

LUXURY HOME

quarterly



TIMELESS
DESIGNS... *for kids*

SELLING TORONTO
Canada's booming condo market

+ A PEEK INSIDE *Rachel Ashwell's*
'Shabby Chic' master bedroom



GALLERY OF ARCHITECTURE
 Custom bronze doors made in France bring a generous amount of light into the limestone-and-granite gallery of Wayside Manor. A monochromatic color palette helps create a timeless feel for this area of the house. The exterior architecture of the ionic columns is brought to the interior so as to create the illusion that this room was once a porch that was closed in over time.

Franck & Lohsen Architects

BLENDING INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR SPACES TO KNIT NEW HOMES WITH THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE

by Zach Baliva

As they prepare to celebrate 10 years in business, Michael Franck and Arthur Lohsen, principals of Franck & Lohsen Architects (F&L), are looking back at a memorable first decade. Over that time, the duo has built their practice into one renowned for elegant residences, timeless structures, and beautiful spaces. The architects create buildings that look like they have always been part of the landscape. Like its projects, Franck & Lohsen Architects is becoming a permanent fixture on the horizon.

The company is based in the nation's capital but has spent the last 10 years completing exclusive projects in many parts of the world, including Washington, Chicago, London, and Rome. Whether building a home, a university, or a church, the goal is the same: F&L serves the client's needs above all else. "We want to provide good buildings

that are appropriate and beautiful and good for the client, not what we need in our portfolio," Lohsen says. "We always serve our clients needs in beautiful yet cost-effective ways."

F&L is a full-service architecture firm with interior-design capabilities. "We practice the way architects did 100 years ago and function as the leaders of an entire design team responsible for all aspects of the finished product," Lohsen explains, adding that it is his duty as an architect to coordinate all disciplines.

Exceptional spaces and beautiful homes are created through an important process that F&L views as intensely collaborative. "It's up to us to interact with a client to learn what their dreams are and interpret those into a timeless home," Lohsen says. "That's the challenge and the magic of what we do."

His team has indeed been creating magical structures since day one, when they started designing Wayside Manor. The Virginia estate home is nestled in the foothills and was built for clients who wanted a formal house with European overtones. In an apparent juxtaposition, the empty nesters also wanted their large home to remain comfortable for just two residents.

F&L met those needs by designing modestly scaled rooms that are easy to live in while avoiding wasted spaces and echoes. A gallery along the rear displays suits of armor and part of the client's art collection while also uniting all rooms. The layout, Lohsen explains, allowed F&L to build a house that is just one room deep. The entry hall on the first floor opens to stairs for the second floor, where large windows provide sweeping views of the 100-acre estate. A beautiful terrace continues

PHOTOS OF WAYSIDE MANOR: IAN BRADSHAW



Wayside Manor

This new English-baroque-style house is set within 100 acres of the Virginia countryside. A series of interior rooms open to a range of exterior rooms, such as the great lawn shown here, and an enclosed herb garden off the kitchen. Bronze doors, mahogany windows, a graduated slate roof, a Brazilian granite watertable, and a lead-coated copper and refined-limestone exterior are showcases of this home's truly classic character.

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onto the rear lawn from the center hall and master bedroom. “The house is very well connected to the landscape, and there are many visual connections throughout,” Lohsen remarks. The divided and paved terrace holds grass and pavers to accommodate large gatherings.

Natural materials, like limestone, mahogany, and bronze, were selected to help Wayside Manor blend into its surroundings and to help outside elements flow to the interior. “As you walk from the morning pavilion to the center portion to the evening pavilion, you pass through a space that feels like a European colonnade,” Lohsen says.

At Wayside, F&L debuted what the principals call “four-sided architecture.” The property is devoid of exposed trash cans and mechanical equipment. Utilities are concealed behind a kitchen garden, geothermal wells are buried under the great lawn, and other elements are out of sight. “We like to create homes you can experience all the way around without an unfortunate and forgotten side,” Lohsen says. As a rule, the firm avoids wasting even one square foot of space.

Timeless new construction is achieved by preserving the feel of a region and blending the old with the new. Thus, Wayside’s connection to its landscape was crucial to the project’s success. A quarter-mile garden connects the front of the

house to the exterior, a west-side pond serves as a reservoir, a preserved hunt path crisscrosses the property, and English boxwoods frame views from the house to the river below.

Completed in 2005, Wayside Manor spans approximately 15,000 square feet, with five bed-

rooms and five and a half baths. The team at F&L accomplished all project goals—the comfortable house fits nicely in Virginia but would be just as appropriate among European villas. Lohsen and Franck set the bar high with their first residential project and look to continue their refined work into the firm’s second decade. ■



Principals Michael Franck and Arthur Lohsen