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GREENWICH



GREENWICH GOES Modular

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House Call | French Connection



Interior decorator **JAMES D. PETERSEN** blends grand, French-style architecture with a collection of Asian antiques for a Darien couple.

When New Canaan architect Dinyar Wadia completed this French-style house with mansard roof in Tokeneke two years ago, his clients did something unexpected: They painted the interior walls white and chose not to do major decorating. But last year they changed their minds. Enter James D. Petersen, the director of interior design and decoration at Wadia Associates, who was tasked to create a look for the octagonal living room that would highlight the homeowners' collection of Asian antiques without competing with the room's waterfront views. In addition, the floor-to-ceiling French doors couldn't be obstructed, the room's imposing scale had to feel intimate, and, with little wall space, furniture placement had to be creative.

By using a base palette of calm greens, an inviting seating arrangement and well-proportioned furnishings of predominantly Louis XV-style antiques, Petersen, whose interior designs have been published in *Architectural Digest*, achieved a look that is regal but that doesn't overwhelm.

— Victoria Lieber

James D. Petersen, Wadia Associates
966-0048; wadiaassociates.com



The drapes are a green/celadon taffeta stripe from Kohli Silk. The tiebacks are gilt-bronze doree from Dupont, a high-end French foundry.

"The greens are calming. The clients have a lot of Asian porcelain and art, and the green feels right in the house," says Petersen.

The chandelier is a reproduction Louis XV. Petersen's tip: Order lighting fixtures with extra chain so that you can adjust them to the right height. "You can always make a chandelier shorter, but not longer," he says.

The Famille rose-patterned Chinese lamps are from Evans-Leonard Antiques in New Canaan. The matching shades were made by Abat Jours Custom Lamp Shades in midtown Manhattan.

The double sconces are 19th-century gilt bronze that Petersen found in an antiques shop on 60th Street in New York.

Petersen covered the Louis XVI chairs in a Brunschwig & Fils moss-green silk velvet.

Petersen had to incorporate the homeowners' collection of Asian antiques, including this black, Chinese-lacquered cabinet purchased in Hong Kong.

The desk fits perfectly between the two back windows. The client bid over the phone for this leather-top Louis XV desk during an online auction at Christie's.

The couch — in a Champagne-colored damask from Old World Weavers — was placed here to complement a seating arrangement that offers many places to sit without crowding the room.

The octagonal carpet was custom-made by Roubini Rugs in New York.

The fabric on the ottoman, used here as a coffee table, is by Clarence House.

Gaufrage velvet from Old World Weavers covers the 19th-century reproduction Louis XV chairs.