



EAST MEETS WEST

A design team bridges continents to create a custom home in Phillips Park brimming with meticulous handiwork, indoors and out

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Inspired by the California Arts and Crafts architecture of the early 20th century, Barnes Vanze Architects designed the shingled house in Phillips Park with pitched, overhanging roofs and exposed wood joinery (opposite). The cypress-framed porch at the rear (this page) provides an outdoor entertaining and dining space off the family room.



The dining room off the entrance hall is furnished with a Roche Bobois table, sideboard and chairs. Pendant lights are from Hubbardton Forge. The oak trim around the doorway (opposite) was designed to recall an Asian temple gateway. On the walls, images by Beijing photographer Wang Tong (above) capture Chinese scenes.

The hallmarks of historic Arts and Crafts architecture—overhanging roofs, shingled façades and exposed-wood joinery—are celebrated in the home built by Dawn Vermilya and Jinyong Cai in Northwest DC’s upscale Phillips Park neighborhood. The married couple had looked at dozens of properties in the area before buying a wooded lot next to Glover-Archbold Park.

Vermilya and Cai, a partner in an infrastructure investment fund, had previously built a contemporary residence on the outskirts of Beijing and were comfortable with the custom-design process. They chose Washington, DC, architect Ankie Barnes of Barnes Vanze Architects to create a seven-bedroom house for themselves and their three young daughters.

“We were looking for a home that would be compatible with both Chinese and Western furnishings and art, that made you feel comfortable and relaxed but also had a certain natural elegance to it,” says Vermilya, formerly with the World Bank. “Ankie took these concepts and suggested a California Arts and Crafts style.”

Barnes drew inspiration from the shingled residences in Pasadena, California, created by architects Charles and Henry Greene in the early 1900s. “With its blend of Asian and American influences, woodsy style and connection to nature, their architecture was a good place to start,” he says. Like the Greene brothers’ climate-sensitive homes, the Phillips Park house invites outdoor living with porches, decks and balconies extending from every level.

Meticulous detailing is evident throughout the interiors, beginning in the three-story foyer with its elegantly curving staircase edged in white oak. Flanking this entrance hall are the dining and living rooms, where oak moldings and trim grace the walls and ceilings.

Architecture & Interior Design: **Anthony Barnes**, FAIA, LEED AP, principal; **Ellen Hatton**, AIA, project architect; **Miriam Dillon**, interior design, Barnes Vanze Architects, Washington, DC. Builder: **Richard Zantzing**, Mauck Zantzing & Associates, Inc., Washington, DC. Landscape Design: Marion Oxford Dearth Landscape Design Inc., Washington, DC.

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—MIRIAM DILLON

At the back, the main level expands to a large, open space containing the kitchen, breakfast area and family room, all unified by a continuous wood-beam ceiling. Since the site slopes downward toward the rear of the property, this end of the house is perched high above the yard like a treehouse. “There’s an expansive view of our garden and Glover-Archbold Park,” says Cai. “It is always beautiful and changing with the seasons.”

A spacious deck off the family room serves as a place for hosting al fresco parties and enjoying the scenery. “It’s very nice to just relax, read or have a barbecue there, spring through fall,” Cai relates. In the walk-out basement below the kitchen, a wall of folding-glass doors can be completely opened, joining a stone patio to an indoor exercise area centered on a resistance swimming pool.

Throughout the house, Asian-influenced woodwork and decorative finishes remind Cai and Vermilya of their years living in China. The deck railings and fretwork in the dining room and the home office off the family room are inspired by Eastern motifs. Wooden door surrounds on the main level suggest the shapes of temple gateways. Japanese-style cherry blossoms extend across the tile of the living-room fireplace.

Four bedroom suites on the second floor include spaces for the homeowners and their visiting daughters, while a guest room occupies the lower level. Of the two bedrooms on the third floor, one is used as a study and the other as a studio for Vermilya, who experiments with art. The owners’ bathroom reveals fine craftsmanship in its teak vanity, cabinets and tub surround, designed by Barnes Vanze to recall both Asian and Arts and Crafts handiwork.

Working closely with her colleagues and the clients, interior designer Miriam Dillon complemented the architecture with wood furnishings, metal light fixtures, grass cloth on the dining room walls and earth-toned upholstery. She also incorporated the owners’ collection of Chinese antiques, art and accessories throughout the home.

At the back of the main level, the kitchen, breakfast nook and family room are arranged within an open space unified by oak ceiling beams and wood-trimmed windows. The sectional sofa, coffee table and lounge chair, all from Roche Bobois, are grounded on a rug from Carpet Impressions. Window draperies are made from Fabricut fabric.





Countertops of reclaimed wood on the island and soapstone at the window provide practical surfaces in the kitchen (left), where a Visual Comfort chandelier illuminates the adjacent breakfast area. The foyer (below) centers on a gracefully curving staircase; an antique console and a Lee Industries loveseat welcome guests into the space.



“The clients had an interest in a minimalist environment with clean lines that would not detract from the architecture,” says Dillon. “Since the house occupies a site that allows for beautiful views of the landscape, it was important to respect the setting with natural materials and colors.”

The owners and their family delight in their serene new retreat. “The abundance of natural materials, the home’s relationship to the woods and Asian influences all made the California Arts and Crafts style an ideal choice for us,” says Vermilya. “It reminds us of the craftsmanship we’ve seen in China.” ■

SOURCES OF NOTE

Windows: loewen.com through thesanderscompany.com. Interior Millwork: winchesterwoodworkingllc.com. Dining Room & Family Room Furniture: roche-bobois.com. Stair Runner & Family Room Rug: carpetimpressions.com. For a complete list of sources, see homeanddesign.com.



Asian-inspired designs include a ceramic cherry blossom mural from Fire Clay Tile in the living room (opposite). The walk-out basement (above) incorporates a resistance pool. Glass doors fold back to blur the boundary between indoors and outdoors. In the master bathroom (left), the teak cabinets and vanity were custom-designed by Barnes Vanze. Kohler sinks are paired with Waterworks faucets. Light fixtures between the mirrors above the Caesarstone counter are by Hubbardton Forge. Decorative woodwork over the bathroom mirrors is repeated in doorways and cabinets on the main level.



Seating and tables from Restoration Hardware and a built-in bench provide an outdoor living area on the rear deck off the family room. The railings are detailed to recall Chinese motifs. Exposed timbers and shingled walls create a rustic setting inspired by historic Arts and Crafts architecture.