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(845/677-8256), was up to the task. Both the client and the design team agreed to highlight Greek Revival detailing, but to keep the pool house relatively compact. It measures only 30-foot-six by 32-foot-6.

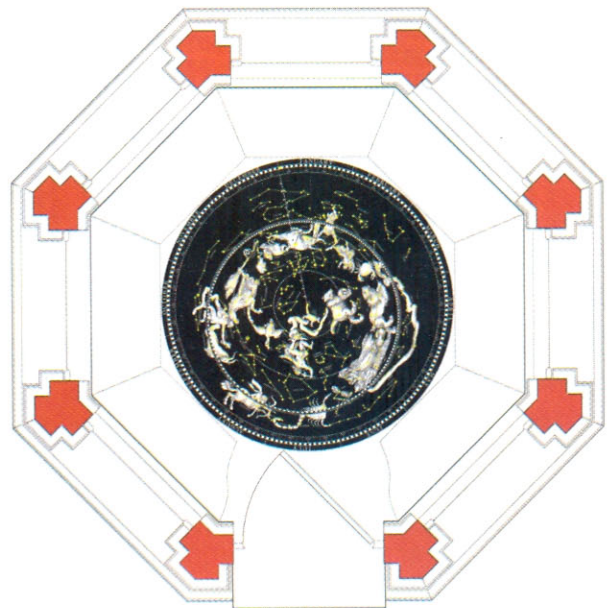
"We knew the success of the design would depend on the easy flow between interior and exterior spaces," says Crisp. Three sets of French doors facilitate traffic in and out of the pool house. Bluestone flooring, used throughout the interior, as well as on the adjacent terraces, integrates the two areas. Stone walls curve around the terraces, sheltered by shading pergolas to create outdoor rooms.

A white-on-white interior only looks like it requires constant care. The furnishings are all washable and kid-friendly. "We knew the materials needed to be relatively impervious to water and be able to accommodate wet suits and tracked-in grass," says Crisp.

Pool season may be brief here, but this house does double duty, serving as overflow guest quarters the rest of the year. The building has an independent HVAC system for year-round comfort, state-of-the-art TV and sound system, and a small kitchen complete with a refrigerator and oven. Says Crisp: "We designed the building to foster good times and enhance lives generally well lived." Mission accomplished.

A Place of Singular Beauty

Not exactly a gazebo (the folksy moniker doesn't do it justice), this refined pavilion is more like an aerie, a



This elegant pavilion, like the main house built in the Georgian style, was designed to satisfy a client's desire to enjoy his gardens by day and gaze at the stars by night. Its granite floor displays the constellations and signs of the Zodiac, while its domed roof is clad in fish-scale shingles and topped with a pineapple finial.

WOODRUFF BROWN

WOODRUFF BROWN

When More is More

nest built high on a hill. It's sited on a rise in the middle of an 11-acre lot in Greenwich, surrounded by ornamental gardens. The structure's shingled, bell-shaped roof is sheltered by overhanging branches, as if in a leafy embrace.

The brick pavilion looks elegant, feels permanent. It was designed by architect Charles Hilton of Hilton-VanderHorn Architects in Greenwich (203/862-9196; hilton-vanderhorn.com) to "satisfy a client's desire for a retreat where he could enjoy his gardens by day and gaze at the star-filled sky by night."

Admired for its simplicity and usefulness, the 120-square-foot sanctuary was the 2008 winner of the Alice Washburn Accessory Building award, in the competition co-sponsored by AIA Connecticut and *Connecticut Magazine*.

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"Like the house and many of its outbuildings, the octagonal structure is built in the Georgian style," explains Hilton. Its façade is composed of screened arches, framed by handmade bricks. The door features a lattice panel designed with a nod to Chippendale detail; this and white painted window trim are echoed in a wood cornice at the eaves. The building's crowning glory is its curvaceous roof, clad in lead fish-scale shingles and topped with a copper pineapple finial.

Inside, the brick walls stand in contrast to a stucco ceiling and floor composed entirely of black granite. The perimeter stone has a flamed thermal finish, while a single piece of granite was polished with a water jet and etched with a graphic of constellations in the night sky; stars are highlighted in gold leaf.

There's a bird's-eye view from the pavilion: One can see it all—the main house, pool house, gardens, lawn, grotto, pond and stream. And yes . . . the retreat, with its striking silhouette, is visible from the house, too. "It is clearly the focal point at the back of the house," says Hilton. A garden jewel with the single contemplative purpose of appreciating nature, it is a captivating sight. ■

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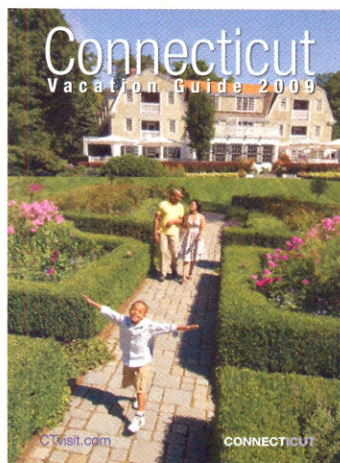
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