

# CTC&G

Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

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INNOVATION  
IN DESIGN AWARDS 2015



*Innovator 3*  
ARCHITECTURE  
DOUGLAS  
VANDERHORN  
ARCHITECTS



## A HIGH-TECH HEART BEATS IN A QUINTESSENTIAL SHINGLE-STYLE HOME

**FOR A WATERFRONT SITE,** Douglas VanderHorn's clients wanted a brand-new house—that happened to look as if it had been there for years, yet was designed with enough of a contemporary understanding of how families live today that it could work for a bustling crowd. To get a classic look, VanderHorn used “a variety of different techniques—bay windows and other elements—to give us the architectural opportunity for large windows, and lots of them.”

Drawing light into the classically organized and detailed house was a major intervention, as was keeping some of the old trees that grew close to the house. “That really helped the house look like it was settled in,” VanderHorn says. The buildable square footage was somewhat limited, so the architect paid extra attention to the basement, allowing for a walk-out area carved into the hillside that added space without drawing from the overall limit.

The house looks like it was built in 1915, but the technology, though hidden away, is very advanced. Insulated with a spray foam and geothermally temperature controlled, the house uses all eco-sensitive LED lighting and is controlled by a smart-house system that allows for the electrical elements to be operated from anywhere—electrical elements generated by its own gas-fired co-generation system. “Our houses look like classics from the outside,” VanderHorn says, “and yet, they’re very high tech.”

✦ To see more, visit [cottagesgardens.com/2015ctcgidas](http://cottagesgardens.com/2015ctcgidas)

**Tech Support** A traditional exterior (top) belies the home's high-tech interior; landscape design is by Rutherford Associates, PC. Inside (right), all-white detailing hints at the tension between old-school style and contemporary technology so perfectly articulated by the architect. Interiors are by Lee Ann Thornton. Chair fabric is Holland & Sherry; Curtain fabric is Carleton V Harper; light fixture is through Remains Lighting. See Resources.



**In The Details** (THIS PAGE) The level of detailing—from the dark shutters to the window frames to the placement of the stones on the ground floor—add even more power to this house's traditional exterior. Windows and doors are through Dynamic Architectural Windows & Doors. Shutters are through Kingsland Shutter Company. Columns are through Cheyenne Company. See Resources.



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