

TRADITIONAL BUILDING

2021 PALLADIO AWARD WINNERS





RESIDENTIAL PALLADIO WINNER

RESIDENTIAL NEW DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—MORE THAN 5,000 SQUARE FEET (3-WAY TIE)

NEW NORMANDY MANOR HOUSE ON A FRENCH FARM ESTATE

Charles Hilton Architects



From the graduated slate on its roof to the intricate pattern of reclaimed timber on the ceiling of its tower-basement wine cellar, it is the exquisite period details that distinguish this French-style farm, which is set on four bucolic acres in Greenwich, Connecticut.

The 6,158-square-foot house was designed by Charles Hilton, AIA, of the eponymous Greenwich, Connecticut-based architectural firm, to complement the adjacent Georgian estate of his client, who wanted to establish a small organic farm and create a period-style building that reflected the French agrarian roots of the original buildings on the property.

The owners requested a guest house

that could also serve as a venue to host dinner parties and to hold occasional cooking classes.

Hilton conducted extensive research—he even made a trip to Marie Antoinette’s Petit Hamlet, the queen’s rustic Norman agrarian retreat on the grounds of Versailles.

The walls of the exterior façade are punctuated with engaged-timber dormers and feature a corner roadside tower. The walls are constructed of antique half-timbering filled with randomly laid custom Roman brick that rest on a stone water table.

“It’s a beautiful integration of landscape architecture with architecture and interiors,” Hilton says, adding that the half-timbering on the inside walls

is filled with authentic hand-finished French plaster, a feature that makes the acoustics “amazingly quiet.”

Just as at Petit Hamlet, the home’s main-level public spaces are rustic, and the private rooms upstairs are more refined in character and aesthetics.

The great room, which rises two and a half stories, is not only the focal point of the home, but it also sets the tone for the rest of the interior. Its most prominent feature is the walk-in Camargue limestone fireplace that is a counterpoint to the double-height bay window opposite it offering panoramic views of the gardens.

“The fireplace was carved in France,” Hilton says. “I visited the quarry during fabrication. The chim-

ney design was challenging because the 26-inch-diameter flue, at only two stories tall, had to be engineered so it would draw properly.”

Despite its old-world features, the estate has many concealed high-tech amenities, including geothermal HVAC, a super-insulated spray foam building envelope, high-performance low-E glazing, automated sun shades, extensive LED lighting, on-site electrical/heat co-generation, and smart-house control systems.

It is, Hilton says, a sublime retreat. “Built into a hillside and situated between mature trees, the house has a rustic elegance to it that’s highly detailed but understated,” he says. “It’s very comfortable to be in.”

Photo by Robert Benson Photography

RESTORATION / REPLICATION / CUSTOM CASTING

LEFT A leaded-glass transom above the entry's pair of large oak doors illuminates the French-plaster half-timbered walls and the floor grid of limestone squares framed in white oak. The entry vestibule opens to the great room and its double-height bay window.

KEY SUPPLIERS

ARCHITECT

Charles Hilton Architects

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Home Construction

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Isabelle Vanneck, Davenport North

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Charles J. Stick

LIGHTING CONSULTANT

Gary Novasel, Patdo Light Studio

MASON

Mauro Fidaleo, Mauro Fidaleo Construction

EXTERIOR DOORS AND WINDOWS

Artistic Doors & Windows

SLATE ROOF

Evergreen Slate Co.

BRICK VENEER

Ludowici Roof Tiles

IRONWORK

Jozef Custom Ironworks

HARDWOOD FLOORS

Historic Floors

INTERIOR RECLAIMED

TIMBERS Harry Raymond, Vintage and Specialty Wood

INTERIOR CABINETRY

Bryne Woodworking

INTERIOR DOORS

Fontrick Door

CONCRETE COUNTERTOPS

Brooks Custom Tops

INTERIOR CUT-STONE COUNTERTOPS AND SLABS

Fordham Marble

CERAMIC TILE

Ceramic Design

INTERIOR SPECIALTY FINISHES

Stephen Gamble

FRENCH LIMESTONE

FIREPLACE AND FLOORS

Marble Crafters

RANGE HOOD

Focal Metals

PLUMBING FIXTURES

Waterworks

STAIRS

Richard D. Walston
Stair Builders

Robinson Iron



Photo credits: Industrious Photography & Claude Cormier + Associates



IRON / BRONZE / ALUMINUM

Artisans of cast metal since 1946.

800.824.2157 | 256.329.8486 | robinsoniron.com