

CTC & G

Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

COTTAGESGARDENS.COM | SEPTEMBER 2016



Classic Roots

Celebrating Connecticut Design Icons

Lush Landscape The homeowner, an avid gardener, created the home's gorgeous gardens (THIS PAGE). A welcoming gate (OPPOSITE PAGE) and stone path lead to the front door.



Change AGENTS

BY ALEXA STEVENSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANASTASSIOS MENTIS

GOOD IDEAS BECOME
GREAT IDEAS IN THE HANDS
OF TALENTED ARCHITECT
ROB SANDERS AND INTERIOR
DESIGNER GINNY AWN





Start To Finish What started as a master bedroom and bathroom renovation became an entire facelift (pre-renovation facade, *INSET*). By the time architect Rob Sanders was done, he'd added dormers, moved the roofline and replaced the portico on the exterior. See *Resources*.





SOMETIMES IT TAKES A swift kick in the pants to get it done. For a Wilton couple, a rain-filled summer without central air provided the necessary wallop to get them started on an overdue renovation of their 1920s gentleman's barn that had been little updated since it was originally converted in the fifties. "We knew we needed to at least do the master bedroom," says the homeowner, "but life just got in the way."

That aforementioned rainy summer, though, resulted in a pesky mold problem that prompted the couple to get off the dime. They brought in architect Rob Sanders, who the homeowner knew through the Wilton Garden Club, to redo the master bedroom and bathroom. "When he came over, he politely listened to all our ideas," recalls the homeowner. "Then he came back with the most fabulous plan and ignored what we had said. I knew I needed to shut up and listen to an expert. It was a real eye-opener."

"The master was dated to the full extent of the word," says Sanders. It wasn't just the master though, the entire upstairs floor plan—with lots of bedrooms and long corridors and windows so low you couldn't see out of them while standing—needed an overhaul. The master bedroom

New Views In the breakfast nook (ABOVE LEFT), an Allen Knight chandelier hangs above a table from the Gregory Clark Collection, which is surrounded by chairs from Wakefield Design Center covered in a Cowtan & Tout fabric. The kitchen (ABOVE) has quartzite countertops through Everest Marble. In the dining room (BELOW), a graphic Old World Weavers velvet covers the chairs. The murano and glass chandelier is from L'Antiquaire. See Resources.



Red And Gold A quilted red leather sofa in the library is from the New Traditionalists. The leopard printed velvet on the chair and ottoman is Cowtan & Tout. Cocktail table is from Baker. Throw pillows are in a Zimmer + Rohde fabric. See Resources.





Contemporary Touches In the living room (THIS PHOTO AND BELOW LEFT), a custom curved sofa is covered in a Nancy Corzine chenille. A pair of Baker benches with a brass base and a gold and silver snakeskin mimic the quartzite sheathed hearth. Wud Furniture side chair is from Axel Interiors. The blue and brown wallcovering in the office (BELOW RIGHT) is Farrow & Ball. The mirrored desk is through Louis Solomon; and the rug is from Elizabeth Eakins. See Resources.

morphed into a bigger project, and the second floor was modernized for a more functional floor plan. Once the upstairs was complete, everything else paled in comparison. The homeowner decided to attack the kitchen, but “once again, Rob came up with a fantastic plan that basically gutted and flipped the floor plan downstairs,” she says. He reorganized the whole first floor, reversing the kitchen and the dining room, the kitchen now acting as a center hub. “It was an entire facelift by the time we were done,” says Sanders. “We amped up the place, but also gave it more function and let more light in.” The client, a former investment banker turned landscape designer, says, “The gardens are my passion and what I love about the new layout is that when I stand in my kitchen, I have a 360-degree view of them.”

For the interiors, Sanders brought designer and artist Ginny Awn on board during the master bedroom phase. “The homeowner was very organized and showed me all these pictures,” recalls Awn. “I said, ‘I guess you like French?’ and she said, ‘I do?’ She had ideas but needed a clear direction.





“It was an entire facelift by the time we were done. We amped up the place, but also gave it more function and let more light in”



Bold Moves In the son's room (ABOVE), the brushed-nickel chandelier is from Hubbardton Forge. Bed is from Robert Allen. The ottoman and chair are upholstered in a Casamance velvet chenille. Wool rug is from Stark.

Sitting Pretty The bedroom door with black grillwork (TOP RIGHT) is from United House Wrecking. The bench and bed are from Julia Gray. The window treatments are a silk stripe through Kravet. **Graphic Statement** The bathroom (FAR RIGHT) walls feature a Phillip Jeffries grasscloth. The countertops are a dark gray limestone from Everest Marble. Sconce is from Hubbardton Forge. See Resources.



It's funny because over the five years we worked together, her style got more and more contemporary." With its Louix XVI touches, the master is by far the most traditional space in the house.

"Over time, people change, tastes change," explains the homeowner. "I had an 'aha' moment after we did the master. I fell in love with the very contemporary space, and it made me think about design in a different way—you don't have to use your grandma's furniture."

The last phase of the project, the living room, is where this new point of view is fully appreciated. Awn had a blank canvas to start with and covered the living room's hearth with an ivory, gray and gold-tinged quartzite. She kept to a neutral palette weaving in interesting pieces and varied textures: gold and silver snakeskin-covered benches with a brass base; wing chairs with gold-washed legs covered in a creamy leather; a custom curved sofa upholstered in a gray chenille.

"I love this room. It's soothing, relaxing and elegant," says the homeowner. "If I were to start over, I'd do all the rooms like this. It is the culmination of my design sense." Adds Sanders, "We floated around the phrase 'rustic modern a lot. There's a nice tension between contemporary and traditional. It almost has bling quality to it that is a result of the owner's eye and Ginny's ability to fulfill it." ✨





CONTRIBUTORS

CTC&G Faces

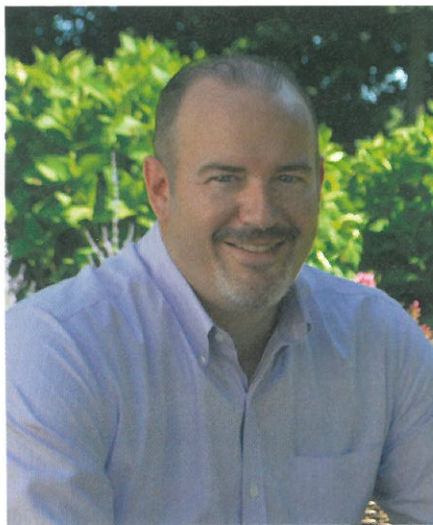


Rob Sanders

As the principal and sole proprietor of Rob Sanders Architects, Rob Sanders has garnered an impressive list of local residential and small commercial projects. Focusing on the historical and environmental context of homes, Sanders brought energy efficiency and practical construction techniques to “Change Agents” (page 74). His destination for iconic Connecticut design? “Weir Farm in Wilton,” he says. **“Set in a rocky, rolling landscape, it’s a historic gem hidden in plain sight.”**

Amy Zolin

After years of trekking around Europe as a home décor and fashion buyer for Saks Fifth Avenue, Amy Zolin started her interior design firm, Clarity Home Interiors, in Greenwich in 2000. Combining her Southern roots and modern perspective, Zolin was able to lend an innovative perspective to “Set In Stone” (page 82). On her work in the area, the designer says: **“I pull my inspiration from nature that is so unique to the New England landscape.”**



Matthew Dougherty

Growing up in the industry, Matthew R. Dougherty combined his passion for drawing and building into high-end residential design and renovation, opening his eponymous architecture firm in 2008. Dougherty’s commitment to his clients’ needs and complex understanding of the industry are evident in “A Winning Combination” (page 66). When reflecting on quintessential Connecticut architecture, he says: **“I envision small coastal towns by the water, like the town of Southport.”** —*Jacqueline Devine*

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHI CHI URBINA (ZOLIN); ALEXIS DOUGHERTY (DOUGHERTY)