

EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN

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The Amazing *Transformations* Issue



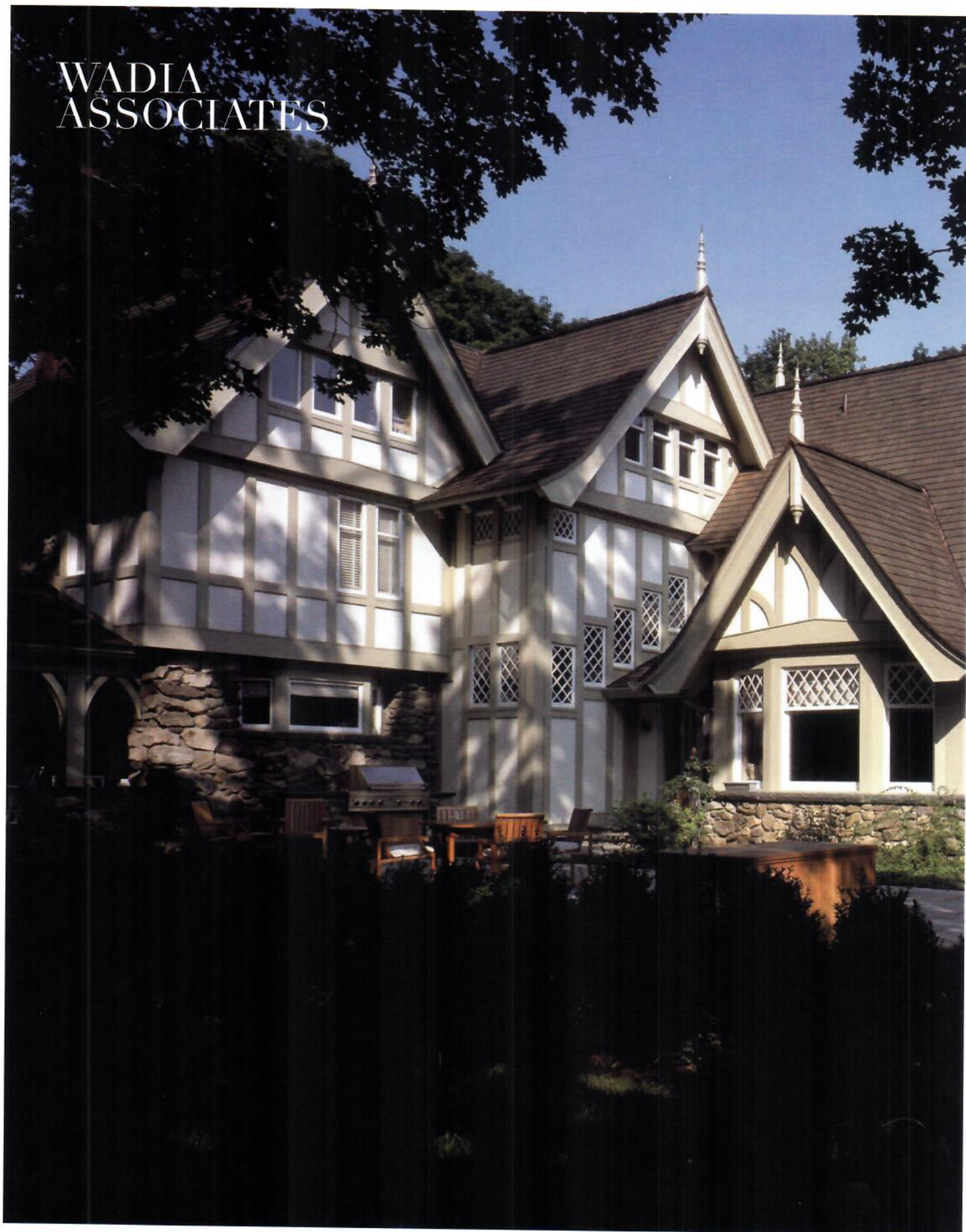
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WADIA ASSOCIATES





Before



Historical

There is something special about historical homes. Perhaps it's knowing that many hours went into their construction, in the days before modern construction methods made building homes far faster. Or perhaps it's that each has its own unique personality. Perhaps it's the weight of history itself, the feeling that the home has lived a lifetime of its own, sheltering families beneath its roof. Whatever it is, for some, the idea of the perfect home is one that has withstood the test of time and endures.

But historical homes often need a little help to bring them up to modern living standards, and that's where New Canaan, CT-based Wadia Associates comes into the picture. For more than 40 years, Dinyar Wadia and his firm have been dedicated to historical home restoration and remodeling, as well as designing distinctive new homes based on reinterpretations of historical architectural styles for today's modern world.

This project was a little of both worlds. The original home, constructed in the 1930s, had already undergone one remodeling.





Before

The clients came to Dinyar and his team for help in what was intended to be a redesign of the exterior front entrance. Inspired by the home's character, Dinyar offered ideas for a new half-wing addition, which inspired the homeowners, and the project evolved into a renovation of both the exterior and interior.

"The addition consists of a side entrance, plus a new family room and kitchen with a breakfast area; there is also an attic guest bedroom above and an office below the family room," Dinyar explains. "The existing house had beautiful form and proportions. Not being one to reinvent the wheel, I used the same half-timber and stucco style on the exterior of the new construction, giving the home a seamless addition that complements the existing house, and looks as though it has been there from the time the original house was built."

Part of the magic of Wadia's work comes from careful attention to not only the house, but the land around it. Landscaping is an integral part of many of the firm's projects, and this one is no exception. The thoughtfully crafted landscaping creates the illusion that the home has always existed thus. It is also key to giving the property the air of an English country home, complete with a beautiful, wild cottage garden. Fast-growing ivy, roses and a profusion of perennials like geraniums and salvia add color and beauty from early spring through autumn. A drainage ditch on one side of the property was transformed into a babbling brook, further enhancing the country-home ambience.

The result of Dinyar's eye for the beauty and grace of classical architecture is a home that is a lovely blend of Tudor and Victorian styles both elegant and charming.

ARCHITECT / BUILDER

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