



MARK FINLAY

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Style of original home:

French Normandy

Before: 4,710 square feet

After: 14,786 square feet
(including the basement)

Main renovation objective:

The firm undertook an extensive restoration project that preserved the original 1930s house designed by George Howe, a traditional and International-style architect. Our firm added ancillary wings, which expanded on the iconic form while integrating seamlessly with the original structure. It was our goal to bring back the design intent and integrity of the original Hopelands property while upgrading it to modern standards. Working with Rhode Island's Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, we closely followed the original design of the building and carefully salvaged components to use in the remodeled building.

What launched the design:

Our clients chose our firm for our expertise in historic restoration. We have the unique ability to interpret an old, historic house plan in a contemporary way.

How long the renovation took:

Two years

A special/unique feature of the new home:

With extensive knowledge and experience working in a historical context, the home was designed with close attention to detail. The timeless nature of this home

evokes a sense of permanence, standing as if it has lived on the property through different eras. Although historic, the home still suits a contemporary lifestyle.

The biggest challenge during the renovation:

Building through the winter months. The entire house was tented for continuous construction throughout the winter.

Favorite element of the new home:

The distinct element of the remodeled home is the Ludowici clay roof tiles, which pay tribute to the home's historic essence.

A signature touch you included:

The existing residence was

completely dismantled and rebuilt on a new foundation with a new full basement. We also added a pool on the north façade, expanded the terrace and walkway and reconstructed a walled garden in the backyard.

A special request you fulfilled:

The house was designed for Category 5 wind loads. In order to meet our clients' need for a strong and lasting home, the residence now rests on their property with complete steel frames, concrete block walls, brick veneer and hurricane-proof windows.

How the landscape/views influenced the design:

Perched on a bluff along the Sakonnet River in Middletown,

Rhode Island, this French country house rambles across a historic property comprising manicured lawns and a charming vineyard. The whitewashed brick house, punctuated by azure shutters, can be spotted at the end of an allée of linden trees lining its cobblestone drive. The historically significant landscape and manicured gardens work in harmony with the surrounding vineyards to complement the ambiance of this reincarnated French Normandy-style property.

The best part of this renovation:

The house, although expanded, feels historic and graces the site with honor.

