

Suburban Classic™

Celebrating
Spring in the
Suburbs

Tommy Hilfiger's
Estate,
Stone Hill

Spring at the
New York Botanical
Gardens

+ Fly Fishing
the Americas

Athletes
from New York,
New Jersey &
Connecticut

**Our
Athlete
of the Year**





IN THE PURSUIT NEW CLASSICIST, DINYAR WADIA OF BEAUTY



When Dinyar S. Wadia launched his career as an architectural designer in the late 1960s, his early modernist sensibilities sparked one potential lender to suggest he “jump out of the window.” Today, Wadia spends no time seeking the approval of bankers, preferring the sort of praise proffered by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, whose *Forward* for Wadia’s new book *New Classicists* notes Wadia’s “command of architectural languages, whose enduring appeal guarantees a commission, continues to be enjoyed long after prevailing fashions have moved on.”

WRITTEN BY BROOKE PERRY
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JONATHAN WALLEN & DURSTEN SAYLOR

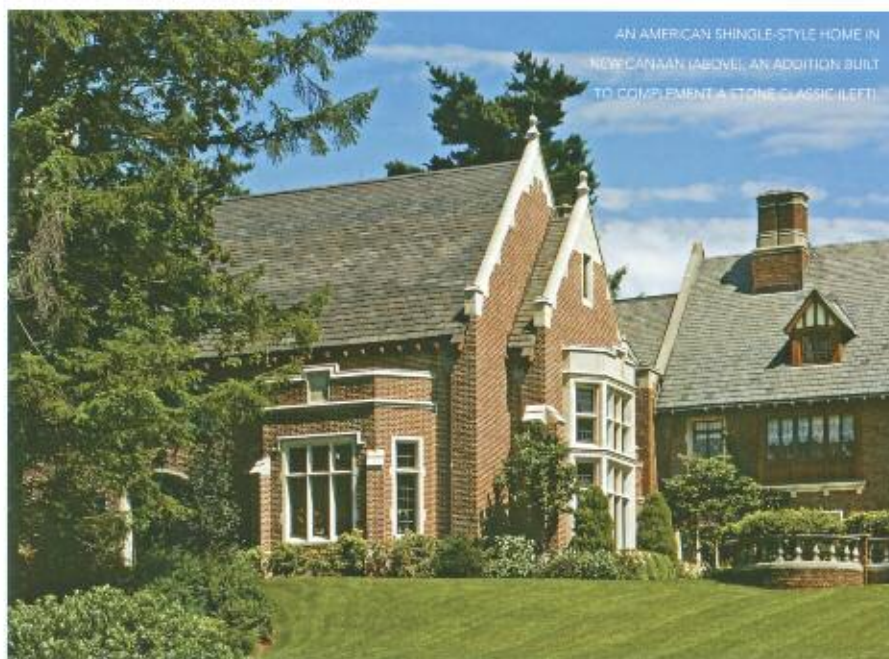
THE KITCHEN AND BREAKFAST PORCH OF THIS HOUSE IN DARIEN WAS DESIGNED TO CAPTURE THE MORNING SUN, AND PROVIDE SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF LONG ISLAND SOUND.



For more than 30 years, Dinyar Wadia has earned a reputation for designing and building homes, gardens and interiors of the highest quality. He and his accomplished team have helped sculpt the local environment, becoming important regional proponents of classicism while intuitively navigating within an eclectic range of architectural styles—from English Tudor to French Normandy, Georgian to Victorian, Tuscan to Adirondack. Our goal remains to “create exquisite and ultimately very livable homes that remain anchored in traditional classical design,” says Wadia.

“New classicism represents a potent architectural phenomenon, which a new century heralds and to which attention must now be paid,” says Paul Gunther, president of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America, in praise of Wadia’s work. “Since 1975, Dinyar Wadia’s contemporary application of classical forms and their varying means of expression have helped ensure the region’s historic continuum. The results are not only fine individual structures, but also stronger neighborhoods and built landscapes respectful of past excellence, which demonstrate reinvention and renewal.”

Born in Bombay, India, Wadia developed a keen interest in architecture at an early age. He credits the city’s Gateway of India, the Victoria Terminus (railway station) and the lush gardens surrounding his summer home outside Bombay with helping to shape some of his earliest ideas about architecture and the relationship between buildings and their surroundings.



AN AMERICAN SHINGLE-STYLE HOME IN NEW CANAAN (ABOVE); AN ADDITION BUILT TO COMPLEMENT A STONE CLASSIC (LEFT)

Born in Bombay, India, Wadia developed a keen interest in architecture at an early age. He credits the city’s Gateway of India, the Victoria Terminus (railway station) and the lush gardens surrounding his summer home outside Bombay with helping to shape some of his earliest ideas about architecture and the relationship between buildings and their surroundings.

THE LOGGIA OF THE STATELY
AMERICAN COLONIAL STYLE HOUSE
PROVIDES SWEEPING VIEWS OF THE
PICTURESQUE GARDENS.





Wadia studied architecture at India's Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, completing a five-year program that included, fortuitously, fine arts and landscape architecture. India's political climate and Wadia's own interest in pursuing a master's degree in the U.S. led him and his wife, Gool, to move to New York, where he enrolled at Columbia University in 1968. He graduated as a William Kinney Fellow with several job offers, including one from his professor, Victor Christ-Janer, a successful modernist architect in New Canaan. He has never regretted his decision to forego the fast pace of New York City in favor of more rural Connecticut where, he recalls, "I learned two very valuable professional lessons: the importance of really listening to people and the understanding that ego has no place in successful design."

Though many of Wadia's earliest designs were modern, after six years living among Con-

necticut's country estates and elegant homes, he was drawn to the classical design that first inspired him in India. He formed Wadia Associates in 1975 and, though modern architecture was the order of the day, he nurtured his growing appreciation for classical design by turning to a handful of inspiring sources. "Sir Banister Fletcher's *A History of Architecture* proved to be a priceless resource on the principals of classicism," explains Wadia, who credits the work of renowned architects John Russell Pope, Sir Edwin Lutyens and Stanford White with strongly influencing his style.

Although principally an architectural design company, Wadia Associates has grown over the years—largely driven by client demand—to also offer an interior decorating service, a garden design service and a construction management service. "Many times, clients choose to use all of our services as this streamlines the design process," notes Wadia.

Not surprisingly, Wadia is a passionate garden-lover and has traveled to many of the world's finest public and private gardens. "A house without a garden has no soul," he has said. And for this reason, his clients often describe their homes as "rooted in the landscape." From the location of existing trees to the placement of windows to capture natural light, site consideration is of paramount importance to Wadia. And the proof is in the pudding, as his own gardens, Gitanjali—named after an Indian poem—have recently received a prestigious Palladio Award, which honors outstanding achievement in traditional design and recognizes designers whose work enhances the beauty and humane qualities of the built environment.

Although all of the firm's projects are traditional or classical in design, a Wadia home does not have a singular style. "Connecticut, in particular, has a long history of eclectic architectural styles, including





SET ON A PENINSULA, THIS QUEEN ANNE-STYLE HOUSE (LEFT) IN GREENWICH OFFERS PANORAMIC VIEWS OF LONG ISLAND SOUND. THE VOLUMETRIC SPACE OF WADIA'S OWN DRAWING OFFICE WAS INSPIRED BY THE "CARCERI" ETCHINGS OF RENAISSANCE ARCHITECT GIOVANNI PATTISTA PIRANESI (TOP-LEFT). THE SAMPLE ROOM OF WADIA'S OFFICE (ABOVE) IS A TREASURE TROVE, CRAMMED WITH ARCHITECTURAL CAST MOULDING, AND FABRICS USED BY HIS IN-HOUSE DECORATING TEAM.

the first shingle and colonial homes in the country. As such, we design homes in a number of traditional styles, which ultimately complement our clients' individual tastes and lifestyles," Wadia explains.

Though avowed New Classicists, Wadia Associates' pluralistic approach to traditional design is not rooted in a slavish imitation of the past. More appropriately, it is based upon reinterpreting the past and updating it for the present. And while all of his designs feature the classic proportions and exquisite details of houses from a bygone age, Wadia and his team are still able to incorporate all the amenities and needs of a modern American family. "Whether I am designing an apartment in Manhattan, a pool house in Greenwich or a grand estate on Long Island Sound, it is traditional architecture for the modern world," states Wadia.

Currently, the New Canaan-based Wadia Associates has projects in Greenwich, Irvington, Long Island, Manhattan, New Canaan, Weston, Wilton and Westport. [Their architectural monograph, titled *New Classicists - Wadia Associates* (published by Images Publishing Group) is available at most bookstores and online retailers.]

8.



THE FRONT OF THIS FRENCH COUNTRY
HOUSE IS FRAMED THROUGH CUSTOM
DESIGNED WROUGHT IRON GATES.

