

# DESIGN + DECOR

CONNECTICUT  
NEW JERSEY  
NEW YORK



# THE DESIGNER ISSUE

\$7.99 US/\$8.99 CANADA  
0 9>  
7 25274 23559 9  
DISPLAY UNTIL 12/21/20

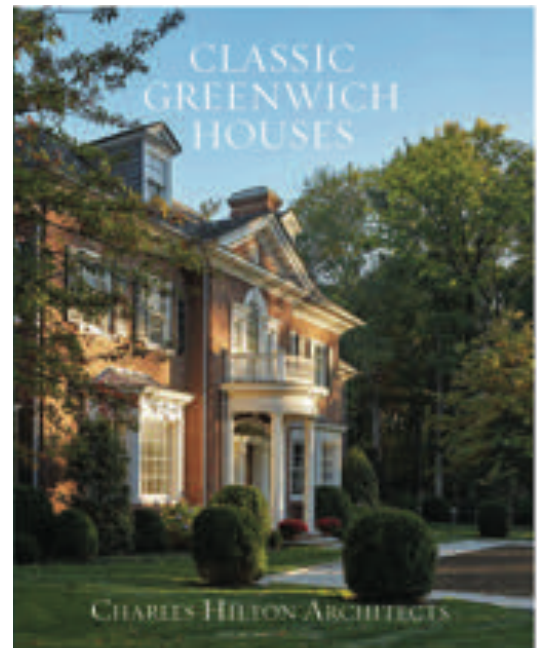
# Charles Hilton Releases Classic Greenwich Houses



Story by Mary Lee Ptacek

Charles Hilton of Charles Hilton Architects recently released his first book, *Classic Greenwich Houses*, which tells the stories of nine traditional New England estates designed by Charles and his team. Charles' approach to architecture was influenced by his study-abroad travels through Western and Central Europe and Scandinavia. There were "so many different traditional styles and vocabularies that I fell in love with," says Charles. "After graduation, I came to Greenwich, CT, and there was a lot of beautiful traditional architecture. I was able to draw on that and build on that for the rest of my career." In *Classic Greenwich Houses*, Charles reveals how his homes complement the landscape while exhibiting stunning traditional architecture.

Notable among the nine estates featured in the book is the American Georgian estate. Besides making many renovations and structural improvements to the property over a period of 10 years, he and his team "were able to add a beautiful sunroom with lattice trelliswork, a great room with floor-to-ceiling oak paneling, a beautiful replica of a Georgian marble mantle, and two guest suites," says Charles. The stairway features trompe l'oeil panels on the walls and ceiling, and the original wood floors were restored. As far as structural improvements go, Charles added a west wing to balance out the east wing





on the front of the house. The renovations result in a refined, traditional masterpiece.

Like the American Georgian, the renovations for the Bronxville Colonial estate spanned an extended period of time. The homeowners originally purchased it as a guest house, but ended up loving it so much that they sold their main home and made it their primary residence. "In terms of how the site plan was organized, they wanted to be able to create a nice, private outdoor space so that the pool, hot tub and dining area would have some buffering from the adjoining neighbors, who weren't too far away," says Charles. His design resulted in a gorgeous home that features enough space for the owners' large family to comfortably gather and stay for holidays.

A third estate featured in the book, the Lakeside Georgian, also offers a stunning pool that reflects the grandeur of the large home. "It's substantial in size, but it's very comfortable," he says. "Everything was done with an eye toward scale and proportion, and really trying to minimize the ap-



KATE GELFAND

INTERIOR DESIGN

50 Greenwich Avenue | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Greenwich, CT 06830

203.485.0413  
[www.kategelfand.com](http://www.kategelfand.com)



**ih** JAN HILTZ  
INTERIORS LLC

21 Bridge Square Westport CT 06880  
203.331.5578 jan@janhiltzinteriorsllc.com  
www.janhiltzinteriorsllc.com





pearance of the scale,” says Charles. “The device we used to do that was to make everything oversized, so that your eye actually thinks it’s smaller. The bricks are oversized, the stones are oversized, the roof has graduation in terms of the slate sizes, and so forth. The lights in each of the windows are made bigger so that, as of the whole composition, it appears a bit smaller than it is.” His firm and Forehand and Lake, an interior design firm based in Fairfield, CT, made sure that, despite the size of the home, the interior was a comfortable and gracious space.

The Lakeside Georgian’s pool pavilion is an intricately and elegantly designed hallmark of the home. The columns feature cutout patterns where the Chinese symbol for good fortune is overlaid on a field of vines. The structure of the pavilion itself evokes traditional Asian architecture. “On the cupola is a weathervane that has a dragon on it,” says Charles. “Some of the metalwork on the roof and the treatments on the cornice trim resemble some Asian pavilions, but are done in a classical vocabulary that goes with the Georgian architecture. We also wanted it to be very light and airy at night, so we came up with the idea of internally-lit columns, and doing cutouts so that they felt very light and floated above the terrace. It looks like the whole thing is float-

## Your home is your oasis, never compromise.

Let LDD do the heavy lifting so you can enjoy the experience  
of creating a home that reflects your lifestyle.



KATHLEEN RAPP    LISA DAVENPORT







ing above the pool.” Hidden mirrors in the pavilion enhance the glowing, floating effect. The Lakeside Georgian blends traditional grandeur and comfortable features for a magnificent result.

An additional waterfront property featured in Classic Greenwich Houses, the New England Shingle Style Residence, features a master study composed of traditional waterfront materials, overlooking the Long Island Sound. “We put it on a stone base with very large stones anchoring it to the site,” says Charles. “The interiors are done in a classical treatment, but with a nod to the nautical. It has stained mahogany beams and desktops, and the rest has white beadboard and trim, picking up a waterfront motif.” The home



**CHRIS**  
**UPHOLSTERY**

73 Main Street, Norwalk, CT 06851 - Ph: 203-849-7716 - Fax: 203-229-0147  
[www.chrisupholstery.com](http://www.chrisupholstery.com) - Email: [chrisupholstery@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisupholstery@yahoo.com)



*Creating sophisticated and comfortable interiors that meet your family's unique needs.*

845 440 3135 | AIDESIGNNY.COM



also offers a widow's walk on top, offering panoramic views of the sound.

Throughout many of the homes he designs, Charles aims to include sustainable materials and technology. "Our houses take up a lot of resources, and will hopefully be around for a very long time, so we want them to be as green and sustainable as they can be," he says. Many of the homes he designs utilize LED lighting, cellular PVC trim, high-performance glass, spray-foam insulation, high-efficiency appliances and smart home systems that adjust the home's temperature according to the weather. "Some of our homes, including the Shingle Style and the Lakeside Georgian, have cogeneration units that burn natural gas to make electricity for the house," he explains. "It's more efficient and greener to make electricity on-site."

In addition to emphasizing sustainability, Charles also aims to include at least one feature in every home that truly reflects the client's personality. "It might be the kitchen for a gourmet chef; it might be the wine cellar for a collector, or a car barn," he says. Charles invests extra time in these areas, noting that an important and rewarding part of his career is bringing his client's vision to life. He explains that the most important part of his work is "the ability to work with a client, find out their deepest dreams for their home and their family, and to create a piece of architecture that enhances that."

Classic Greenwich Houses reveals Charles' attention to detail and respect for traditional architecture. "The pictures are really important, and the book becomes the vehicle where we get to share these private pieces of architecture that a lot of people don't get to see," he says. "It's great after 32 years to finally be able to share in a very broad way some of our best and most exciting projects with a much wider audience."

The homes featured in Classic Greenwich Houses reveal that Hilton has more than achieved what he set out to do: create stunning, com-





# MAJESTIC

KITCHENS AND BATH



914-381-1302  
700 Fenimore Road  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543  
[www.majestickitchens.com](http://www.majestickitchens.com)





comfortable living spaces that pay respect to the history of traditional architecture while meeting the needs of his modern clients.

*Classic Greenwich Houses is available through The Monacelli Press at [www.monacellipress.com](http://www.monacellipress.com)*

*Resource:*

*Charles Hilton Architects  
Charles Hilton  
170 Mason Street  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
203.489.3800  
[hiltonarchitects.com](http://hiltonarchitects.com)*



REED & ACANTHUS

— INTERIOR DESIGN —

Residential Interiors  
Kitchen and Bath Design  
New Canaan 203.966.0422  
[www.reedacanthus.com](http://www.reedacanthus.com)