

FOREVER STYLE

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PRODUCED BY
CATHERINE SMITH

The secret to ensuring the *next generation of American houses* will remain beautiful over centuries may be found in looking to the past. Here, four top architects share lessons from our *most influential building traditions.*



Huntington Homestead Museum and Family History Center in Scotland, Connecticut.



FLOWERING REVIVALS

Pretty poses and free-flowing tulips elevate historic patterns. **Gigi fabric**, Leah O'Connell. ♦ **May's Tulip wallpaper**, Little Greene.

The FARMHOUSE Classic

THE 18TH-CENTURY AMERICAN COLONIAL HOUSES, says New York-based architect **Elizabeth Roberts**, were all about simplicity and proportion. "The style was common in New England and instantly recognizable: a symmetrical facade, five bays wide, with a central front door and chimney right in the middle of the roof," she explains. Inside, rooms were clearly defined and oriented around a massive brick fireplace for heat. Key to the style's authenticity, she notes, is ensuring windows have the right proportions and keeping forms "simple and clear, with the main wing symmetrical."



EARLY AMERICAN SILHOUETTES

Designed to shield ceilings from soot, bell jar lanterns light entries with centuries of character. **Thomas O'Brien Merchant Lantern**, Visual Comfort & Co.



A SUBDUED SAGE

A weightless green wall color catches the light without overpowering millwork. **Eau de Nile paint**, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint.



UNFUSSY FIXTURES

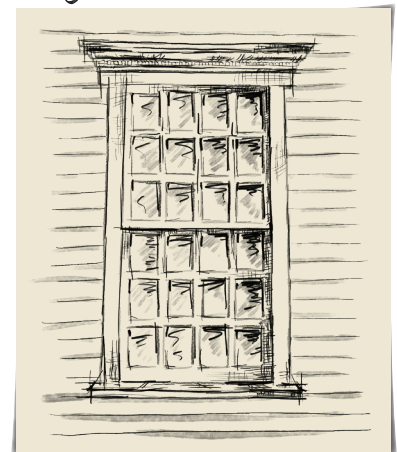
Traditional gooseneck faucets impart vintage kitchen vibes. **Artifacts Single Hole Pull Down kitchen faucet**, Kohler.

HUMBLE HARDWARE

A lever handle in an aged bronze finish keeps metalwork simple and striking. **Digby Passage door handle**, Corston Architectural Detail.



Signature Element



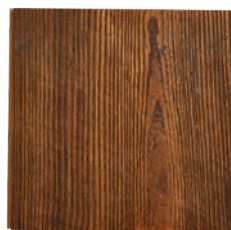
PERFECT SQUARES

Along with a cedar roof, "good, historically correct windows go a long way toward making these houses look right," notes Roberts of the style's 12-over-12 double-hung signature.

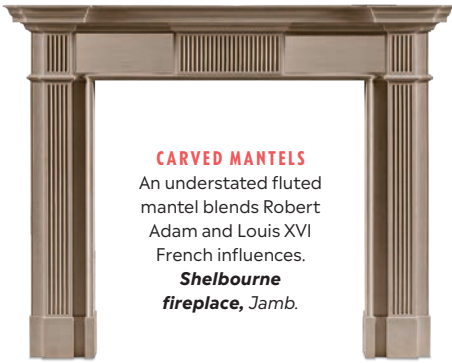


SURFACES WITH A STORY

Hand-painted tiles draw upon old Delft ceramics and lace tablecloths; reclaimed pine brings knots and other imperfections to wide-plank flooring. **Floral Corner, Madeleine, and Tulip tiles**, Marlborough Tiles. ♦ **Reclaimed Heart Pine**, The Hudson Company.

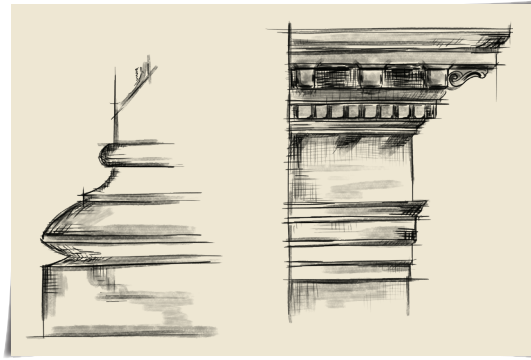


HUNTINGTON HOMESTEAD; STAN TESS/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; PAINT SWATCH, ADOBE STOCK; GIGI FABRIC SWATCH, MADELEINE AND TULIP TILES; AND RECLAIMED HEART PINE WOOD SAMPLE; BECKY LUGART-STAYNER; ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA LUDLAW.



CARVED MANTELS

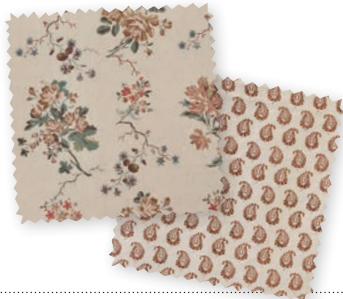
An understated fluted mantel blends Robert Adam and Louis XVI French influences. **Shelbourne fireplace, Jamb.**



Signature Element

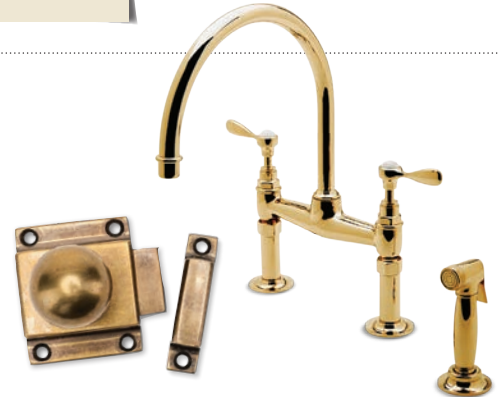
ELEGANT MILLWORK

Well-scaled moldings and chair rails add depth “without feeling heavy,” Ingram says. “Simple panel configurations, generous wood casings, and substantial baseboards give rooms a sense of weight and permanence.”



CHARMING CHINTZES

Freshened-up cottons and linens revive heritage textile traditions; an earthy green plays well with both. **Providence Olive paint, Benjamin Moore.** • **Claude fabric, Guy Goodfellow.** • **Howe Cypress fabric, Nickey Kehoe.**

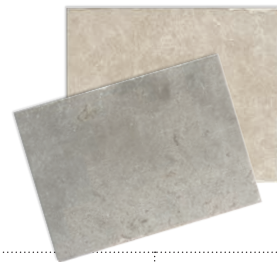


WARM, BURNISHED METALS

Finishes like unlacquered brass bring a sense of age to new fixtures. **Mark D. Sikes Clementine latch, Modern Matter.** • **Easton Vintage Kitchen Faucet, Waterworks.**

The GEORGLAN Grand Dame

THOSE AMAZING GEORGIAN REVIVALS of the early 20th century remind us that tradition and livability have always gone hand in hand,” says Atlanta-based architect **C. Brandon Ingram**, who credits composed rooflines, warm brick, steadfast symmetry, and generously sized yet proportionate windows for conveying the quiet authority of this neoclassical British style. Inside, paneled wooden doors and walls, natural stone countertops, and stained floors emphasize natural materials. When these elements are correct, furnishings and color only enhance these buildings’ presence and sense of tradition. “Remember that good Georgian architecture leaves room for living,” he says. “Comfort, warmth, and individuality are not at odds with order and symmetry.”



TEXTURED LIMESTONE

Natural stone floors are a linchpin of high-traffic entries and service areas. **Paris Grey and Dubuisson limestone, François & Co.**



The George Wythe House in Williamsburg, Virginia.



NOBLE OUTDOOR LIGHTING

A zinc lantern with a classical form feels like an extension of the architecture. **Zeus hanging lantern, Hector Finch.**

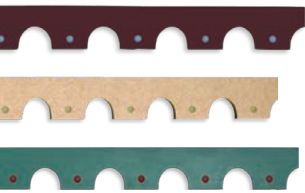
The ARTS and CRAFTS Vanguard

IN THE LATE 1800S, a new style of architecture broke with industrialized construction methods to “focus on reviving local, handmade craftsmanship,” says architect **Cristiana Pledger** of Birmingham, Alabama-based Pledger Architect. Featuring deep eaves, exposed rafters, and carefully scaled masonry details, Arts and Crafts swept the country and found regional expressions—from Tudor Revival in the East to Mission in the West. Replicating its beauty, advises architect **Mark Pledger**, calls for “structural authenticity, a lack of over-ornamentation, an emphasis on natural materials, and a holistic approach to the design of interior and exterior.”



EXPRESSIVE LIGHTING

A 1927 harlequin-inspired copper pendant recalls original custom designs. *Poul Henningsen Early PH 4/4 pendant lamp, Rose Uniacke.*



CREATIVE TRIM

Handmade scalloped architrave molding adds decorative flair. *Kate Guinness x Camilla Hampton Kate molding, Camilla Hampton.*

The Robert R. Blacker House in Pasadena, California.



HARDWARE WITH HEFT

Well-crafted bronze hardware upholds hand-forged precedents. *Tay handles, MG&Co. • Arched multi-point entry set, Rocky Mountain Hardware.*

Signature Element



COZY INGLENOOKS

Emblematic of Arts and Crafts-style houses, inglenooks feature a fireplace with built-in seating around the hearth. “Finding the correct scale and proportion of architectural elements is a must for authenticity,” Mark says.



NATURE-INSPIRED PRINTS

Hand-painted vines in retro hues balance darker wood details. *Chandler fabrics, Ferrick Mason.*

LUMINOUS ACCENTS

Rich neutral paints highlight carved wood; glazed ceramic tiles brighten hearths. *Artemis Rose relief tile, House of Hackney. • Bath Stone paint, Little Greene.*



FOLKY WALLPAPER

Dainty floral stripes have just the right throwback vibes. *Daydress Trousseau wallpaper, Dado Atelier.*

BLACKER HOUSE: ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; CHANDLER FABRIC SAMPLES: TROUSSEAU WALLPAPER, AND BATH STONE PAINT SWATCH: BECKY LUGART-STAYNER; ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA LUDLAM.



THROWBACK ELECTRICS

Unlacquered toggle light switches bring atmospheric beauty. **Toggle switch**, Forbes & Lomax.

The Gracious **GREEK REVIVAL**

THIS CLASSICAL EXPRESSION IS “uniquely American,” says South Bend–based architect **Aimee Buccellato** of Buccellato Design & Architecture. “The idealized forms—stout columns, deep entablatures—were translated from stone models in Europe to wood versions in the US, where, unlike abroad, timber remained abundant,” she says. Pediments supported by Greek Doric columns exemplify the symmetrical exteriors, while wide hardwood floors and marble fireplace surrounds characterize interiors. Long after the style has been adapted in different regions of the US, “there’s opportunity for invention in Greek Revival,” Buccellato says.



Lanier Mansion in Madison, Indiana.



AN ENDURING HUE

White has been a hallmark of facades since the mid 19th century. **Pointing paint**, Farrow & Ball.



BOLD PATTERNS

Geometric and Greek key motifs are striking against white trim. **Philadelphia Harlequin wallpaper and Greek Key border**, Adelphi Paper Hangings.

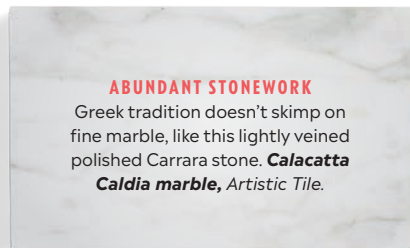
DORIC HARDWARE

Delicately fluted polished brass knobs echo iconic classical columns. Forged by Jared Hughes **Devonshire (left) and Argyle spiral knobs**, Art & Forge.



ABUNDANT STONEMARK

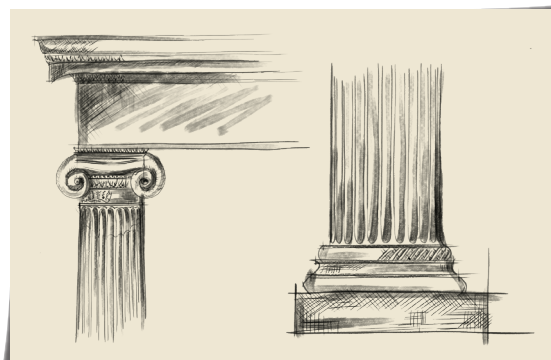
Greek tradition doesn’t skip on fine marble, like this lightly veined polished Carrara stone. **Calacatta Caldia marble**, Artistic Tile.



Signature Element

COLUMN FLUTING

Grooved detailing differentiates Greek columns from their smooth Roman counterparts. “This language in domestic architecture is distinct and expressive,” Buccellato says.



PROPERLY SCALED FIXTURES

These hand-cast brass fittings won’t be dwarfed by grand architectural elements. **The Chessleton 4-Hole Bath & Shower Mixer, Drummonds**.

LANIER MANSION: WILLIAM J. LACKNER/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS; PHILADELPHIA HARLEQUIN WALLPAPER, GREEK KEY BORDER, AND CALACATTA CALDIA MARBLE SAMPLE, BECKY LUIGART-STAYNER; ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA LUDLAM.