

YOUR GUIDE TO DESIGN IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY!

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IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

a-list issue!

plus
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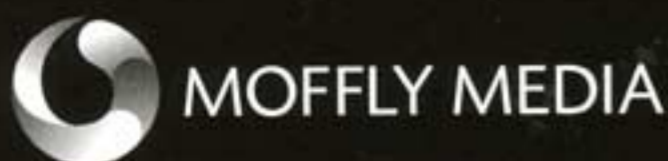


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athome magazine presents the Third Annual
A-List Awards 2012

by MARY KATE HOGAN and JUDY OSTROW

Hello, gorgeous...

Great-looking homes are always a collaboration.

If you've got knockout architecture, but dated decorating, or fabulous interiors, but with a view of a garden that hasn't been pruned since 1972, it just isn't going to work. Over and over during our interviews for this section, we heard the same thing: I could not have done this without the entire team involved. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes designers, architects, and landscape designers—plus builders, craftsmen, textile and wallpaper and furniture designers—to create a beautiful place for them to live. And then, there is something else that makes a home beautiful—seeing the people who live there create lives they love within the space.



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Decorators Supply
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athome magazine A-List Awards 2012

winner **traditional architecture**
(greater than 7,000 square feet)
french classic

"My clients wanted to make a statement with their house design," recalls architect Douglas VanderHorn, when asked for the genesis of his prize-winning entry. What they ultimately built is definitely grand, inspired by the pleasing proportions, restrained palette of materials and meticulous attention to architectural detail that is often seen in the French manor houses that the owners admire.

A huge front courtyard enhances the formal symmetry of the home's façade, directing attention to the front door, with its cut limestone portico, topped with an elegant pedimented window. The door itself, with a full view panel of glass, covered with a custom iron grill, brings light into the expansive entry hall. To the arriving guest, it also

provides a hint of the interior's breadth and depth, and a glimpse to the opposite end of the property, through French doors positioned on axis with the entry.

VanderHorn used traditional materials to form the bones of the interior, which were furnished by designer Cindy Rinfret. The main staircase, and a second one leading to the third-floor recreational areas, has iron railings created by master iron-worker Jozef, who also crafted the front-door grill. Elegant details throughout—parquet floors of quarter-sawn oak; crown molding with a scalloped leaf pattern that makes delicate shadows on the ceiling; special touches such as a mirrored corner cabinet in the breakfast room—are decidedly French in character and enhance this home's impressive dignity. -JO



The dashing, dramatic entry courtyard hints at the beauty that awaits inside this home.



finalists renovation



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Hilton-VanderHorn Architects

After finishing the renovation of this Neo-French-style house, the home owners finally had the house they had hoped for. "If you look at the before and after, you almost can't believe it was the same house," says Douglas VanderHorn. This renovation certainly wasn't without its challenges. Thanks to the previous owners, "the house had been so 're-muddled' with bad renovations and additions that it had completely lost its charm and its presence," VanderHorn says. The wings had completely dwarfed the main portion of the house, among other problems. To restore the sense of presence, the house was gutted. The team even had to replace every brick on the exterior, which wasn't part of the original plan. The height of the main block of the home was raised, creating a sense of elegance and balance. Fine details such as ornamental transoms and cornices add refinement. -NT