

Clem Labine's Period Home

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INTERIOR

Profile

With **New England in Mind**, by *Dan Cooper*

From single-family homes to mixed-use and New Urbanist projects, Providence, RI-based Donald Powers Architects specializes in modern interpretations of historical precedent.

6

Feature

Classicism and the Kitchen, by *Sarah Blank*

The kitchen has evolved significantly over the years, but the age-old principles of Classical architecture offer valuable guidelines for contemporary kitchen design.

10

Recent Projects

New York Story, by *Lynne Lavelle*

Timothy Bryant Architect's renovation of a 1917 John Carpenter-designed apartment in Manhattan combines pre-war elegance with Bohemian art, fabrics and furnishings.

14

Georgian Character, by *Nancy Berry*

Ken Tate Architect combines a Federal floor plan with Greek Revival details for a fresh take on both narratives in Oxford, MS.

18

Book Reviews

Retrofitting Suburbia, by Ellen Dunham-Jones and June Williamson, reviewed by *Clem Labine*

76

The Classicist No. 8, edited by Richard John, reviewed by *Eve M. Kahn*

78

The Du Ponts: Houses and Gardens in the Brandywine, 1900-1951, by Maggie Lidz, reviewed by *Annabel Hsin*

80

The Forum

The Fight for Craftsmanship, by *Brent Hull*

The craftsman-versus-the-machine debate comes down to the fine details.

82

Departments

Advertiser Index 21

Calendar of Events 65

On the cover: SBD Kitchens of New Canaan, CT, utilizes the principles of Classical architecture in designing contemporary kitchens, such as this design, which drew on the Ionic order. *See page 10.*

Photo: Nancy Hill



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work in the interiors,” says Tate. The entry hall is flanked by the dining room on the right and the gentleman’s study to the left. The dining room, which was designed for formal dinners, has two large interior floor-to-ceiling windows opening into the living room. The interior windows serve several purposes: they create the illusion that this room was a later addition to the home; they increase the natural light in the rooms (the deep porches cut down on the amount of direct sunlight); and they create a flow to the spaces while the home is being used for entertaining. The 1,000-sq.-ft. living room has a bank of custom double hung six-over-nine paned windows looking onto the back porch. To avoid them looking like one large modern picture window, the windows and their trim become an architectural device – a Classical frame for the porch and shimmering pool beyond. The window trim is built up into the pediment and the panes are made of hand-blown glass.

The service spaces – the sinker cypress kitchen, laundry and pantry – border the east side of the house to capture early morning light while the private spaces – the master bedroom, master bath, sitting room and his and her walk-in closets – border the west side. The 12-in.-wide heart-pine flooring throughout the house is reclaimed from old tobacco warehouses. Tate tucked two guest bedrooms into the home’s front and rear pediments. Interior designer Jimmy Graham of Memphis, TN-based Jimmy Graham Interior Design added flourishes of the Federal period, which appear in the way of murals and mural wallcoverings that reinforce the storyline Tate has created. The two masonry dependencies – the pool house and exercise cabana – that flank the pool are pure Greek Revival narratives; Tate describes them as masculine and austere. The brick structures and the Greek Doric columns were constructed using traditional construction methods of stacked bricks with a stucco overlay. The wall and patio brick are queen-sized Carolina handmade brick. Tate had the bricklayers clean the brick with wire brushes (rather than harsh chemicals) to give it a more antiqued effect; the mortar is made of white lime plaster and also gives the appearance of being older.

The end result of this Southern storybook house is a testament to Tate’s deep understanding of the language of architecture and his ability to apply it to creating works of art in our built environment. – Nancy Berry

Nancy E. Berry is the editor of New Old House magazine. She has written extensively about architecture and interior design for a variety of publications and is the author of Dining Wainscoting, Mantels, Built-ins, Baseboards, Cornices, Castings and Columns to Your Home (Rockport Publishers, 2007).



Above and above left: The pool house pediment is supported by masculine Greek Doric columns, which were constructed using traditional methods: stacked brick with a stucco overlay. The bricks used for the terrace are queen-sized Carolina handmade brick.



Tate designed the dependency buildings in the true Greek Revival style and the material used (brick) varies from the main house (wood) to give the illusion the structures were built in different time periods.

WEB ONLY: For additional photographs of this project, go to www.period-homes.com/extras/March10Tate.htm

Historical Products Showcase

To order free product literature from a company listed in this Buying Guide, go to www.period-homes.com/rs and click on the appropriate reader service number.

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