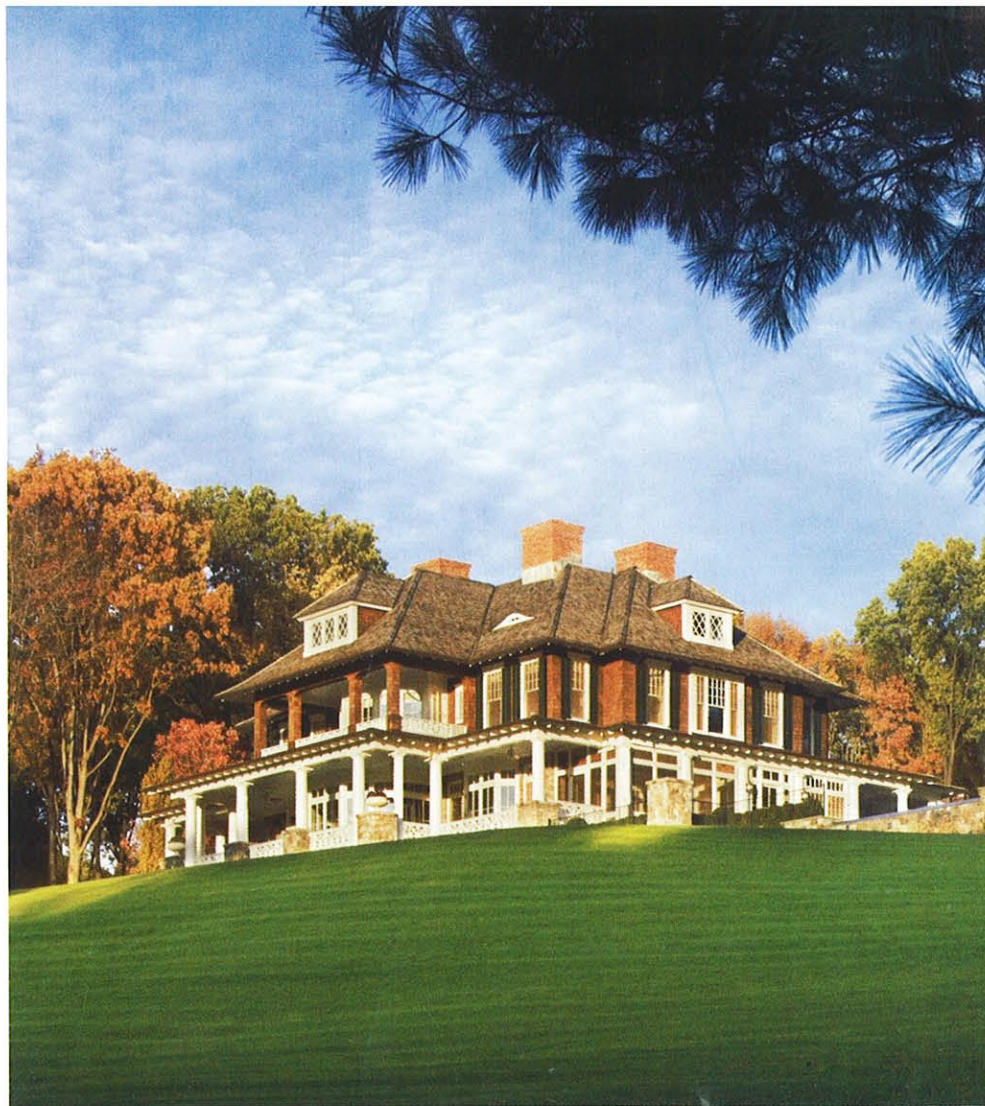


Cher's New Hollywood Home

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When the couple purchased a historic estate in the Hudson Valley, they did so with every intention of restoring, renovating and expanding the original 1908 house. But then came the opportunity to acquire the rest of the hill it was on, including a plateau at the crest that afforded panoramic meadow, mountain and river views. Their architect, Ralph R. Mackin, Jr., was quick to suggest that they leave the house as is (that is, as *was*), use it as guest quarters and build themselves a sister house (a *big* sister house, as it turned out—twice the size of the original’s 4,500 square feet).

Up went a symmetrical cedar-shingle-and-fieldstone structure (the stone came from old walls on the property), with 11-foot ceilings, a wealth of period

detail and a classic deep wraparound porch. “Porches are important—they provide a transition point, and give human scale, to the great outdoors,” the architect holds. Artfully, without making the building too linear, he created view lines throughout, with the river foremost in mind. Altogether the house sits beautifully on its site and does full justice to the majestic property it crowns.

Classically inspired though it was, its floor plan and flow are thoroughly modern: Rooms open airily each to each and to the generous main hall—the great room, for instance, is separated from the very 21st-century kitchen by only a couple of columns, and what doors it has give way to the pool terrace. As Mackin explains, “We were constantly balancing the 1908 architectural-historical perspective with the more informal way

Interior designer Campion Platt, architect Ralph R. Mackin, Jr., and landscape architect Janice Parker collaborated to create a family’s Hudson Valley residence. ABOVE: A wraparound porch is among the 9,000-square-foot house’s many classic features. LEFT: The great room. An 1883 Emil Carlsen oil hangs above the fireplace. Low table, Lucca & Co. Tea box, Sentimento Antiques. Sofa and ottoman, George Smith. Stark drapery fabric. Patterson, Flynn & Martin rug.