



DOUBLE TAKE: 5 facade facelifts

at home

IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

before & after!



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CHARLES HILTON ARCHITECTS

A shingle-style home assumes a French country aesthetic

photographs ROBERT BENSON (below) AND WOODRUFF/BROWN ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY (right)





before



Age and style of original home: The house was built in the 1920s and was originally a shingle-style home.

Square footage before and after: Before: 3,150; after: 3,860. The home's square footage and exterior volumes remained the same before and after the renovation, aside from the addition of a greenhouse.

Main renovation objective: Working with the existing building allowed for the maximum usage of the site as a farm and preserved the existing street view stone wall aesthetic.

What launched the design: A couple's desire for a working organic farm that would complement their extensive formal gardens led them to purchase the property and convert a guest house into a caretaker's cottage and farm.

How long the renovation took: Ten months.

A special/unique feature of the new home: The cottage's new stone base seamlessly ties into the existing stone walls, which border the property, and highlights the timbers, stucco and slate roof above.

The biggest challenge during the renovation: It was a daunting task to renovate and completely transform a home whose exterior envelope and size could not change due to the zoning restrictions surrounding a home existing in a front yard setback.

Favorite element of the new home: The addition of a new greenhouse has allowed the owner to garden nearly year-round, and it functions as a site design element while also helping to buffer the vegetable garden from the drive court.

A special request you fulfilled: A former storage space served as the perfect location for a potting room, allowing the owner to maintain the gardens as well as the plants in the adjacent greenhouse.

The best part of this renovation: The original architect's affinity for the "French Farmhouse Style" was evident in the building's forms and in a variety of French-inspired details. By creating a cohesive French country aesthetic on the interior and exterior, it felt as though a ninety-year-old vision was completed and brought unity to a previously confused home.

How the landscape/views influenced the design: Knowing that the owner wanted to turn the property into a working farm and maximize the farmable space influenced the firm to renovate the existing home's structure that sits within the front yard building setback.