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While a garden draws man's attention to the earth, constellations of stars draw man to the sky. This elegantly simple yet breathtaking celestial garden gazebo manages to draw attention to both. The homeowners of this august Georgian estate wished to replace an old wooden gazebo on a rocky outcropping of their verdant grounds. They desired one that would resemble the appearance of their home. Architect Charles Hilton rose to the challenge, distinguishing himself with this intimate and meditative space.

Octagonal in shape, the pavilion is built using five different types of handmade brick to authentically echo the brickwork on the client's residence. Screened windows ring the space, offering views of the lush vistas across the grounds. An inset bench circling the interior allows visitors to gaze at the garden comfortably, or perhaps read or meditate. The entryway is set with a screen door featuring a Chippendale lattice panel, reflecting the same feature on the main house. The bell-shaped roof is finished with lead fish-scale shingles and crowned with a custom copper pineapple finial. Inside, a star-shaped lantern descends from the ceiling.



ing, glittering across the face of the gazebo's astonishing glory: an inset black granite medallion above, depicting the constellations. The map of stars is overlaid with 15th-century woodcut illustrations of their pictorial representations, sandblasted into the stone. Each major star is accented with gold leaf.

The pavilion is a place to be admired from afar, and to admire from. It is tucked into a far corner of the grounds, a classic addition that charms the eye and is also a destination inviting a walk. Once there, a visitor can admire the architecture and the view by day or night, for once the sun has gone down, this gazebo becomes the perfect place for stargazing. It is the very embodiment of beauty within, beauty without.

