



“Our work is inspired
by place, culture, and
history. We are dedicated
to solving architectural
problems innovatively with
environmentally sustainable
solutions that are expressive of
structure, and program.”

— Bruce Beinfield

Bruce Beinfield

Beinfield Architecture



Bruce Beinfeld's design is informed by vernacular traditions, and the timeless and essential meanings found in the stark, simple, patterned forms of early New England Architecture. His firm, started in 1985 in South Norwalk, Connecticut, takes an alchemical approach to architecture, striving to transform the ordinary into the exceptional and employing common materials towards uncommon ends. This objective is evident in Beinfeld's diverse and award-winning commercial, retail, restaurant, and residential projects.

"We use historical vernacular forms in search of meaningful symbols, imagery and experience, and ultimately judge our work based on the feelings it evokes, and its ability to resonate," said Beinfeld.

The firm's residential design process is grounded in its ability to gain a full understanding of each client's needs, giving birth to architectural concepts that celebrate the idiosyncratic potential of each project.

"We encourage our clients to share their dreams with us and then carefully tailor the design of a home to their individual lifestyles, daily rituals, and site-specific possibilities," said Beinfeld. This process has resulted in over 25 unique award-winning homes which have been extensively published in leading design journals.

One of Beinfeld's more notable homes, the Trolley House, is situated on a 500-foot-long-by-25-foot-wide spit of land extending into the Farm Creek tidal estuary, which was created by fill in 1894 to support trolley tracks to a major amusement park nearby on Long Island Sound. The hurricane of 1938 doomed the historic park, with only remnants and faded photographs surviving. Those photos revealed a series of spirited barnlike structures, intertwined with a wooden roller coaster characterized by expressive diagonal bracing. The trolley trestle over the channel shared the same honest expression of 19th-century structural design and craftsmanship.

The house honors that heritage, speaks of resilience and sustainability, and fosters an intimate relationship with the wildlife that inhabits the estuary environment. Structural, mechanical, storage systems and fenestration patterns were used to define the rooms within.



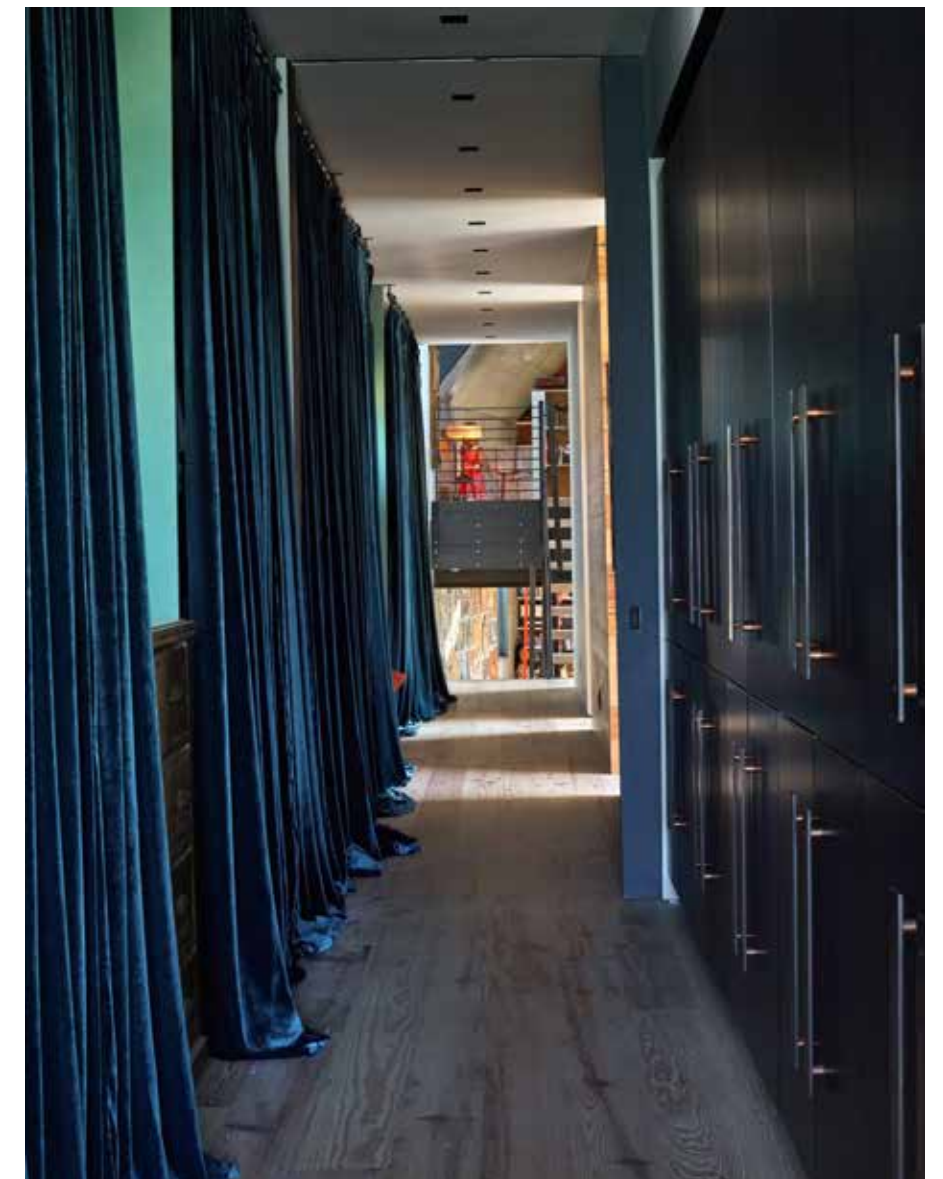


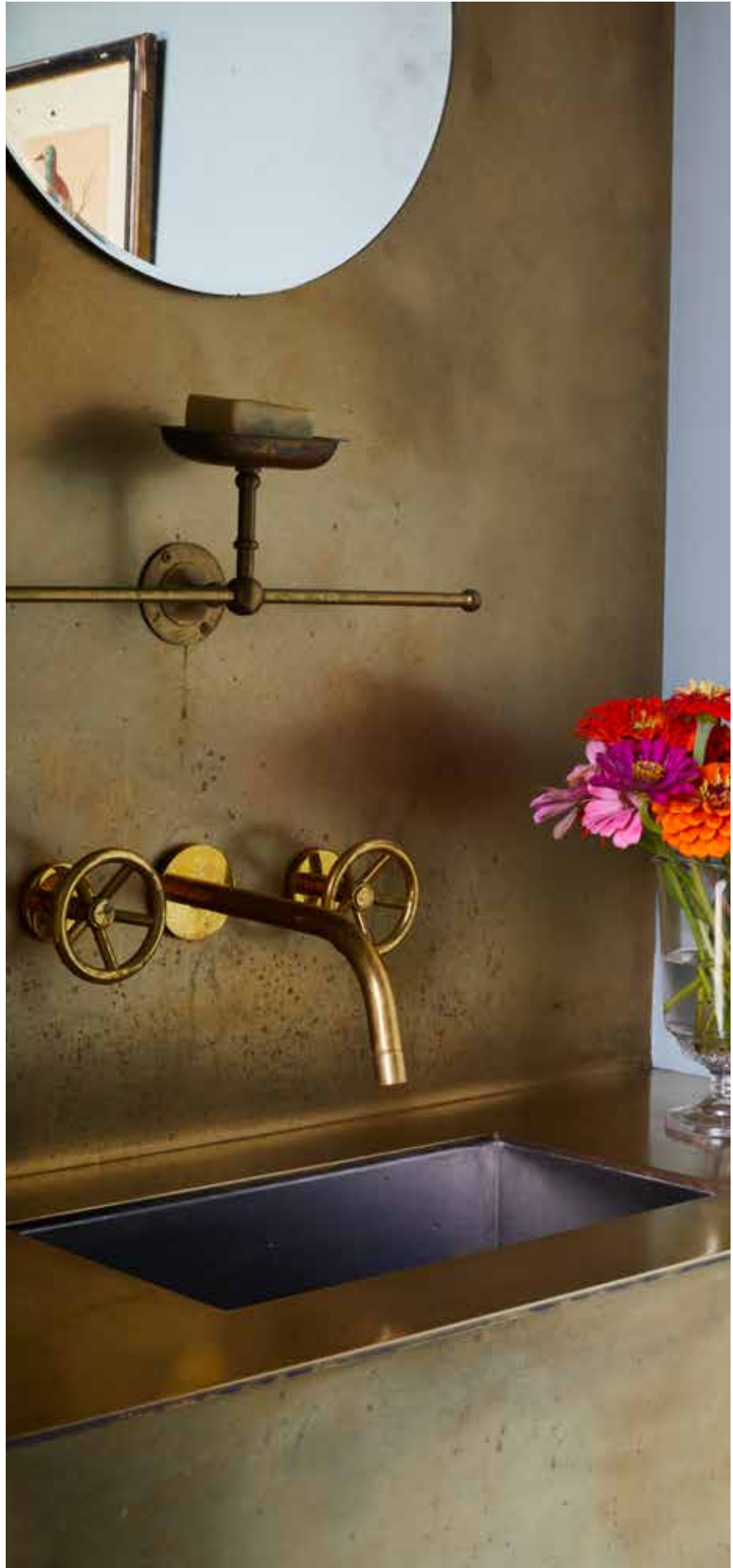




"Client dreams provide the raw material from which each building concept is forged."

— Bruce Beinfeld







Setbacks yielded a 12.5-foot-wide street façade. The whimsical expression is that of a simple barn, with salvaged siding remembering a past life, and intentionally masking the building's age. The main portion of the house consists of a 16-foot-by-75-foot rectangle that floats above the earth on concrete piers to let flood waters flow beneath. Steel operable glass walls open up to the natural environment. The exoskeleton of lateral bracing shield storm shutters that protect the large operable glazed surfaces from storms and provide additional insulation on winter nights. A concrete floor with radiant piping provides a passive solar heat sink.

Structural bays marked by steel girders separate the interior spaces. Heavy timber beams, raw steel, concrete and copper surfaces endow the place with industrial strength and organic warmth. Spiral ductwork that penetrates the steel ties the spaces together.

A dynamic tension reflects the sensibilities of both Beinfield and his wife, Carol. He, the architect, imposed a rigorous underlying order as an armature for her, the artist/collector to layer on the chaos of life. That dialog animates the home.

Interior Design: Carol Beinfield
Landscape Architecture: Bruce Benfield
Builder/Contractor: Ray & Art
Photographer: Robert Benson + Meg Matyia