

Merle Thorpe Architects

presents

ROCKBURN FARM



Rockburn Farm

and a number of our other projects

can be seen on our website:

MerleThorpeArchitects.com

Merle Thorpe brings over 25 years' experience as a practicing architect to his diverse projects. Recognized for excellence in custom residential design, his work has received numerous awards for distinctive residential architecture, including an Award for Excellence from the DC Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT: MERLE@MERLETHORPEARCHITECTS.COM

3235 P STREET, NW · WASHINGTON, DC 20007

TEL 202·298·7771 · FAX 202·298·7776



Rockburn Farm

This project involved extensive interior renovations to restore a venerable manor house on a 132-acre farm in the heart of Virginia's Hunt Country. When the current owners bought the property, the house included an eclectic assortment of additions and renovations that were executed by earlier owners over an 80-year period. The clients appreciated the "old and quirky" nature of the house, so they decided not to alter any of the 20th century additions. They focused instead on renovating the interiors and undertaking an extensive replacement of deteriorated exterior millwork.

We established a master plan for these renovations, and oversaw a careful rearrangement of rooms back to their historic locations and proportions. Working closely with the clients and their interior designer, we refurbished and added a selection of details that seamlessly combine refinement with comfort. The renovated house is both comfortable for living and elegant for entertaining.



A BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS THE ORIGINAL FIELDSTONE FARM HOUSE AND OUTBUILDINGS BEFORE THE 1920S. IN THE 1920S, MEMBERS OF HENRY PHIPPS' FAMILY PURCHASED THE PROPERTY AND ADDED THE ENGLISH REGENCY-STYLE FAÇADE TO THE CENTER BLOCK OF THE ORIGINAL STONE MANOR. WE RESTORED THE EXTERIOR MILLWORK AND STUCCO AS PART OF THE RESTORATION.





THE ENGLISH REGENCY-STYLE ADDITION AUGMENTED THE GROUND FLOOR LIVING SPACE, MAKING IT POSSIBLE IN THE CURRENT RENOVATION TO CARVE AN EXPANSIVE ENTRY HALL OUT OF THE GROUND LEVEL ROOMS. WE REPOSITIONED WALLS AND DESIGNED A SELECTION OF ARCHED AND CASED OPENINGS TO IMPROVE THE FLOW AND PROPORTIONS, AND ENHANCE TRANSITIONS.

BEFORE THE RENOVATIONS, THE GROUND LEVEL WAS CROSS-SECTIONED INTO MULTIPLE COMPARTMENTS, EACH CONNECTED TO THE OTHER ALONG A SINGLE AXIS OF SMALL DOORWAYS.





THE ELEGANCE OF THE STUDY AND DINING ROOM IS SUPPORTED BY THE PROPORTION OF THE ROOMS, PAINT SELECTION AND CUSTOM CASEWORK (CASED WINDOWS, BOOKCASES, MOULDINGS, CHAIR RAILS, ARCHES AND ENTRYWAYS). THESE DESIGN ELEMENTS WORK IN UNISON TO RETAIN AN INTIMACY IN THESE RECONFIGURED ROOMS.

LITTLE OF THE HOME'S HISTORIC INTERIORS EXISTED BEFORE THE RENOVATION AS A RESULT OF PRIOR RENOVATIONS AND HOUSE FIRES. WHEN THE CURRENT OWNERS MOVED TO ROCKBURN FARM, THE ORIGINAL STAIRCASE WAS LOCATED IN A LARGE, ILL-PROPORTIONED DINING ROOM. WE ADDED WALLS AND CASED OPENINGS TO FORM A STAIR HALL ADJACENT TO THE RECONFIGURED DINING ROOM.

