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PLUM PICKS

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THE BEST OF 2025

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*A-LIST
AWARDS
ISSUE*

TOP DESIGN
TALENTS OF 2025

BATH DESIGN **WINNER** • Austin Patterson Disston Architecture & Design

DECO DRAMA



Set on a generous, secluded lot, this 1930s Cotswold-style home had accumulated a series of awkward additions over the 1970s and '80s. The homeowners, raising two energetic boys, wanted a residence that could support modern family life while honoring the storybook charm of the original stone-clad structure. The Austin Patterson Disston team's first challenge was to untangle the warren of clustered rooms, creating a more logical flow and a unified architectural language that feels both spacious and welcoming.

The primary bathroom exemplifies this careful balance of past and present, brought to life through the discerning eye of interior designer Nina Farmer. Geometric floor tiles, a Pompeian-red lacquered vanity and a mirrored wall evoke the high-gloss elegance of mid-twentieth-century Italian design. Copper-accented cabinetry, a sleek marble countertop, brass fixtures and an antique mirror layer texture and Art Deco detail, creating a space that feels warm, luxurious and thoughtfully curated. Subtle design choices—like careful lighting placement and tonal contrast—enhance the drama without overwhelming the room.

Beyond aesthetics, the renovation addressed the home's infrastructure: insulation was added throughout, and a geothermal HVAC system installed, bringing the house up to modern energy standards. The result is a home that feels simultaneously lived-in and elevated—a place where fairytale charm, global design references and contemporary family functionality coexist in perfect harmony.

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PHOTOS: HALL/ROUBIAS



this photo: Nina Farmer opted for a custom pattern tiled floor to ground the Italian-inspired bathroom.
opposite page: Copper-accented cabinetry is topped with marble, an antiqued mirror and Waterworks faucet.



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BATH DESIGN WINNER • VanderHorn Architects with Kelly Rosen Design

GREEK TWEAK

This primary bathroom reimagines Greek Revival tradition through a contemporary lens, merging classical design with modern luxury. Custom-designed cabinetry anchors the space with symmetry, while pale blue lacquered finishes nod to the hues of the surrounding stone, establishing a cohesive cool palette. Every surface is unified by a bespoke blue marble—used for wainscoting, base trim, door casings, chair rails and the full-height shower walls—giving the room a jewel-box quality that elevates both architecture and finish.

A dual-sink vanity is flanked by mirrored towers, cleverly concealing storage, while warm metal frames and vertical sconces create a soft, flattering glow against the reflective marble. Overhead, a sculptural pendant

introduces a modern counterpoint to the classical detailing, reinforcing the bath's timeless aesthetic.

In the bay window, a freestanding metal-clad soaking tub sits beneath sheer Roman shades, offering a contemplative pause and a view to the garden beyond. Portal-like thresholds in the same honed stone lead to the marble-clad shower and private water closet, ensuring continuity and a sense of immersive cohesion.

Richly layered yet restrained, this bath exemplifies how disciplined classical design can be interpreted for today's lifestyle, a credit to VanderHorn Architects and Kelly Rosen Design's collaboration. With thoughtful proportion, meticulous material selection and subtle layering of detail, the space transforms daily ritual into an elevated experience.

above: A custom double vanity in pale lacquer anchors the room with classical symmetry. Above, a unique coved cornice caps the composition before wrapping the rest of the room. **opposite page:** The freestanding metal-clad soaking tub sits within a marble-lined bay window. A sculptural plaster light fixture offers a contemporary counterpoint to the classical setting.

PHOTOS: ROBERT BENSON



OFFICE/LIBRARY **WINNER** • VanderHorn Architects with Kelly Rosen Design

CHARACTER STUDY

VanderHorn Architects and Kelly Rosen Design set out to reimagine this classical Greek Revival library for a modern client, leaning into tradition while streamlining the details for contemporary life. Every surface—walls, doors, ceilings and trim—is clad in a continuous honey-toned wood, creating an enveloping warmth and a sense of unity. The rigor of the millwork, with its fluted pilasters, framed panels and deep crown moldings, lends balance and refinement, ensuring the library feels like a fully integrated architectural statement rather than a decorative afterthought.

At its center, a black stone fireplace framed by a crisply detailed mantel anchors the space with a note of formality, while custom built-in bookcases integrate seamlessly into the architecture. Their presence is less an addition than an intrinsic part of the room, underscoring the craftsmanship and planning. Above, a gently curved barrel ceiling accentuates the room's proportions and introduces an element of graceful monumentality. Brass-accented lighting fixtures, meanwhile, offer a contemporary counterpoint, casting a warm glow that animates the wood surfaces.

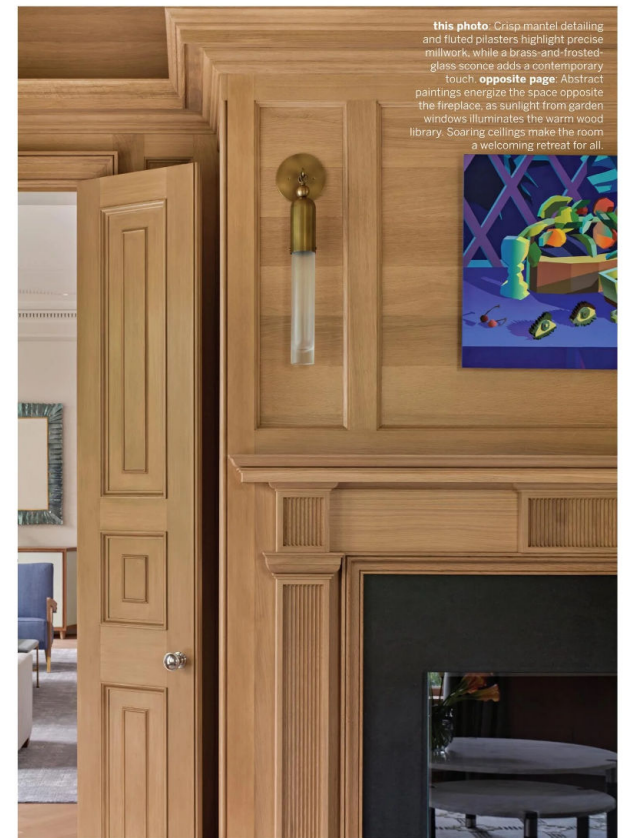
A versatile alcove outfitted with matching cabinetry provides a functional layer, serving as a discreet office when closed behind wide pocket doors or an extension of the library when open. Furnishings and textiles soften the space's classical bones: plush upholstery, layered textures and subtle modern accents introduce comfort without diminishing formality.

PHOTOS: ROBERT BENSON

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this photo. Crisp mantel detailing and fluted pilasters highlight precise millwork, while a brass-and-frosted-glass sconce adds a contemporary touch. **opposite page:** Abstract paintings energize the space opposite the fireplace, as sunlight from garden windows illuminates the warm wood library. Soaring ceilings make the room a welcoming retreat for all.

KITCHEN DESIGN: Traditional/Classic **FINALIST** • Austin Patterson Disston Architecture & Design



Originally built in the early 1930s, this Cotswold-style home carried all the storybook charm of its stone façade, but decades of additions had left its interiors compartmentalized and disjointed. When the current owners, a young family with two energetic sons, embarked on a renovation, the goal was clear: restore cohesion while making the home functional for modern living.

The kitchen became the heart of that vision. Designed as both a central gathering place and a bold design statement, the space balances warmth and durability with aesthetic impact. Natural stone—meticulously matched to the original exterior—anchors the room, complemented by warm cabinetry, exposed beams and brass-toned metals. The effect is at once welcoming and elevated, a hub for both daily life and entertaining.

What distinguishes the project is the seamless integration of old and new. Every material, finish and architectural choice works in concert to create a home that is cohesive, elevated and effortlessly livable.

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PHOTOS: HILVA KOLUBAS

LIVING SPACE **FINALIST** • Austin Patterson Disston Architecture & Design



This Cotswold-style home, built in the early 1930s and layered with unsympathetic additions from the 1970s and '80s, underwent a renovation to unify its clustered rooms and outdated circulation. The goal was to create a cohesive, functional home while allowing each room to maintain a distinct personality. Sunlit living areas with high ceilings, terracotta floors and continuous wood ceiling beams now frame a limestone fireplace that anchors the space.

Balancing historic charm with modern performance was a key challenge. Walls were fully insulated, and a geothermal HVAC system was installed to meet current energy codes, ensuring comfort without compromising aesthetics.

The renovation maintains the fairytale essence of the stone-clad exterior while giving the interiors flexibility for family life.

PHOTOS: HILVA KOLUBAS



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