

DESIGNING HISTORY

By PATRICIA ESPINOSA

In the spirit of our historic homes issue, I've asked three Greenwich designers, each distinctly qualified, to offer his or her viewpoint when it comes to creating interiors for homes of a certain pedigree.

In her firm, Ellsworth Ford Associates, **Robin Kencel** has taken a special interest in preserving, restoring and renovating historic properties throughout the United States, as in the Phillip Johnson-renovated 1770s glass barn she decorated in Madison, Conn. Her designs endeavor to create beautiful interiors that complement the architecture, never competing or distracting from it.

Christina Roughan's work at Roughan Interior Design is marked by her timeless sophistication and her keen ability to mix classic with modern. Roughan believes that interiors are to be lived in and reflect

the people who reside in the spaces, even if the space happens to be an historic 1800s limestone townhouse in Manhattan.

Ralph Vuolo, owner of Ralph Vuolo Designs, has consulted on historic preservation, art and antiques. As co-founder of the Greenwich Neighborhoods Preservation Association, he has worked with the Greenwich Historical Society and The Historic District Commission to establish an historic district of 50 buildings and structures by a watermill. His favorite projects are those that merge new and old, bringing a fresh perspective to decorating with antiques like the featured dining room in this 19th century Cape Cod house in Rye.

With years of experience, each is committed to honoring the uniqueness of historic structures by creating designs that live in the present while respecting the past. Because good design never goes out of style.



Photograph by
Chi Chi Ubina.



Photograph by
Andrew French.

1. Be mindful of the scale and proportions of each room and the home overall. The departure point for decorating any historic home is understanding the architectural style, resulting in a harmony of the space and furnishings in it. In the photo above, the monastery dining table, high-backed upholstered dining chairs and luxurious sofas were designed to fit this Philip Johnson-renovated antique barn on the Connecticut shoreline.



Robin Kencel

2. Be responsive to opportunities that enable you to be consistent with the home's original architecture.

3. Select materials of a quality and personality that are consistent with those originally used in the home. The lady's master bath above took as its inspiration a 1930s Jansen lavabo, mirror and brass vanity. It took three searches to find a soft peach/pink marble that was similar to that of the bath pieces for use as flooring and tub surrounds.