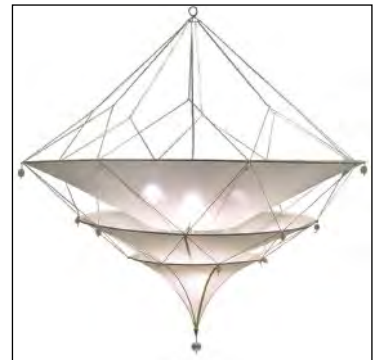


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Architect Douglas Vanderhorn and Interior Designer Cindy Rinfret collaborate in a classic home with a hippie twist. Dinyar Wadia puts a modern twist on an Elizabethan Manor Home. Our designers share their “true colors” for 2013.





The main block is anchored by four brick chimneys on a wood shingle roof that features pedimented dormers with arch windows. Side wings retreat back, visually reducing the size of the home.

AN INSPIRED BLEND

This custom-built Connecticut home blends a classic colonial revival style with a creative mix of Asian, Greek and transitional influences

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The asymmetrical rear is well suited for a family who enjoys casual outdoor living and entertaining. Projecting side wings enclose the main terrace and provide porches for additional outdoor living.

A variety of styles mingle beautifully here in the North Greenwich home of a young couple who brought their own extensive collection of Asian antiques to the design. Also bearing on the design was their appreciation of the neighborhood's aesthetics; they wanted their new home to reflect the area's traditional New England style. But that desire went only structurally deep: This pair of former Yale University students wanted to imbue their living space with a combination of the items they have lovingly collected and more contemporary trends, and that meant hip and cool transitional design.

Starting with the well-respected Greenwich architectural firm Douglas VanderHorn Architects, which designed an iconic Connecticut estate for the couple, they added the interior design firm Rinfret Ltd., also of Greenwich, and it was a dream team from the onset. Said designer Cindy Rinfret, "It was a real collaboration between the architects, the clients and me. We all clicked and were on the same

wavelength for the entire project."

"The clients wanted to build a classic house for the area but put a nice twist on it," said Rinfret, "And so they wanted it to be a little bit younger and a little hipper." Design considerations included the couple's two children and the family's preference for casual outdoor living and entertaining.



The Federal style home is located on the site of an old horse farm, and the project included the drive, terraces, pool and garden. Architect Douglas VanderHorn embraced the site as a blank slate (comprised primarily of horse paddocks) on which to develop one of his typically classic designs, timeless in look and feel. For his clients who wanted a home that didn't look new but had a clean look, he designed with "elegant but restrained detail." This is evidenced in the four brick chimneys that anchor the five-bay-wide central main block, and the pediment dormers with arched windows that

embellish the wood-shingle roof.

Of the traditional American country residence, VanderHorn said



The main block here, features a projecting center bay with a door covered by a segmental arch pediment and topped by a pedimented gable. Projecting onto the terrace at left are three sides of the octagonal breakfast room with a balcony and nook above.





The dining and living rooms are set in a formal arrangement, each with a fireplace centered on the elliptical arches from the entry hall.

that much of the plan inspiration came from the family's outdoor lifestyle. This new-construction home (of more than 10,000 square feet) was designed with several porches and a rear courtyard plan to help integrate the indoor and outdoor spaces. "All the rooms are really trying to integrate with the exterior," VanderHorn expounded.

While the architect describes the front of this house as what one might expect from a large revival colonial, he styled the asymmetrical back to be more playful. "It is a little more whimsical," he said. "There's this dichotomy between the frontal presentation to the house versus the back, which is much more about the way the family lives; they spend a lot of time outdoors using the outdoor kitchen area, swimming pool and two outdoor fireplaces."

Inside, the principal rooms retain a traditional classic elegance that corresponds with the front elevation. The continuous curved wood handrail at the entry staircase delivers an understated elegance to the entry hall and a befitting introduction to the re-

mainder of the house. The dining and living rooms are set in a formal arrangement, each with a fireplace centered on the elliptical arches from the entry hall. A distinctive English-pub-inspired billiards room and adjoining paneled library feature a custom iron and brass spiral staircase to the wine cellar beneath.

VanderHorn provided elements to collaborate with Rinfret on the clients' chosen style that embraces Asian, Greek and transitional motifs. The couple wanted to honor the husband's Asian heritage and highlight their impressive collection of antique Asian artwork and furniture acquired on trips to China. Said VanderHorn, "I laid out the bath elements in niches to keep the room more open and formal, while Cindy conceived the mirrored panels, fittings and detailing. It was a collaboration that produced a very elegant room."

For her part, Rinfret set out by focusing on three design elements to carry throughout the house: Asian artifacts, a soothing blue and cream color scheme, and Greek key. "We were able to blend



Greek key, which can feel modern or transitional depending on the context, per Rinfret, is found all around the house.

Greek key, Asian and transitional, and it all works together in a very cohesive way,” said Rinfret, who was inspired to create beautiful custom pieces from the antiques. These include the headboard for the master bedroom out of an ancient wood screen, and the re-upholstered wing chairs in the bedroom.

The chairs held sentimental value for the clients, and were traditional and “kind of square,” according to the designer. “We did them in this beautiful Greek key fabric and did some very fun pillows on them to have them transcend,” she said. “We kept the old shape and we then treated it in a new way to blend with the house.” The challenge, according to Rinfret, was to give the house the sophistication and

luxury the husband wanted as well as the more transitional look that the wife loved. Both the husband and the wife wanted a peaceful color palette, so a soothing blend of soft blues, browns and ivory was selected. Rinfret then chose finishes and accents in satin nickel and crystal to add a transitional influence to the design. “Using satin nickel can give a modern edge to pieces that would otherwise feel more traditional,” she said.

Greek key, which can feel modern or transitional depending on the context, per Rinfret, is found all around the house. It is seen in the embroidery on window treatments, in the nail head detail on the master bedroom headboard, in a throw pillow border and in the design of a mir-

Oak wainscot, ceiling beams and trim work provide an English pub atmosphere. The bar is framed by fluted tapering Doric pilasters and an iron railing borders the circular stair leading to the wine cellar below.

OPPOSITE Viewed through the elliptical arch at the entry hall, the dining room has a classically designed fireplace and ceiling cornice.





The octagonal Breakfast Room, flooded with natural light, anchors the family's informal-gathering spaces. A beautifully detailed ceiling and an intricate pattern in the antique floor boards continue the elegant but restrained detail.



Designed by Christopher Peacock, the kitchen combines traditional design with all the best modern conveniences. The substantial butcher block and walnut beadboard in the back of the cabinets accent the classic white cabinetry and marble countertops.





Designed as a gracious room, the master bath has a tray ceiling and a marble floor with an inset mosaic border. His and her vanities are neatly tucked into niches to keep the floor space open. A deck mounted tub is subtly housed in the window bay with front mirrored panels and is reflected in the vanity fronts.



ror. As well, the architecture of the house paid tribute to the clients' love for Greek key. The living room mantel molding is Greek key, as is the crown molding. Even the library paneling has a Greek key design, as does the inlaid marble floor in the master bath.

"As pretty as the house is, it really functions beautifully for the family," said Rinfret. The family includes a whippet dog--whose own exterior shading "goes beautifully with the color scheme," said the designer with a laugh. She added, "We blended everything together with their Asian antiques and made it hip, cool and workable for an active family. This house gets used, every room in the house; it's got a lot of their personalities in it." ■

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