



making a CONNECTION

WRITTEN BY COLLEEN MCTIERNAN

For more than 30 years, architect Charles R. Stinson has imagined homes that emphasize harmony within nature. With a style influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, his work celebrates the balance between the shelter of indoor spaces and the freedom of the outdoors. In his latest book, *Connections*, Stinson shares the stories of 15 projects and each client's journey to achieve the ideal living space. charlesrstinson.com

What was the inspiration behind *Connections*? My wife, Carol, noticed a connection among our clients. Most of them are self-made entrepreneurs, so they look beyond the obvious and conventional. They have faith in unseen potential and are able to put energy and resources toward ideas and concepts. These homeowners share an approach to life that makes their stories, and homes, so interesting.

How does the sense of place shape your architecture? Every project starts with spending time on the property at different times of day. Then I start defining spaces, keeping in mind nature, the views and the variance of natural light from sunrise to sunset and in different seasons. I make sure every room has sunlight, but that there is still a sense of shelter in the home. I also incorporate clerestory windows and hidden drapery pockets for privacy. There's something great about being able to go into a different environment and celebrate that area. I try to use local materials, so if trees

have to come down on-site, we'll lumber them and use the wood as flooring.

How did your interest in art lead you to architecture? Growing up, I thought I was going to be an artist. Then, in high school I took architecture classes and appreciated the technical side of it. Architecture was a way to create functional art. Today, art still influences my work—all my designs start by hand on a wooden drawing board I got when I was 14.



OPEN HOUSE SHOPS + SHOWROOMS

With showrooms in both Paris and London, **Atelier Alain Ellouz** has now opened in SoHo (171 Spring St.), available by appointment or invitation, showcasing the company's alabaster and rock crystal lighting (shown), work by Philippe Hurel and La Forge De Style, and carpets by Manufacture de Tapis de Bourgogne. French design house **Liaigre's** airy new two-level showroom in NoMad (102 Madison Ave.) houses modern furnishings, like the brand's Sumi table with its visually striking Panda White marble top. **Lillian August Furnishings + Design** has relocated its atelier in Greenwich, Connecticut, to a larger space (195 Greenwich Ave.) that takes a boutique approach while still offering the brand's full range of furnishings, accessories and rugs. And luxury textile brand **Castel** has opened a flagship showroom with an old-world European feel in the Decoration & Design Building (979 Third Ave.) offering several products rolling out under Güell LaMadrid including La Garçonnière, Golden Age, Bauhaus and Vagabond.



SAVE THE DATE HOLIDAY HOUSE NYC

Get a shot of design inspiration by wandering through the spaces at Holiday House NYC, from October 24 through December 2. Some of the city's top designers were challenged to create a room inspired by the holiday or a day that is personally meaningful while incorporating current design trends and products. Among those whose work is on display are Eric Haydel, Joyce D. Silverman, Dean & Dahl, Perry Sayles, Susan Glick and Timothy Brown. The annual event, founded by interior designer and breast cancer survivor Iris Dankner, benefits breast cancer research. holidayhousenyc.com