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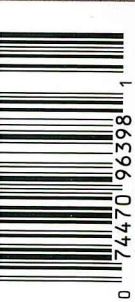
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Design Journey

Architect Chuck Hilton brings back ideas and inspiration from iconic destinations around the globe

Nothing expands your perspective quite like travel. For architect Chuck Hilton, annual trips with the Leaders of Design Council have been invaluable personally and for business. His most recent trip was a once-in-a-lifetime tour of the ancient marvels of Greece and Egypt. “The world changes so dramatically over time, so it’s important to visit these places while you can,” says Chuck. He shared with us high points of his journey and latest projects.

HOW DOES TRAVEL INFORM YOUR PROJECTS?

The way the ancients built perfectly imperfect buildings resonated with me. We do a lot of traditional classical-based houses. It’s hard to make things exactly symmetrical or perfect, but we’ve known for years how to make things look balanced. This was a nice reinforcement of that.

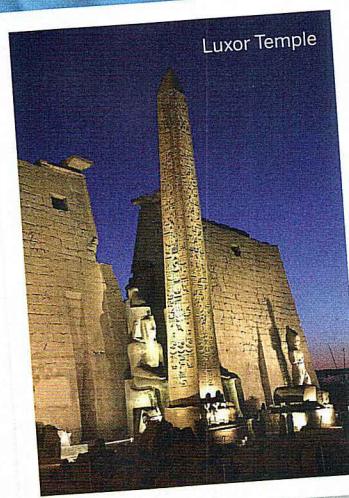
WHAT WAS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT ATHENS?

Greece is doing its best to preserve and restore its antiquities, but it feels like

they’re slipping away a bit with the amount of decay. The Acropolis is still powerful: The structures and the setting and the relationship to the hill are so timeless. When you look at postcards everything is so idealized. Then you get there and realize how they built the building imperfectly. The columns lean in and there are visual tricks that they were so skilled at, making it look perfect from a distance.

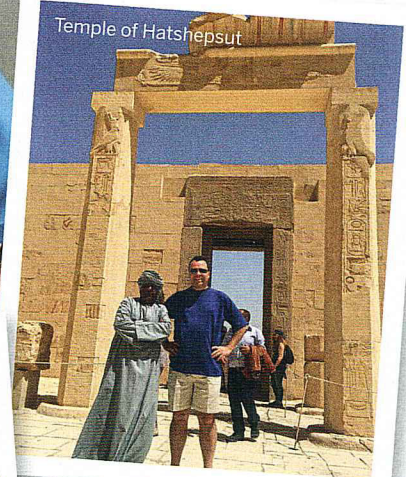
TELL US ABOUT EGYPT.

It was amazing due largely to



Luxor Temple

the temples, there are carved columns where eleven people could hold hands around them. The scale is incredible. The power of the sunlight, the mathematics and engineering, the labor, vision and all that went into building all these things was tremendous.



Temple of Hatshepsut

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?

We have a three-building estate on Putnam Lake that is going to be absolutely stunning, an extensive transitional interior renovation in mid-country, an in-town home, and a weekend retreat in northern Connecticut. We also have a renovation on the boards for the Boy Scouts in Darien and our September 11th Memorial is under construction. It’s two glass sculptures that reflect the flag, with the names of the people from Greenwich etched into them. It’s going to be in the Cos Cob Park. We’re planning to unveil and dedicate it on 9/11. I can’t tell you how thrilled I am. I hope it will be valued for a long time to come. —Mary Kate Hogan

the generous hospitality of our host, conference sponsor Marmi Stone, and our guest lecturer, famed Egyptologist Dr. Zahi Hawass. Hawass spoke about his lifetime of researching and preserving national treasures of Egypt, including tombs in the Valley of the Kings and the Great Pyramids. At the Valley of the Kings, it was really neat to be able to go down into the tombs, which are buried into rock. The Great Pyramids are just amazing. We climbed up a three-foot-square shaft to reach the center where the Pharaoh had been buried. They are very majestic, and yet it’s a little jarring that the edge of the city is starting to come very close to them. At some of



Nile cruise