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Dos and don'ts of porch design

Crash course in synthetic decking

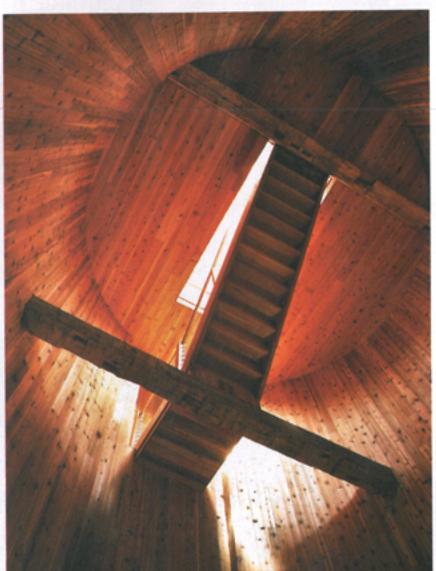
PAGE 60

Slab foundations without concrete

PAGE 90







BARN BUILT ANEW

Originally, the homeowners wanted to transform their antique barn into a home. Because it proved structurally unsound, they hired Haver & Skolnick Architects to build a new house in its image. Working within the parameters of a historic district meant the exterior needed to closely resemble the original building. The primary design challenge was to create interior spaces within a vast space that allowed the salvaged hand-hewn timber frame to stand exposed. The solution was to create a central kitchen defined by freestanding cabinetry centered around a circular chestnut island. The cabinetry also delineates the living and dining areas while maintaining the integrity of the original barn's interior. Another piece of the puzzle was to find a worthy use for the iconic and prominent silo. At ground level, it serves as a dramatic entry hall with a soaring 30-ft. ceiling. Suspended above, a floating stair climbs to the top, where the architects used a continuous glass perimeter to transform the space into an observation tower. The iron-banded form is visible throughout the house.

Designer Haver & Skolnick Architects, haverskolnickarchitects.com Builder Davenport Contracting, davenportcontracting.com Project location Litchfield County, Conn. Photos Robert Benson Photography, robertbensonphoto.com

