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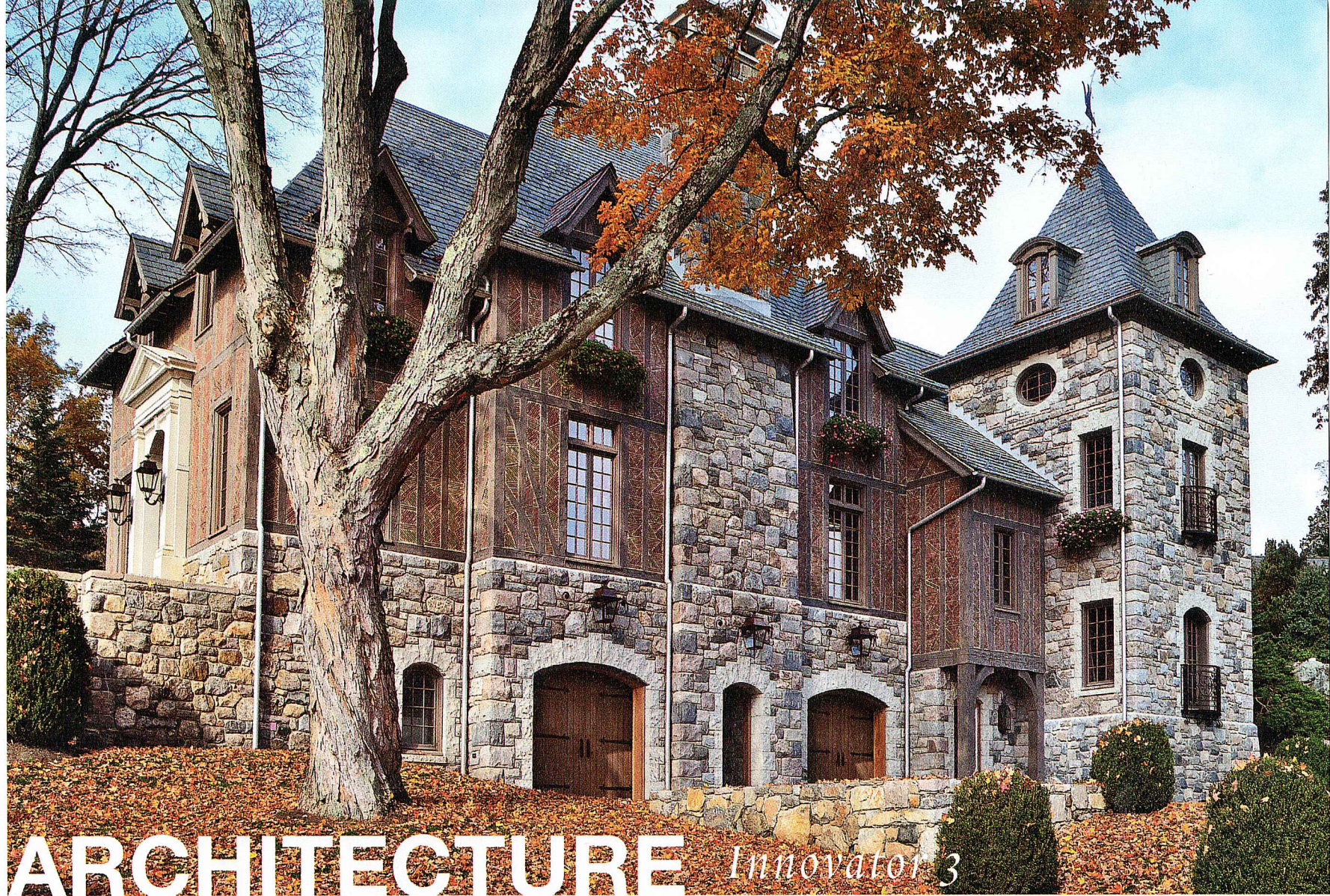
Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

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INNOVATION
IN DESIGN AWARDS 2013



High Style A 35-square-foot great room, designed by interior designer Isabelle K. Vanneck, offers a massive dining room table through L'Antiquaire, dining chairs covered in Lee Jofa fabric, chandelier and sconces through Paul Ferrante and massive salvaged wood trusses. See [Resources](#).



ARCHITECTURE *Innovator 3*

A GREENWICH GUESTHOUSE INCORPORATES OLD-WORLD COMFORTS AND HIGH-TECH AMENITIES

**CHARLES HILTON
ARCHITECTS
AND DOUGLAS
VANDERHORN
ARCHITECTS**

FOR A CLIENT that Charles Hilton had been working with for 18 years, Charles Hilton Architects and Douglas VanderHorn Architects (formerly of Hilton-VanderHorn Architects) created a French Normandy-meets-barn party house. Less frat rager and more idealized dinner party (the wife is an enthusiastic cook), the simple structure incorporates a romantic bedroom tower and a 35-square-foot great room complete with hand-hewn trusses that were flown in from a salvage company in the Carolinas and a multitiered wrought-iron chandelier. The guesthouse supplements the owners' existing estate, an aesthetic that Hilton wanted to reference without copying, add on to without overshadowing.

"All of the materials are kind of Old World, from the hand-hewn timber inside and out, and handmade brick on the outside to the French plaster on the inside," Hilton explains. Limestone from France introduced a rugged texture into the project, and the multiple types of cladding on the exterior—local native granite for the base, antique oak and chestnut beams, and Roman bricks—add a level of visual detail and a tactile flourish that blends seamlessly into the variegated countryside. Hilton wanted the style of this new project to provide a casual yet textured counterpoint to the property's existing Georgian structures.

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Rock Steady The house's exterior (TOP) combines a Georgian aesthetic with Normandy specificity; different shapes and sizes of stones create a deeply textured and visually engaging exterior palette. Architect Charles Hilton refers to the tower as his "Juliet" bedroom. A fully equipped gourmet kitchen (ABOVE LEFT) provides a home-away-from-home for the wife, who loves to cook. A carved banister (ABOVE RIGHT) leads from the bedroom area into the lofty great room. Chairs are upholstered in Whistler fabric from Threads at Lee Jofa. See *Resources*.

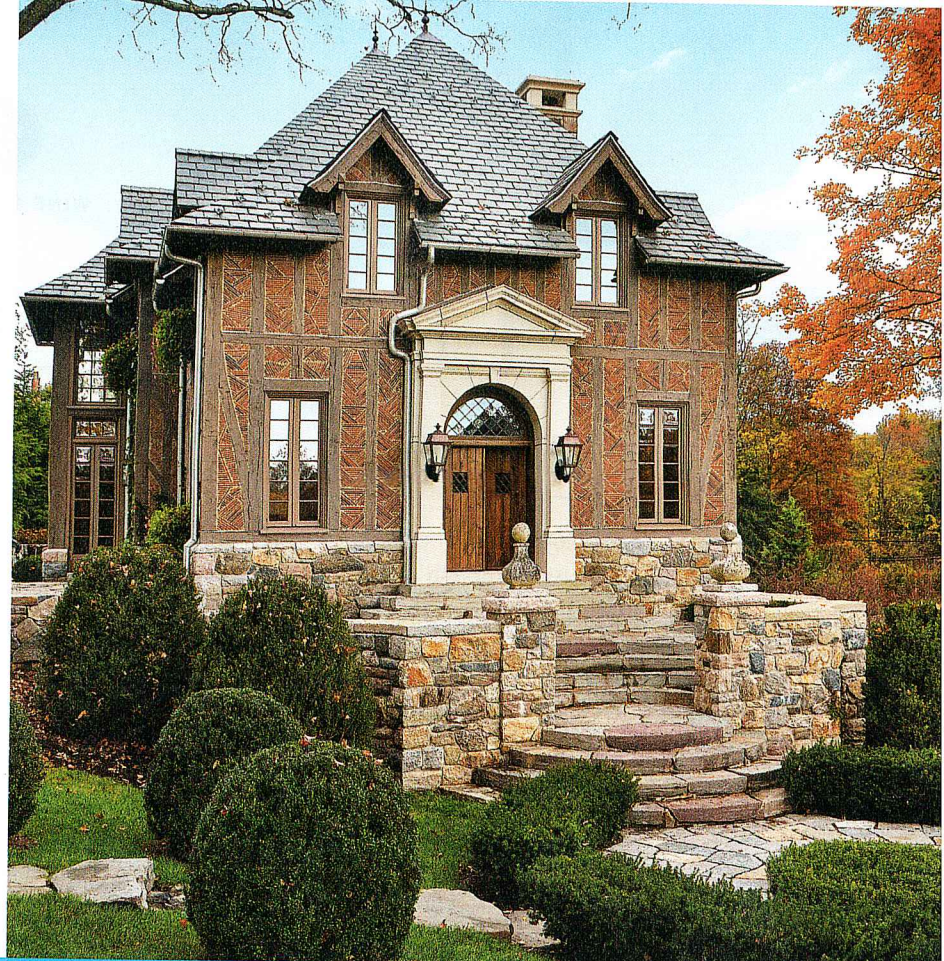
HOME CONSTRUCTION, LLC

MARRYING THE ROMANCE of intimate French character with a grand-scale aesthetic, Home Construction, LLC built this breathtaking Greenwich guest home. After the owners purchased the adjacent four-acre property, Charles Hilton (formerly of Hilton-VanderHorn Architects) hired Home Construction, LLC to renovate the existing one-room studio and caretaker's cottage. "The building itself was our inspiration. A project of this beauty, quality and complexity allows us to fully showcase our abilities as craftsmen," says Robert Levine of Home Construction. "The most challenging part was to achieve a look of authentic, aged elegance and character in a new structure."

To expand upon the original architect's penchant for the French farmhouse style, extensive research included a trip to Marie Antoinette's Petit Hamlet, a rustic agrarian retreat for the queen on the grounds of Versailles. A formal vegetable garden, orchard and extensive ornamental garden were also planted to complement the stunning interior. Visitors are sure to feel like royalty.

Let Them Eat Cake In this Marie-Antoinette-inspired guesthouse, Home Construction, LLC envisioned a vintage French style and paired it with leading-edge green amenities including a geothermal HVAC, extensive LED lighting, use of recycled timber materials and on-site electrical cogeneration. *See Resources.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY NICHOLAS ROTONDI PHOTOGRAPHY



Best of Both Worlds
To achieve the traditional elegance of the Darien neighborhood, L&L Builders used cedar-style shingles, clapboard siding and a fieldstone base. *See Resources.*

L&L BUILDERS

TO UPGRADE THIS DARIEN RESIDENCE, Mark P. Finlay Architects aimed to preserve the quintessential Connecticut charm on the exterior while simultaneously performing a contemporary makeover on the interior. L&L Builders proved to be up to the challenge, constructing a bright, contemporary dream with classic neighborhood appeal. The new open floor plan enhances flow between the living room, breakfast room and kitchen. Upstairs, the family's children can

easily move from their bedrooms off the playroom via a fire pole connecting to the mudroom below. The house also features living and entertaining spaces such as two porches overlooking the in-ground pool and an outdoor terrace that also connect to a finished basement and gym. While Paul Lima of L&L Builders emphasized the architectural genius of Mark Finlay, Architectural Associate Brian Dennison also credits L&L's "professionalism and attention to detail" for the success of the project. Together, they accomplished a striking contemporary marvel.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK P. FINLAY