



2009 Custom Home Design Awards

Outdoor Spaces

By Meghan Drueding, Shelley D. Hutchins, and Bruce D. Snider

The recent issue of CUSTOM HOME magazine showcased the winners of our annual Design Awards program—all but the three projects we reserved for this special issue of CUSTOM HOME OUTDOORS. In the pages that follow, you'll find the best of the al fresco entries, as selected by our accomplished jury: Heather Cass, FAIA, Cass & Associates Architects, Washington, D.C.; Jacob S. Goldberg, Goldberg General Contracting, Chicago; Mary Griffin, FAIA, Turnbull Griffin Haesloop Architects, San Francisco; and David Warner, Redhorse Constructors, San Rafael, Calif. The only thing as beautiful as an expertly executed custom home is its artfully orchestrated counterpart outdoors.

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PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT): KEN GIESE, BILL TIMMERMAN, AND DAVID SUNDBERG/ESTO

Grand Award

Winding Lane Porches, Greenwich, Conn.



One judge had trouble tearing himself away from the photos of these two screened-in porch additions to a Greenwich, Conn., house. "I just want to keep looking at this," he said. The other judges shared his enthusiasm, calling it "clean and simple."

Architect Job Moore and his team were well-qualified to take on both outdoor spaces; he designed the original house in 1994, as well as an interior renovation in 2001. "The owners were my first clients," he says. He and his family even traveled with them to Southeast Asia during the design of this project, gleaned ideas from the region's many outdoor rooms.

The shape of the main porch was dictated by the three bodies of water surrounding it: a manmade pond and an existing river and lake. Its steel floor beams cantilever out from

The versatile, three-story main porch serves as a space for entertaining, lounging, or quiet contemplation of the water and woods outside. Its polished materials and detailing lend it a much greater level of refinement than a typical screened-in porch.



Architect Jobb Moore and project manager Tania Ayoub designed both the main porch and the second-floor dining porch (bottom, left side; opposite, bottom) to be enjoyed at least three seasons of the year. These are "outdoor living spaces," Moore emphasizes. "They're not meant to be used just some of the time."



the existing foundation, and it contains three levels: a dining area, a landing that serves as a sitting room and meditation space, and a formal living room on the lowest floor. Each one connects to the pastoral setting in its own distinct way. "It's like a three-story aviary, in a sense," Moore says. "We were creating a set of perched spaces that look out over the water and woods."

The second, smaller porch, which acts as a grilling and dining space, tops the existing garage. Its mahogany interiors are finished with the same boat varnish as the other porch, but with a higher degree of gloss. "It's more sheltered than the main porch," Moore explains. "You're outside, but you're more ensconced."

Mahogany planks, spaced slightly apart from one another, form the floors of both spaces. Rainwater slips through the gaps onto a rubber waterproofing membrane. In the main porch, steel

railings and guardrails hint at the brassy steel frame contained within a sleek wood wrapper. "The whole room is a skin of mahogany," Moore points out. The bodies of water at the rear of the site made it impossible to bring in the 35-foot-tall steel columns from that direction, so general contractor Hobbs Inc. had them craned over the top of the house instead.

The additions create a pair of rooms that enhance the home's relationship to its environment, while providing practical, usable spaces. "The two screened-in porches are beautifully integrated into the house and site," observed one judge. —M.D.

Entire/Architect: Jobb + Partners, Architects, Greenwich, Conn.; Builder: Hobbs Inc., New Canaan, Conn.; Project size: 1,600 square feet; Site: 2.3 acres; Construction cost: Unlabeled; Photographer: David Sumbarg/Esto

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