



THE ART OF CLASSICAL DETAILS II  
**AN IDEAL COLLABORATION**

PHILLIP JAMES DODD  
FOREWORD BY ELLIE CULLMAN



## A FRENCH COUNTRY HOUSE

BRYN MAWR, PENNSYLVANIA

Peter Zimmerman Architects

**The design objectives for this French country house, on Philadelphia's Main Line,** were to seamlessly blend a house with the landscape, while remaining true to the architectural detail and materials appropriate for a house of this era.

The interior layout was designed to create a visual separation of formal and informal spaces. The spaces necessary to accommodate more formal entertaining are oriented along the front of the house and accessed directly off the formal courtyard and entrance foyer. The informal spaces, dedicated to the day-to-day functions of the family, are located along the rear of the house. They extend out to the gardens and terraces, creating a sense of transparency and integration with the landscape. The orientation of the kitchen, family room, family dining, and garden room allow the family to enjoy natural light and the beautiful landscape on a daily basis. The elongation of the site axis terminates at the pool gazebo, which is nestled between two mature trees and completes the view from the main garden room terrace.

Simple but not simplistic, traditional building materials enhance the richness of the design while also subtly creating a hierarchy of design. The stucco is a natural blend of sand and stone, with cracks intentionally left to create the illusion of age. The formal front of the house features limestone window surrounds, while the informal areas have limestone sills with wood surrounds. A wood cedar roof and custom hand-forged ironwork, as well as copper gutters and downspouts all seamlessly blend into the whole—with the latter used as a vertical element to balance the horizontal volumes of the house.



Peter Zimmerman founded his firm in 1982 as a full service residential design firm located on Philadelphia's Main Line. Peter has produced an extensive portfolio of award winning private residences, equestrian centers and private wineries across the country. The firm's design philosophy is deeply rooted in the historic traditions of architecture: classical proportion and scale, the balance of shadow and light, and the importance of the sustainable relationship between materials. Their designs focus on the seamless integration between the built and natural environment.



*"Our design process is the expression of the dialog between client and architect; a willingness to explore possibilities with the realization that there is never a single answer or solution."*

**Peter Zimmerman**

