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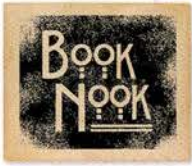
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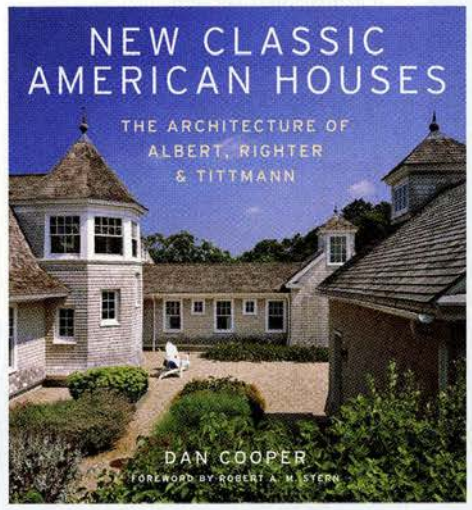
New Classic American Houses

Architects Albert, Righter and Tittmann's talent stretches beyond the typical four walls.

BY SUZAN CHIANG

IN THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK, *NEW CLASSIC AMERICAN Houses: The Architecture of Albert, Righter & Tittmann*, author and *Cottages & Bungalows* contributor Dan Cooper illustrates the architects' multifaceted talents, chronicling projects that span more than 40 years.

"All good architecture stands a test of time; a thoughtfully designed house draws our memories and appreciation of the architecture of the past," writes Cooper, an aficionado of historic structures. He details the works of noted architects Jacob Albert, Jim Righter and John Tittmann through illustrious photos and meticulous writing. Beginning with exteriors of the featured



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT BENSON





The gables and roof angles of Rocksyde deliver an unusual balance.



houses, he describes the architects' use of traditional Greek-style columns to whimsical and decorative roof brackets. As Cooper notes, the architects' combined talent begins with a single instinct and extends further through imagination, boldness and a willingness to go beyond function.

Through the course of the book, readers will be charmed by the architects' nonconventional take. For example, a typical master bedroom ceiling gets a twist with an angled slope or a domed ceiling designed to add height. A plain staircase is transformed into an elaborate passageway with spiraling steps and patterned railings. No detail is spared in a design element. To this respect, the architects believe in a synchronization of ideas between the client and the designer. As Jacob Albert states, "Style is a way of relating the house both to the place and its traditions and to the clients and their tastes and aspirations."

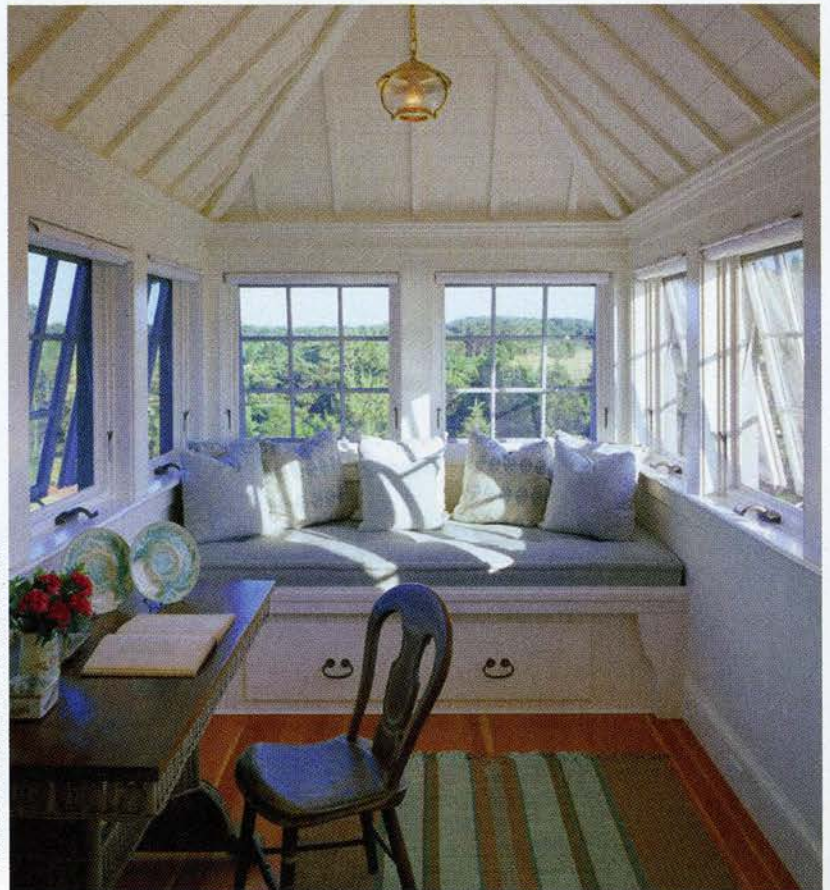
AR&T's combined portfolio represents decades of work commissioned by numerous clients and featured here, such as the French Gothic Revival Six Gables as well as the Rocksyde house, which pays homage to Peabody & Stearn's Kraggyde Shingle-style house in Massachusetts. The trio's work can be seen across America; their eclectic talent and devotion to create innovative designs while maintaining respect for tradition as well as a home's surrounding sites is apparent. With photographs as well as plans, drawings and watercolors, this sumptuous tome celebrates AR&T's timeless, innovative designs and explores the historical styles on which they are based—from Classical to Shingle, from Carpenter Gothic to Cape.

Top: *A secluded alcove set within Little Camp House.*

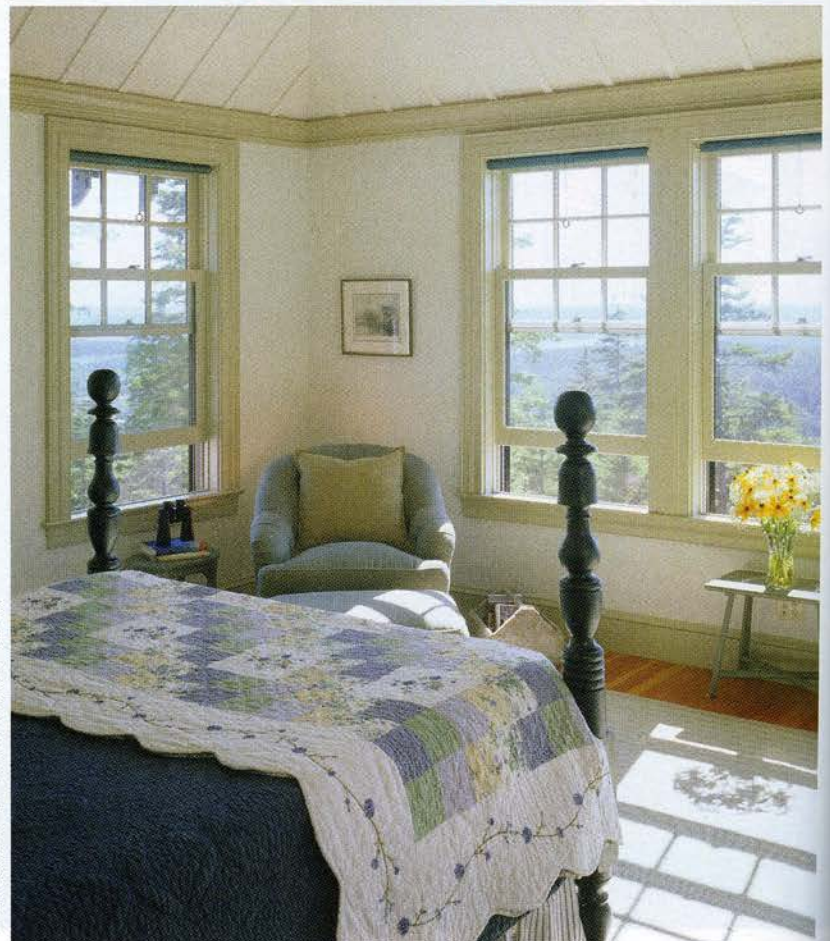
Right: *Mountaintop House's master bedroom displays a tray ceiling that gives the room more height.*

Opposite: *A hallway at Mountain Top House illustrates the architects' use of windows to draw more light into the area.*

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN VANDEN BRINK

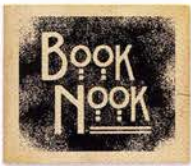


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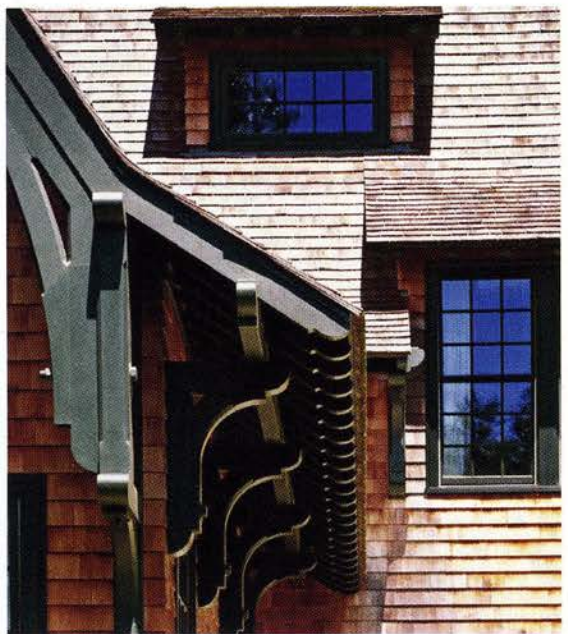




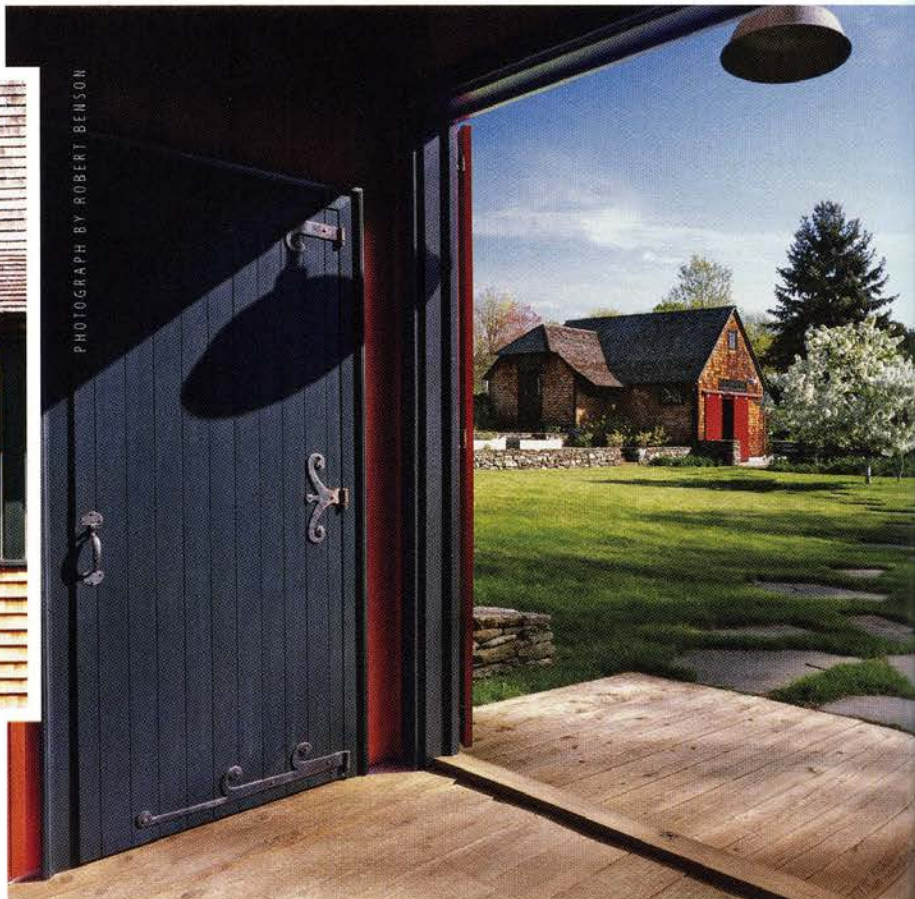
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PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT BENSON



New Classic American Houses is by no means an instructional book on architecture, but it does provide the reader an elaborate insight on how the minds of these architects work, such as their classic take on a single rafter (its main role is to support the roof, but in the hands of these architects it becomes enhanced with intricate cutouts and shapes). Even a potentially simple balcony is transformed into a violin-shaped feature in their hands.

By showing the architects' whimsical side, the book may inspire fledgling architects to respect traditional forms while reaching beyond them, too. **CB**

New Classic American Houses: The Architecture of Albert, Righter & Tittmann by Dan Cooper, published by Vendome Press. Visit abramsbooks.com.

Top left: Intricately-designed roof brackets at *Six Gables*.

Top right: A peripheral view of the barn at *Farm Yard House*.

Right: A bold staircase at *Farm Cottage*.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT BENSON

