

NEW YORK

luxe.

interiors + design®



\$ 9.95 A SANDOW PUBLICATION | LUXE SOURCE®



VOLUME 12, ISSUE 4 | DISPLAY UNTIL 01/12/15

EXPERT OPINION

ARCHITECT CHARLES HILTON ON THE STATE OF MODERN-DAY RENOVATIONS

Over the last decade ... "There have been many advances in building technologies, smart systems, building products and energy-efficient products," Hilton says. "Stylistically, clients' tastes are often traditional on the outside, while transitional and modern on the inside." **The outdoor paradigm shift:** "Outdoor living environments have certainly become more of an extension of the home," Hilton says. "This has allowed the firm to add: pool houses, patios, pools and outdoor dining areas that complement the house and blur the line between indoor and outdoor." **Most coveted in the master bedroom:** "Whether renovating or designing a new master bedroom, luxurious closets are a hot topic and a priority," Hilton asserts. "Clients are also looking for a master bedroom suite where the bedroom and study are in close proximity." **Signs of the time:** "Tired finishes, poor plumbing/electrical, a lack of storage and previously done cheap renovations are all potential indicators that a room is in need of a renovation," he says.

Paparo, with a penchant for precision, is deeply embedded in the spheres of architecture and construction management and brings an analytical perspective to the process. "One of our clients planned on renovating the master suite and bath (on the home's second level), as well as their first-level powder room. They were intent upon renovating the master suite first, but I explained that to renovate the master bath, I would have to rip out all the plumbing below in the powder room," she shares. "Therefore, we began with the powder room renovation, capped the pipes for upstairs and completed the master bath later without major upheaval or disruption and we saved the client time and money."

PURPOSE-DRIVEN ARCHITECTURE

If your renovation were a book, the architect would be its author. Every room of a home is a character with complexities and dimensionality, and how they interact and respond to each other is critical to the outcome of the plot. Each architectural alteration is mulled over, researched and drafted onto paper, much like every sentence from the pages of a great novel. **Charles Hilton Architects** of Greenwich, Connecticut, recognized for thoughtful historic restorations and sustainable design to architectural interiors, is no stranger to creating memorable characters in the form of tangible, engaging spaces.

CHARLES HILTON ARCHITECTS

(LEFT) Constructed in the 1960s, this Montecito waterfront condominium was renovated to provide the family with a waterfront retreat. (MIDDLE) Inspired by Marie Antoinette's Petit Hamlet retreat on the grounds of Versailles, this dramatic transformation of the former utility building resulted in a French Country farm. (RIGHT) Major renovations and additions transformed an austere 1960s spec house into a classic Colonial Revival home.

Hilton and his 14-person team have restored centuries-old period homes to their former splendor and contemporized their interiors to reflect a more environmentally conscientious lifestyle. Hilton's appreciation for the past is evident in his deference to time-tested traditional design principles, yet his work is far from anachronistic—the structures are perfectly appropriate to their context and to the homeowner.

Although the firm's past work stretches across the country, its focus continues to be traditional residences in Fairfield County, Connecticut, and Westchester County, New York. The restoration and renovation process for homes of a classical vernacular (which is characteristic of Fairfield and Westchester counties) requires both pragmatism and creativity at once. For Hilton, he suggests homeowners should be cognizant of the aspects "hidden within the walls." "It is important to expect surprises and be prepared when renovating. Consequently, it is even more important to take time and plan ahead, not only for unforeseen aspects, but also for modern technologies and amenities," Hilton says. "When renovating, there is always the opportunity to make the home more energy efficient with spray-foam insulation, new windows, LED lighting and much more."

"Always work with a designer. Renovations can seem like a black hole without the proper concept in mind. It is important to have a vision and to try and minimize the amount of changes that are made to it."

—CHARLES HILTON

