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TOP DESIGN TALENTS OF 2022



above, left: The outdoor pool terrace is transformed at night; the softly lit pavilion appears to float on the pool's surface. above, right: To aid this transformation, the columns are internally lit, mimicking a Chinese paper lantern. below: The family room wing of the house is opposite the pavilion, which serves as both a focal point and a privacy-enhancing enclosure to the landscape. opposite page: The pavilion provides stylish shelter from the strong midday sun.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT BENSON PHOTOGRAPHY

# EASTERN INFLUENCE

**E**legance meets function in this pool house designed by Charles Hilton Architects. East Asian influence on Western architecture has been felt for centuries; the zenith of the chinoiserie trend coincided with England's Georgian period, and the two decorative tastes were often paired in the grandest 18th-century homes. "It seemed natural to add a touch of chinoiserie to the design of a new stately Georgian home, especially for clients of East Asian heritage," said Hilton. The open-air pavilion was destined to be a poolside garden retreat by day, and an entertainment pavilion by night.

Open on three sides with lattice on the fourth, it sits nestled against a wooded backdrop and provides escape from the summer sun. The

trellised cornice and lattice panels are designed to allow the surrounding garden vegetation to integrate with the structure over time. At night, the pavilion becomes a softly lighted jewel box in the garden—an ideal retreat for poolside entertaining or quiet summer evenings at home with family. The pergola, which defines the southern edge of the pool terrace, features simple Doric columns, a flared lead-coated copper roof, and embossed decorative edging. The columns are a favorite feature: the shafts are carved with the Chinese symbol for "good fortune," and at night, they are cleverly lit from the inside with a series of lights and mirrors to evoke the feeling of traditional Chinese paper lanterns.

The lighting setup has a mesmerizing effect: at night, it causes the pavilion to appear as though it is floating on the pool surface.

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