and I are building a house, and our dining and living rooms and kitchen are completely open to each other. This would not have gone over well 50 years ago, and yet, it's still fundamentally Greek Revival.

Do people have misconceptions about this style?

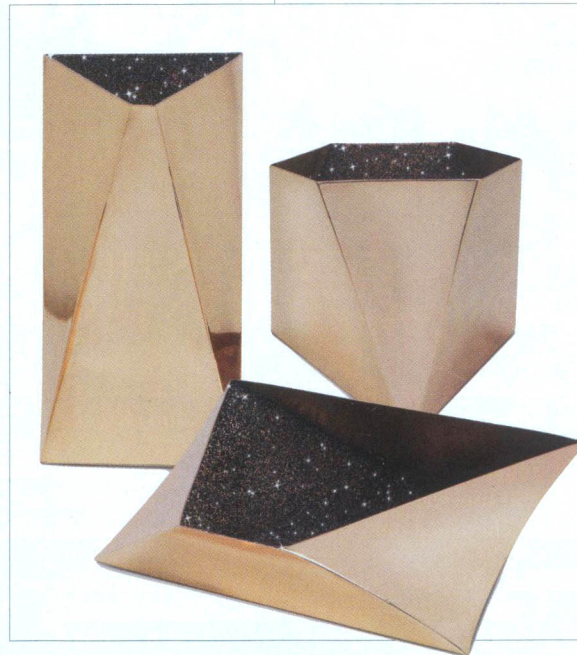
Some people are scared of it because they think it'll dictate a way of living. I don't think they realize how exciting it can be until they step foot into one of these houses.

What is a good example of classical architecture in America?

Monticello. One of the interesting things about classicism, which Thomas Jefferson demonstrated, is that you don't have to have studied architecture to appreciate it. Monticello is a wonderful classical house, but Jefferson really made it his own. It's quite quirky.

^ FRENCH ÉCLAT

According to Evanston-based architect Michael Hershenson, establishing an awareness of proportion and balance should underscore the design of every property. Hershenson adhered to this cardinal tenet upon staging the layout of this suburban French-inspired property, choosing to initially hone in on the residence's palatial façade. "The details exude a compelling eclectic style," he says. "From the arched-entry portico to the decorative quoins found at the building's corners, the home manifests French design yet remains balanced." michaelhershensonarchitects.com



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Internationally acclaimed architect David Adjaye is also the visionary behind the Star collection, shown, a limited edition trio of vessels that exercise the geometry of paired triangles. Crafted from the same copper Adjaye is applying into the design of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., the vessels are lined with black Swarovski crystals, which cast an alluring glow as they catch light from within. adjaye.com



< MASTER CRAFTER

Challenged to design a single-family property on a gently sloping cornfield in Northeast Illinois, architect Scott Fortman elected to transform the site into a rolling hillside and construct the home along the gradient. The result was a finely detailed Arts and Crafts-style house featuring a unique roof structure with a distinctive ceiling design. "For the living room, we wanted to achieve a sweeping resplendent feel," Fortman says. "To expand the space, we implemented white oak panels on the ceiling and encircled the perimeter with cove lighting." gibbonsfortman.com