

A large, two-story brick house with white trim, a portico with columns, and a garden. The house features a prominent portico with four white columns and a large arched window above the entrance. The roof is gabled with two chimneys and a dormer window. The garden is well-maintained with green lawns, shrubs, and a stone path.

DREAM HOMES

METRO NEW YORK

AN EXCLUSIVE SHOWCASE OF NEW YORK'S FINEST ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS

CHARLES HILTON & DOUGLAS VANDERHORN

Hilton-VanderHorn, Architects

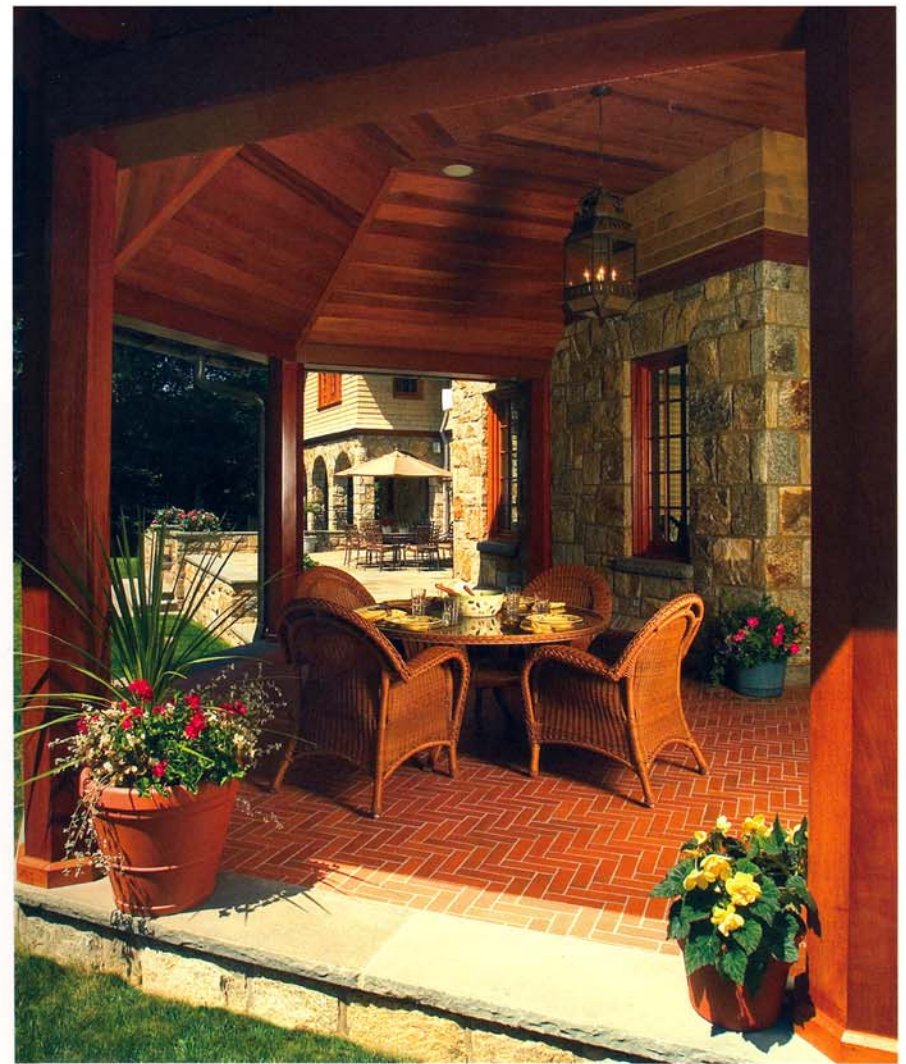
Design excellence, attention to detail, and exceedingly thorough construction documents are the hallmarks of Hilton-VanderHorn, Architects. The last, says Charles Hilton, who took his first job in an architect's office in 1980, while still in high school, is probably the single most overlooked characteristic of an architectural firm's work. The importance, he says, cannot be overestimated.

Chuck and his partner, Douglas VanderHorn, who grew up working in his father's construction business, met at Penn State University, where both men earned a Bachelor's of Architecture degree. With a similar philosophy and a shared appreciation for fine craftsmanship and traditional residential design, they founded in the spring of 1991 what is today an esteemed 12-person firm.



ABOVE: A classical arcade simultaneously divides and unifies the prep and dining areas of this stunning kitchen. Generous use of millwork, rich materials and antique accessories enhance the classic design.
Photograph by Scott Frances

LEFT: The garden façade of this 1942 Georgian home features the addition of a central portico, a newly composed façade on the right wing and a newly constructed left side wing, which seamlessly blend with the original home.
Photograph by Woodruff - Brown



Though the architects' work reflects the traditional building styles of Fairfield County, Connecticut, and Westchester County, New York, where their projects are concentrated, Hilton-VanderHorn does not have a signature style; instead, the architects have a broad repertoire of stylistic knowledge and experience. With consideration for a client's personal taste and programmatic requirements, they choose a stylistic direction and pursue it both inside and out. "Our designs embody the great architecture of the past," Chuck says, "while seamlessly integrating the modern amenities our clients expect."

Projects run the gamut from one room to 20,000 square feet; though typical jobs range from a 3,000-square-foot renovation to a 10,000-square-foot new construction. Regardless of the size of the project, the project's success hinges on the quality of the documents, Chuck says. "Our plans are efficient, our elevations classic, and our detailing exquisite." He adds, "If the documents aren't extremely detailed, a great deal is open to interpretation by the contractor. The average amount of detailing is not sufficient for the high-end products we deliver."



ABOVE: Ionic pilasters frame the view through the bay of this striking red lacquered dining room. The adjacent classical doorway invites guests into the adjoining living room.
Photograph by Woodruff - Brown

RIGHT: This garden room features lattice pilasters that support a Venetian plaster barrel vaulted ceiling. The painted panels were commissioned to incorporate flora from the client's gardens.
Photograph by Scott Frances

FAR RIGHT: Paneled wainscoting, Doric columns and a two-toned marble floor grace this first floor hallway. A pair of mahogany doors with fanlight above, lead to the guest wing beyond.
Photograph by Woodruff - Brown

FACING PAGE LEFT: This handsome mahogany entrance doorway features leaded glass sidelights and an elliptical fanlight supported on fluted ionic columns.
Photograph by Steve Wegener

FACING PAGE RIGHT: This dining porch provides the perfect setting to enjoy the outdoors. The herringbone brick floor and granite façade are complemented by the mahogany trim and tray ceiling.
Photograph by Steve Wegener







ABOVE: Multiple gables and a variety of forms add charm to this country estate. Wide eave boards accent the wood shingled gables. A granite base anchors the composition.
 Photograph by Steve Wegener

RIGHT: This gracious entry hall is classically appointed with a paneled wainscot and decorative plaster cornice and trim. The sweeping staircase invites one to the second floor alcove and family spaces.
 Photograph by Steve Wegener

FACING PAGE: A brick barrel vaulted ceiling supported on steel beams and brick pilasters highlight this stunning wine cellar. Fitted oak cabinets provide a variety of storage options.
 Photograph by Scott Frances



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Describe your style or design preferences.

The firm does not have a signature style, choosing rather to develop a broad repertoire of stylistic knowledge from which to draw on during design. A client's personal taste and programmatic requirements are considered, along with the site and existing context. A stylistic direction is chosen and pursued from inside to out. Our designs embody the great architecture of the past, while seamlessly integrating the modern amenities our clients expect. We aim for timeless designs that facilitate modern living.

Civic service:

The firm's leadership is involved in their community. Principal Charles Hilton is a past president of the Greenwich Rotary Club and is active in a number of church and school projects. Principal Douglas VanderHorn is a member of the Greenwich Historical Society and participates on a school building committee. Associate Daniel Pardy is a past president of the Alliance for Architecture in New Haven, Connecticut.

Awards and recognition:

In 2004, the firm received an honorable mention in the first Alice Washburn Award for Design, given by the AIA, Connecticut Chapter, honoring outstanding contemporary interpretations of the state's traditional residential architecture, for their work on a new midcountry Georgian estate in Greenwich. The firm's work has been showcased in such publications as *Connecticut Cottages & Gardens*, *Greenwich Magazine*, *Connecticut Magazine*, *This Old House*, *Period Homes*, and *A Decade of Art & Architecture 1992-2002*.

Hilton-VanderHorn, Architects

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