JAMES SCHETTINO ARCHITECTS

breathing room

T he homeowners bought this New Canaan Victorian with a renovation in mind. "The house is beautifully sited on a corner lot, very close to town," says architect James Schettino, who spearheaded the project with his father, Jim. "It has a lot of character, and the style already fit into the context of the neighborhood. It was definitely worth keeping." The house was gutted inside and out. The goal was to clean up the exterior, redo the front porch, and create a more open floor plan inside. "We made the porch deeper and turned the corner to buffer the street a little bit," Schettino says. A flat-roof addition that had been converted into a rental apartment at some point in the home's 100-year history was rebuilt as a two-car garage. A mishmash

of siding and shingles was replaced by white clapboard, and the shutters were taken off the front windows. "The house kind of breathes a little more without them," he says. To maintain the original stone foundation, the architects sourced pavers from an old granite curb in New York City. Inside, they transformed the existing 2,000 square feet by turning four small rooms into a light-filled front parlor and dining room area that flows back to the new 2,200-square-foot addition. Upstairs are a master bedroom suite and two additional bedrooms; downstairs are a family room/kitchen, home office and mudroom. A wall of windows overlooks the redesigned backyard and stone patio. "The clients wanted it open and light and airy," says Schettino. —JM

A classic Victorian gets a fresh look on the outside as well as the inside. The front stair was moved toward the back of the house, where the kitchen and family room overlook a redesigned backyard. A home office is to the left of the Venetian plaster fireplace; to the right, a door leads to a new stone patio.