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PHOTO: DAN MAYERS

english accent.

WRITTEN BY LEILANI MARIE LABONG | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL PARTENIO

WHEN A LAVISH JACOBEOAN MANSE POPS UP ON A LAKE IN GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT, ITS PRESENCE COMMANDS MORE THAN A FEW AWE-INSPIRED DOUBLE TAKES. For starters, the ancestral homeland of the Renaissance-era architecture is closer to England than New England. Even so, the geographical divergence doesn't detract from the home's authenticity as much as it contributes to its spirit. Although architect Dinyar Wadia states that the home was designed to look like a centuries-old estate somewhere in the misty Scottish Highlands, it's hardly foreboding; after all, it was built for a young American family. Optimism was naturally part of the blueprint.

INTERIOR DESIGN Cindy Rinfret, Rinfret, Ltd. Interior Design & Decoration		
ARCHITECTURE Dinyar Wadia, Wadia Associates		
HOME BUILDER Doron Sabag and Jim Hoffman, Sound Beach Partners		
BEDROOMS 5	BATHROOMS 9	SQUARE FEET 12,000





SECRET GARDEN

The Chippendale-style fretwork on the stair railing gives the foyer a garden-like appeal. The geometric motif shows up in the drapery's velvet trim and the transom windows. Octagons also prevail here, appearing in the custom table and J.D. Staron silk rug.



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Upon first impression, the light quartzite on the home's façade conveys an unexpected hopefulness. "The Jacobean style is usually very dark," explains Wadia, who specializes in historical architecture. "This home is bright, but that doesn't take away from its grandeur." Hand-carved stone balustrades and parapets, quintessentially Jacobean, give the residence a majestic quality, as does its sheer magnitude. The impressive scope is magnified by the fact that it took just 16 months to build (hat tip to builders Doron Sabag and Jim Hoffman). "Sixteen months seems fast," Wadia says with a laugh when explaining the homeowners' enthusiastic timeline, "but when you're eager to start a new life, it's an eternity."

CASUAL CORNER

A whimsical chandelier from Canopy Designs hangs above a Bausman & Company table in the breakfast room, speaking to the relaxed vibe. Other informal accents include a raffia rug from J.D. Staron, an easy-to-clean leather banquette from Vanguard Furniture, and a tongue-and-groove plank ceiling.



SKY BOUND

Though its glass ceiling gives the kitchen a lofty feel, the space is grounded by the wood coffers, floors and stately island, which is flanked by barstools from Sherrill Occasional and lit by matching Dennis & Leen lanterns.

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The custom-designed octagonal table in the foyer, for instance, doesn't just make a beautiful orchid stand; in case of a large dinner party, it's a perfect host for hors d'oeuvres or extra table settings. Despite the intricate plasterwork ceiling that gives the living room a bit of pageantry, the cavernous space yields three intimate seating areas—again, a very utilitarian setup, especially for festive soirees. In the family room, handsome wingback chairs covered in either leather or vintage velvet aren't too sophisticated to follow the action, rolling on casters to provide front-row seating around the television, fireplace or games table.



GATHER 'ROUND

Despite its distinction as the formal dining room, the space is far from stuffy thanks to dainty chandeliers from John Rosselli & Associates and comfortable upholstered chairs from The Charles Stewart Company around a Bausman & Company table. The damask wallpaper is by Farrow & Ball.



STRAIT TALK

Rinfret installed more than a dozen Holly Hunt lanterns in the main hallway to create a colonnade. The textured pattern on the rug and the detail on the Asian-inspired side tables from Althorp are homages to the architectural carvings on the home's façade and imported staircase railing.

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Even the sumptuous materials Rinfret favors demand practicality. Custom silk-blend rugs embellished with geometric patterns found in the architecture define spaces more clearly, especially in the living room. Contrary to popular belief, the dining room's duo of crystal chandeliers isn't intended to double the glamour quotient. "One would have been too grand," explains Rinfret. Even the master bedroom's centerpiece, an effervescent Arctic Pear chandelier by Ochre, has to share the spotlight with the enchanting ceiling decoration.



MAN CAVE

Embossed crocodile walls, a suede-clad ceiling and plaid wool drapery transform the oak-paneled library into a vision of masculinity. It also serves as the husband's home office, with pieces from O. Henry House, Theodore Alexander and Lee Jofa setting the scene.



WIND DOWN

The wife's personal bath boasts an antique chaise upholstered in Holland & Sherry and dual chandeliers—a wrought-iron number from Currey & Company and a bell-shaped pendant from Vaughan Designs.

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In the library, an embossed crocodile wallcovering, suede ceilings and velvet-lined bookcases are not only luxurious and inviting but also lend a certain gravitas to the tableau, exemplifying its alternate function as a home office. The nobility of the architecture also resonates here, perhaps more so than in any other room. "It's a really sexy space," admits Rinfret, proving that such sublime trappings aren't only provocative by design, they're Jacobean by nature. **L**



SERENITY NOW

The Arctic Pear chandelier from Ochre is a classic centerpiece that doesn't detract from any of the master bedroom's other stunners, like the decorative ceiling, geometric rug from Patterson, Flynn & Martin and upholstered headboard from Panache Designs.