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BACKYARD HIDEAWAY
New Canaan Colonial

Wadia Associates

Just as inviting for morning coffee and the paper as it is for cocktail hour, a well-designed porch can instantly transport just about anyone from the daily grind. The owners of this New Canaan property wanted to add porches in the front and back, a palladium window and wooden door columns to their 1905 Colonial, taking full advantage of the beautiful sunsets and gardens the home's location affords.

The firm worked in complete lockstep with landscape architect Jay Fain to design the walkway and rock wall from the family's garden up to the house. Wadia also felt balance was important, being sure not to allow the back of the home to compete too much with the front, all the while making the back porch a real destination. "The entrance porch and the back porch mirror each other a little bit," says Dinyar Wadia, the firm's founder. "They are both appropriate for the house."

Wadia's team was careful to honor the home's understated Colonial feel, from the choice to use rubble fieldstone as the base stonework of the porch to the final touches of wicker furniture. "When you're dealing with a house like this, it's an essay in ego suppression," says Wadia, noting that the home is thought to have been originally built by legendary American architectural team McKim, Mead and White. "You have got to be respectful of what is already there."

Photography by JONATHAN WALLEN