

DREAM HOMES

NEW ENGLAND







CHARLES HILTON DOUGLAS VANDERHORN

Hilton-VanderHorn Architects

Great architecture leaves nothing to chance. Inspired designs, attention to detail and meticulous craftsmanship are the hallmarks of fine homes designed by Hilton-VanderHorn Architects. This award-winning and widely published firm has taken full advantage of the opportunities afforded by its location in lower Fairfield County to produce homes of classic and timeless beauty.

This is unsurprising from a firm whose principals' architectural careers span practically their whole lives. Charles Hilton gained an interest and began working in architecture as a teenager, and Douglas VanderHorn grew up working in his father's construction business. Founding their partnership in 1991, the two situated their firm in the affluent community of

LEFT:

The outstretched wings of this impressive French Manor house welcome guests, inviting exploration of this beautifully detailed country home.

Photograph by Woodruff/Brown Photography



Greenwich, Connecticut, at the nexus of New York City's resources and urban culture and New England's historic and picturesque surroundings.

Hilton-VanderHorn's heavy investment in quality and craft has attracted a discerning clientele who bring a great diversity of ideas and influences to each commission. This is a key ingredient for the firm's designs. Chuck and Doug, with associates Daniel Pardy and David Newcomb and a staff of eight project managers and master draftsmen, draw on these many influences and distill from them the essential elements that make a given project distinctive. The firm has avoided developing a specific signature style; rather, it prefers to allow context and client to inspire the direction each design takes.

Once a direction has been selected, however, it is carried through in every detail. Embracing traditional architectural idioms and joining them with modern technologies and construction techniques demands a high degree of ingenuity. Whether a stately Georgian mansion or a Mediterranean villa, the chosen style is consistently followed from building form to the casework and interior finishes. Waterfront homes, one of the firm's specialties, require additional attention to address their unique design, regulatory, construction and environmental requirements. By working closely with a team of consulting professionals—engineers,



TOP LEFT:

French doors with elliptical fanlights open this sunroom to the client's beloved gardens. Latticework enhances a garden aesthetic with a forced perspective, framing an antique wall fountain.

Photograph by Scott Frances

BOTTOM LEFT:

The richly detailed oak-paneled drawing room is complemented by a custom reproduction George III marble mantel.

Photograph by Scott Frances

FACING PAGE:

Extensive renovations and additions to this Georgian residence include a central pedimented bay over a limestone-columned porch, pool terrace bay and cupola beyond.

Photograph by Woodruff/Brown Photography







landscape architects, interior designers and other specialists—Hilton-VanderHorn’s staff vastly improves the transition from design to construction, and changes made on site are minimal. “The average amount of detail is simply insufficient for the homes we deliver,” Chuck remarks. “We aim for timeless designs that seamlessly integrate the amenities our clients expect, and the technologies that modern life requires. That takes great care both in the studio and on the construction site.”

As a result of this care, the firm’s homes never overwhelm and are consistently well planned and comfortable. One or two essential and highly personalized rooms form the core of each design. For a family devoted to cooking and cuisine, a very special kitchen



might be in order; avid readers might desire a welcoming and comfortable library; a family devoted to basketball finds a half-court incorporated into the lower levels of their residence. “A truly custom house should be a place that has some things nobody else has,” says Chuck, “where a person can really feel at home.”

In building a new home, Hilton-VanderHorn Architects takes no aspect of the process lightly. This devotion to the art and craft of building is apparent from the first sketches to the finished building. “We take an active hand in every phase of the process,” Doug says, “and that ensures that the final product is precisely what the client expects.” “Building a home is a major



undertaking,” Chuck agrees, “but our clients know that after all the time and money they’ve devoted to it, they’ll have something that’s uniquely theirs.”

ABOVE LEFT:
This cozy wine cellar is detailed with a stuccoed groin-vaulted ceiling supported by brick pilasters infilled with oak cabinetry.
Photograph by Scott Frances

ABOVE MIDDLE:
The graceful sweep of this spiral staircase is enhanced by elegant detailing and a French-style parquet floor.
Photograph by Woodruff/Brown Photography

ABOVE RIGHT:
This cozy seating alcove, part of a handsome butternut paneled library, provides a perfect spot for enjoyment of waterfront views and a good book.
Photograph by Woodruff/Brown Photography

FACING PAGE:
Set into the landscape, this inviting poolside cabana has a light-filled entertaining loggia flanked by kitchen and bath pavilions.
Photograph by Woodruff/Brown Photography