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INNOVATION  
IN DESIGN AWARDS 2013



# ARCHITECTURE *Innovator 3*

A GREENWICH GUESTHOUSE INCORPORATES OLD-WORLD COMFORTS AND HIGH-TECH AMENITIES

**CHARLES HILTON ARCHITECTS AND DOUGLAS VANDERHORN ARCHITECTS**

**FOR A CLIENT** that Charles Hilton had been working with for 18 years, Charles Hilton Architects and Douglas VanderHorn Architects (formerly of Hilton-VanderHorn Architects) created

a French Normandy-meets-barn party house. Less frat rager and more idealized dinner party (the wife is an enthusiastic cook), the simple structure incorporates a romantic bedroom tower and a 35-square-foot great room complete with hand-hewn trusses that were flown in from a salvage company in the Carolinas and a multitiered wrought-iron chandelier. The guesthouse supplements the owners' existing estate, an aesthetic that Hilton wanted to reference without copying, add on to without overshadowing.

"All of the materials are kind of Old World, from the hand-hewn timber inside and out, and handmade brick on the outside to the French plaster on the inside," Hilton explains. Limestone from France introduced a rugged texture into the project, and the multiple types of cladding on the exterior—local native granite for the base, antique oak and chestnut beams, and Roman bricks—add a level of visual detail and a tactile flourish that blends seamlessly into the variegated countryside. Hilton wanted the style of this new project to provide a casual yet textured counterpoint to the property's existing Georgian structures.

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**Rock Steady** The house's exterior (TOP) combines a Georgian aesthetic with Normandy specificity; different shapes and sizes of stones create a deeply textured and visually engaging exterior palette. Architect Charles Hilton refers to the tower as his "Juliet" bedroom. A fully equipped gourmet kitchen (ABOVE LEFT) provides a home-away-from-home for the wife, who loves to cook. A carved banister (ABOVE RIGHT) leads from the bedroom area into the lofty great room. Chairs are upholstered in Whistler fabric from Threads at Lee Jofa. See Resources.



**High Style A** 35-square-foot great room, designed by interior designer Isabelle K. Vanneck, offers a massive dining room table through L'Antiquaire, dining chairs covered in Lee Jofa fabric, chandelier and sconces through Paul Ferrante and massive salvaged wood trusses. See Resources.