## **Connecticut Cottages and Gardens**

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# THE ARCHITECTURE ISSUE

## A LUXURIOUS COUNTRY ESTATE IS DESIGNED TO LAST FOR GENERATIONS

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**AS SEEN IN** 

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# RAFING ALEGACY

BY MINDY PANTIEL PHOTOGRAPHS BY DURSTON SAYLOR

Estate Plan Architect Arthur Hanlon carefully carved out a section of this heavily wooded acreage to make way for an English style manor defined by red cedar shingles and granite columns. Stonework is by DaCosta Masonry. See Resources.



Arthur Hanlon's early encounter with the eight-acre property on which he would design a home for a Redding couple and their two children began on the heels of a midwinter snowstorm. "We started the project by hoofing through two feet of snow in the woods and could barely make out the topography," recalls the principal at Shope Reno Wharton, noting they really had no choice. "If we waited until May when the trees bloomed, there would have been no sense of orientation at all."

Relying on survey maps and input from the clients, who lived nearby-"they purchased the property years before and had been walking and thinking about it for quite some time," Hanlon says—a site plan for the multi-building estate including main living quarters, a garage/barn with six bays and a tower reminiscent of a fire lookout was drawn. Mindful of minimizing impact to the pristine property-"we wanted to engage the woods," he adds-a classic shingle style structure defined by gables and runs of dormers that would be equally at home in the English countryside emerged.

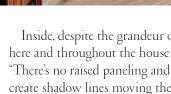
Selecting shingles because they "improve with age as they get patina," Hanlon adds, "Things like overhangs and brackets also fare better than crisper modern details that are hard to maintain." The local vernacular played a role as well. Granite walls in shades of beige, brown, gray and a hint of pink offer a dressed up version of the area's farm fences, and the rusticated timber frame barn with vertical cedar siding and exposed rafter tails further references the adjacent farm properties.

Resplendant Greenscape (CLOCKWISE ACROSS SPREAD FROM THIS PAGE TOP) Janice Parker Landscape Architects designed the property with plantings primarily in shades of green and white with en masse groupings of impatiens providing shots of color. The infinity pool is also Parker's design. The pool house seating, dining table and chairs are from Harbour Outdoor. In the tower room, Century chairs wearing Travers fabric circle a Hickory Chair cocktail table; the chandelier is from Visual Comfort. The spa is intentionally separated from the main pool and is a designated adult area. See Resources.









Inside, despite the grandeur of the soaring 22-foot entry ceiling, the restrained trimwork here and throughout the house is in keeping with the family's contemporary lifestyle. "There's no raised paneling and the crowns are dropped a little bit for half-inch reveals that create shadow lines moving them in a more modern direction," Hanlon explains. Along with low-profile moldings, the decision to employ natural materials like the rustic-grade, white-oak floors that flow everywhere, dovetailed perfectly with interior designer Jeffrey Haines' introduction of light colored walls, neutral fabrics and use of mass over intricacy. "The exterior feels like an early 1900s Shingle-style home but once you enter, the brevity of details made it obvious that the furnishings needed to be less about contrasting fabrics on a chair and more about scale," says Haines, owner of Butler's of Far Hills in New Jersey. An oversized bench with seating on all four sides that fills the center of the foyer makes his point.

Referencing his favorite analogy that well-crafted interiors are akin to reading an engaging novel he adds, "In the entry you meet wonderful textures and interesting art, and think, wow, this is going to be a really good book." Subsequent chapters feature a mix of styles-cushy, upholstered sofas offset a sleek lacquered walnut coffee table with brass legs

**Contemporary Grandeur** (CLOCKWISE ACROSS SPREAD FROM OPPOSITE PAGE) Quality Stairs and Fairfield Woodworks crafted the staircase designed by Shope Reno Wharton with a mahogany railing meant to lead the eye up. The foyer centerpiece-a settee from Century's Windsor Smith Collection custom sized for the space, joins a neoclassic high back chair by Chaddock; the custom floors are by Burchette & Burchette. Century chairs and table give the breakfast room a modern edge along with the walnut and chrome console from Mr. & Mrs. Howard for Sherrill Furniture. See Resources.







CUSHY, UPHOLSTERED SOFAS OFFSET A SLEEK LACQUERED WALNUT COFFEE TABLE WITH BRASS LEGS IN THE LIVING ROOM AND A MINDFUL MELDING OF TEXTURES

### All Around The House

(CLOCKWISE ACROSS SPREAD FROM OPPOSITE PAGE) Crane Woodworking fabricated the painted white oak kitchen cabinets; a trio of nickel pendants from Visual Comfort lights the kitchen island; and the counter stools are from Mr. & Mrs. Howard for Sherrill Furniture. The lower-level home theater and wine room features a Century sectional and a Four Hands cocktail table. In the living room, Butler's of Far Hills designed the sofas with Century upholstery; the rosewood frame chairs are Baker; and the woodand-brass cocktail table is from Mr. & Mrs. Howard for Sherrill Furniture. See Resources.







in the living room, for example, and a mindful melding of textures. In the master bedroom the vintage chairs are redone with a more modern suit-like wool/linen blend and the bed is shagreen. In the tower room, where views of the surrounding rolling hills are worth the three-story climb, a quartet of deep-seated chairs are covered in a light blue wool/cotton herringbone fabric.

An intentional shift occurs in what has been dubbed the "party barn" where the Western style exteriors drove a similar feel indoors. "We wanted a contradiction to the main house," says the architect, and the heavily distressed fir timber framing and river rock style fireplace more than deliver. For his part, Haines complemented the materials with heavily textured open-weave rattan chairs and a petrified wood cocktail table.

Additional amenities—including a pool and pool house, sport court and climbing wall—cement the homeowners desire to have "a place where family would never want to leave," says Hanlon. "They wanted a legacy property, and we had the unique opportunity to mold the whole thing into exactly what they wanted." **\*** 

**Rest & Relaxation** (CLOCKWISE ACROSS SPREAD FROM THIS PAGE TOP) The guest room incudes architectdesigned bunk beds crafted by Fairfield Woodworks and a Hickory Chair ottoman. In the master bedroom, interior designer Jeffrey Haines combined a bed with a custom shagreen finish and an upholstered bench, both from Mr. & Mrs. Howard for Sherrill Furniture with vintage chairs, a coffee table and ottoman from the homeowner's collection. Seen from the master bedroom balcony, pleached Linden trees and Harbour Outdoor lounge chairs line one end of the pool. Bolier chairs flank the tub in the master bathroom. See Resources.





