

The background of the cover is a photograph of a lush garden. A brick path leads through a series of manicured hedges. In the center, a large, ornate stone urn sits on a pedestal, overflowing with flowers. To the right, a white picket fence is partially visible, with large green leaves hanging over it. The overall scene is bright and verdant.

# Connecticut

## GOTTAGES & GARDENS

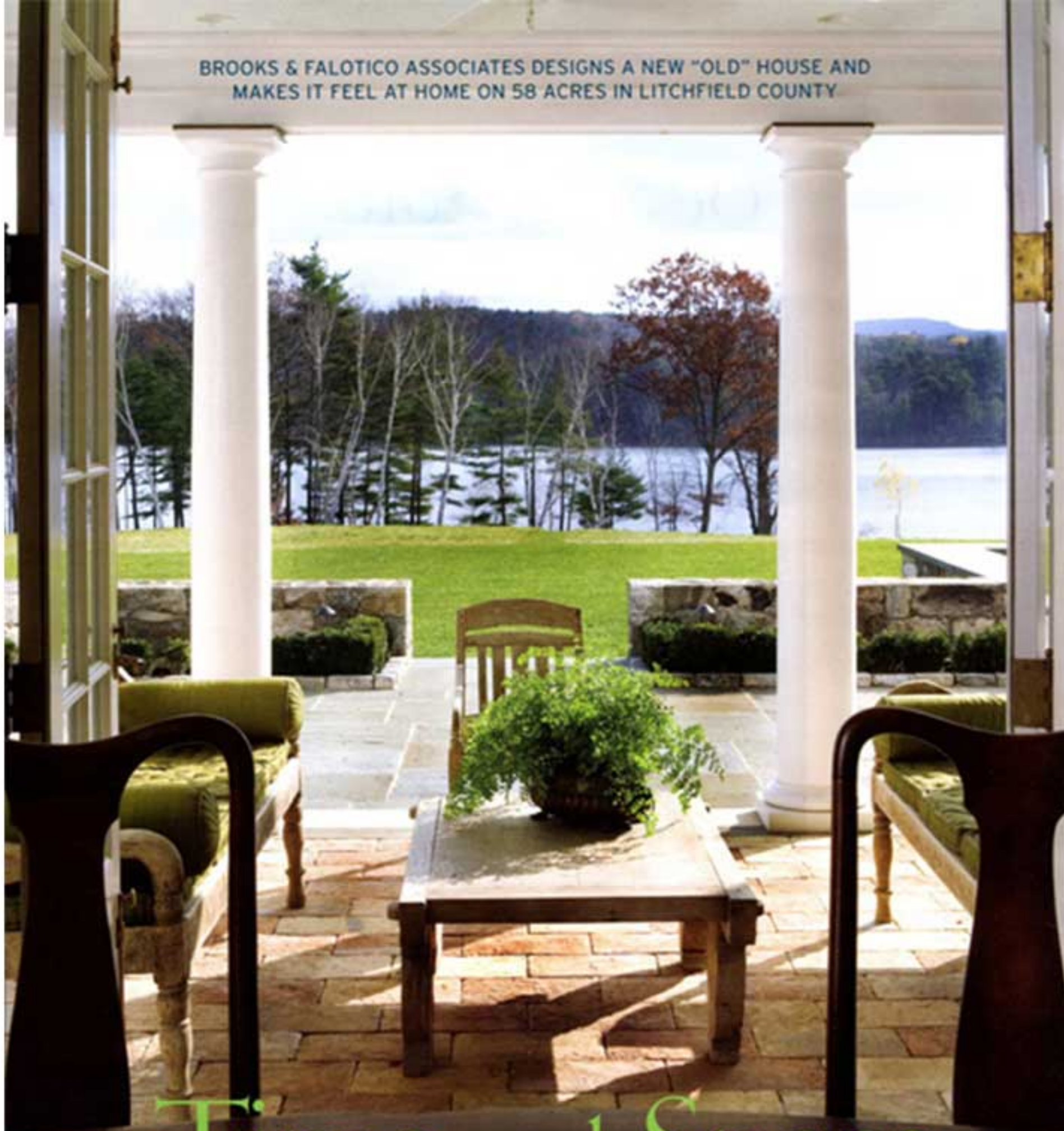
CAMPBELL, KATHLEEN | OCTOBER 2015

**50+**  
DESIGNERS  
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TO KNOW

ALBERT HADLEY,  
AN AMERICAN ICON

OSCAR AND ANNETTE  
DE LA RENTA  
IN THE COUNTRY

BROOKS & FALOTICO ASSOCIATES DESIGNS A NEW "OLD" HOUSE AND  
MAKES IT FEEL AT HOME ON 58 ACRES IN LITCHFIELD COUNTY



# Time and Space

BY ANNETTE M. ROSE-SHAPIO | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH SCOTT MORTON



WHEN THE DREAM OF ACQUIRING A 58-ACRE PROPERTY SUDDENLY CAME TRUE, THESE LITCHFIELD COUNTY HOMEOWNERS HAD TO ACT FAST. THEY'D BEEN EYEING THE ACREAGE FOR YEARS AND NOW THEY HAD THE CHANCE TO PURCHASE IT AND BUILD THE HOME OF THEIR DREAMS. THEIR SEARCH FOR THE RIGHT ARCHITECTS LED THEM TO LOUISE BROOKS AND VINCENT FALOTICO.

Building a home on such a large piece of land and making it look like it has always been there takes a sensitive touch. The homeowners immediately put their home on the market when they acquired the new property. It sold quickly and this busy family of five rented for the next three years while they were planning and building their new home.

The wife had been struggling to find an architect who could design a house that would meet all their requirements. When daughter Bailey returned home from school one weekend, she suggested they visit Brooks' residence. She was best friends with Brooks' daughter Maddie and had spent a weekend there. She knew her family would love it, and that Brooks would keep going back to the drawing board until things were just right. Her mother agreed, and she particularly appreciated the architect's sense of space, balance and proportion. "They wanted gracious rooms with beautiful views of the lake," explains Brooks, "and the house to be in the vernacular of Litchfield County."

Most importantly, the family wanted their new house to look like it had always been there, to have the charm of an older home that was as well established as a country manor house. It took a team to make that happen—



builder Rob Winters, interior designer Michael Trapp and the architect firm Brooks & Falotico Associates. The family wanted a house that would function well for them for the next 20 years, with a master bedroom on the ground floor and rooms for the children on the second floor so the upstairs could be closed off while they were all away at school.

Another requirement was a large kitchen. The husband, a former restaurateur and contract pilot, loves to cook and entertain. The family didn't use their living room much, and it was more important to have the family room, eating space and kitchen as the focal point of the main floor. "One thing that the husband insisted on was a counter-height fireplace in the kitchen for grilling," says Brooks. "He wanted commercial appliances, and a highly functional kitchen was essential for him."

Trapp and Brooks agree that the wife's involvement was a big part of the success of the design. A jeweler and busy fundraiser, she found the time to shop for accessories, research wall colors and go shopping with Trapp. She had always admired Trapp's work: "a real Renaissance man," according to Brooks. "I use my sensibilities to look through the client's eyes," says Trapp. He brought in furnishings and unique pieces that work well with the antiques

