

CONNECTICUT BUILDER



The Magazine of the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut

Winter/Spring 2026
Interactive Digital Edition



Custom Home of the Year
Bluewater Home
Tanner White, Architect

Tory Williams Photographer

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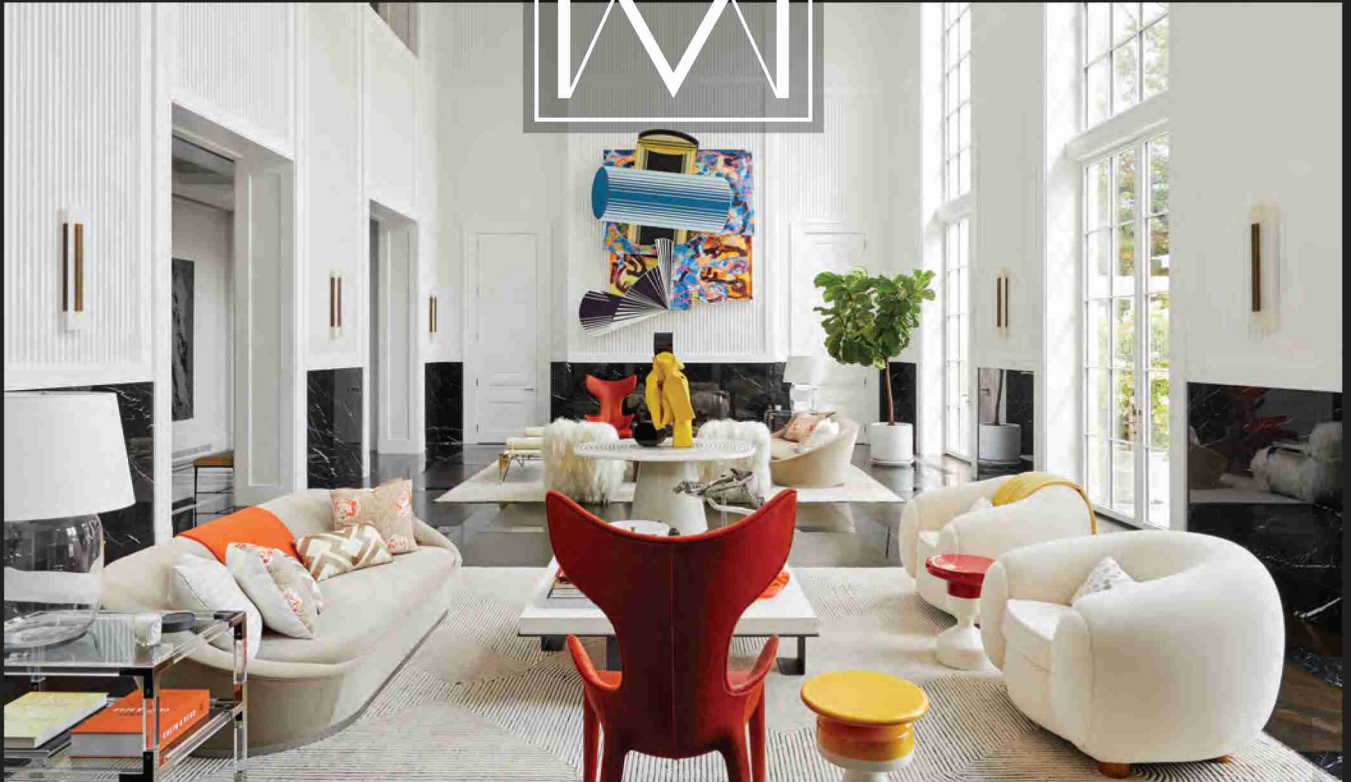
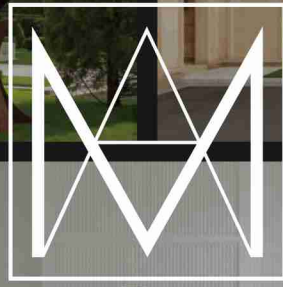
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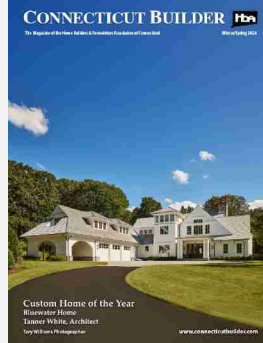


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Connecticut Builder

The Magazine of the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut

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COVER STORY – This exquisite shingle style home, built by Bluewater Home and designed by Tanner White, was recognized as 2025 Custom Home of the Year. Homey, yet sophisticated, it exhibits stunning craftsmanship and design that will stand the test of time.

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Dear Members,

As we begin the Connecticut legislative session, I want to share how strongly positioned our association is heading into the year ahead. Our lobbying team is fully engaged, prepared, and actively advocating on behalf of our industry. Housing remains front and center at the Capitol, and our voice continues to carry weight because of the unity, credibility, and leadership of this membership.

Coming off the momentum of a highly successful HOBI Awards this past fall, we look forward to another outstanding year of state-led events. The BUILD PAC Golf Tournament, Developer Forums, and the return of the HOBI Awards later this year will once again bring our industry together—driving engagement, strengthening relationships, and supporting our advocacy efforts at the highest level.


We are also proud of the continued growth and impact of the Connecticut Institute of Professional Builders & Remodelers (CIPBR). Our workforce development initiatives and educational programs continue to expand, reinforcing our commitment to the future of our industry and the next generation of builders and tradespeople.

Looking ahead, many of us will also be gathering at the International Builders' Show in Orlando—an opportunity to connect, learn, and represent Connecticut's building community on a national stage.

We enter this year driven, proud, and united. The work ahead is meaningful, and the opportunities are significant. I am confident that together we will continue to lead, advocate, and build a strong and prosperous future for our industry.

Wishing you all a successful and productive year ahead.

Sincerely,
Anthony DeRosa
President ■



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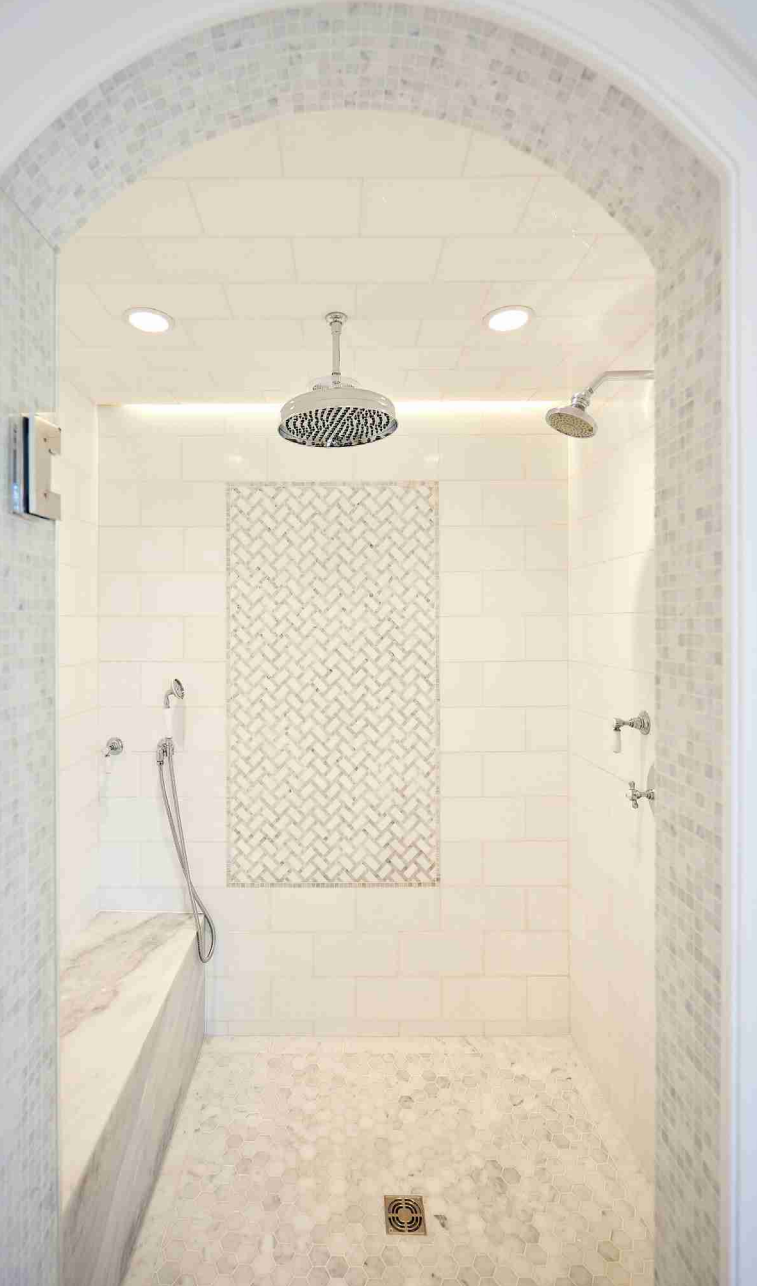


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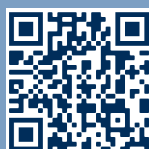
Congratulations to all the HOBBI Award recipients! As multi-time honorees ourselves, we know the pride that comes with being recognized. We're proud to have partnered with so many award-winning professionals, providing the products that help bring exceptional designs to life.

When you partner with the best, you succeed with the best. Here's to another year of excellence!

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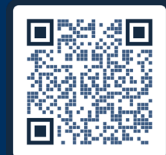


Area Median Income

Middle-Income units affordable to households earning between 60% -120% of Area Median Income.

www.chfa.org/buildforct | Vincent Bergin | vincent.bergin@chfa.org

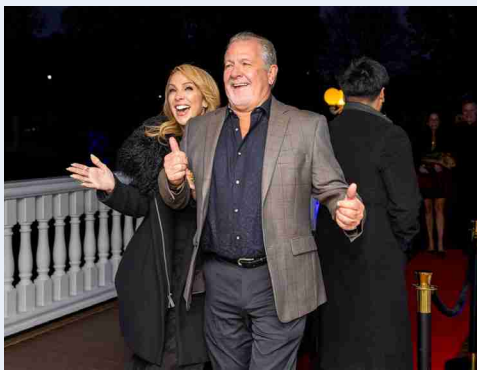
Build For CT is a Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) program administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) that leverages more than \$300 million of State bonding to increase the supply of market rate and middle-income rental housing in support of the state's current needs and continued economic growth.





On Thursday evening November 13th, 800 builders, remodelers, architects, interior designers, and suppliers gathered at the Aqua Turf to celebrate what they DO BEST and what they LOVE DOING!

The 31st Annual HOBI Awards Dinner



Tina Anastasia & George Pusser



Architect Chris Pagliaro

This year, HOBI producer, Joanne Carroll, recognized 14 builders and 1 architect, who have won more than 20 HOBI Awards over the last 30 years.



Center HBRA Events Director Michele Quadrato HOBI Producer Joanne Carroll.
L-R HBRA CEO Jim Perras, Vice-President Ken Mita, Treasurer Kim DiMatteo & HBRA President Anthony DeRosa

- Arnold Karp - 50 HOBI Awards
- Bluewater Home - 50 HOBI Awards
- Architect Chris Pagliaro – 50 HOBI Awards
- Scott Hobbs, Hobbs Inc.
- Peter Sciaretta, Hemingway Construction
- Jim Blansfield, Blansfield Builders
- Vinnie Sciaretta, VAS Construction
- Chris Nelson, Nelson Construction
- Steve Temkin
- T&M Building Company
- Murphy Brothers Contracting
- Jerry Effren, Greyrock Homes
- Anthony DeRosa, DeRosa Builders
- Toll Brothers Inc.
- By Carrier Inc.
- Matt Gilchrist, EG Home

Meet our 2025 Hobi Awards Judges



L-R Beth Krupa, Anthony DeRosa, Cynthia Vengrow, Susan Vanech, Shawna Feeley, Chris Pike, Lauren Luskey, Dave Denomme, Chris Shea, Michelle Hogue & Ken Mita

Meet the HOBI Judges

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Chris Shea – owner of Domus Constructors, Chris has won multiple awards for his exquisite custom & remodeled homes.

Ken Mita - HBRA Vice-President and owner of Central CT Construction Management

Dave Denomme – an accomplished builder & head of construction at Vita Design Group

Anthony DeRosa – HBRA President and award winning Greenwich builder

REMODELING

Michelle Hogue– a builder & interior designer, Michelle has won HOBI's for both remodeling & interior design.

Lauren Luskey – a former builder, Lauren is V.P. of Business Development for ABC Stone Worldwide

Susan Vanech – builder & realtor, Susan has won multiple HOBI's for her remodeled homes.

SPECIAL FOCUS

Beth Krupa – Principal of award winning Greenwich based interior design firm, Beth Krupa Interiors and a past President of ASID.

Chris Pike – Regional Sales Manager for Clarke Distribution, and a 2nd year HOBI Judge

INTERIOR DESIGN

Shawna Feeley – both a Special Focus & Interior Design judge this year, Shawna has provided interior design to many HOBI winners.

Cynthia Vengrow – Interior Design Director & Partner at Vita Design Group, Vita has won numerous custom home HOBI Awards.

“I’m so very grateful to have been thought of and included as a judge for this year’s awards. Thank you for a spectacular presentation, and honoring so many talented people. It means a lot to so many in the industry.”

– Susan Vanech, Susan Vanech Properties



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A Night Full of Pride and Fun



“One of my favorite parts of the HOBI awards is the recognition of all the people who are so instrumental in creating the beautiful homes we get to celebrate. You acknowledge designers, architects, suppliers, showrooms & marketers. Without all our industry partners, many of the homes we build wouldn’t be the best they can be. As a builder I can tell you the most important aspect of every project is teamwork.”

–Conlan Segerson, Segerson Builders



“What an incredible evening we had at the HOBI awards. I was most impressed with how the event created such intimate and meaningful community and connectedness, despite its significant scale. I think that’s a testament to years of developing the culture of the awards. It was electric to be a part of that.”

–Jordan Conover



Titus team L-R Andrew Vergara, Michael Magliochetti, Mike Cook, Joe Hattendorf, Krystal Stone, Jeff Titus, John Gelmetti, Josh Stufano, Mike Bourdeau and Steven Alix



HOBI producer/MC Joanne Carroll & HBRA Events director Michele Quadrato



Beth Krupa team L-R Andrea Wintergerst, Sarah Dolce, Beth Krupa, and Nancy Wright

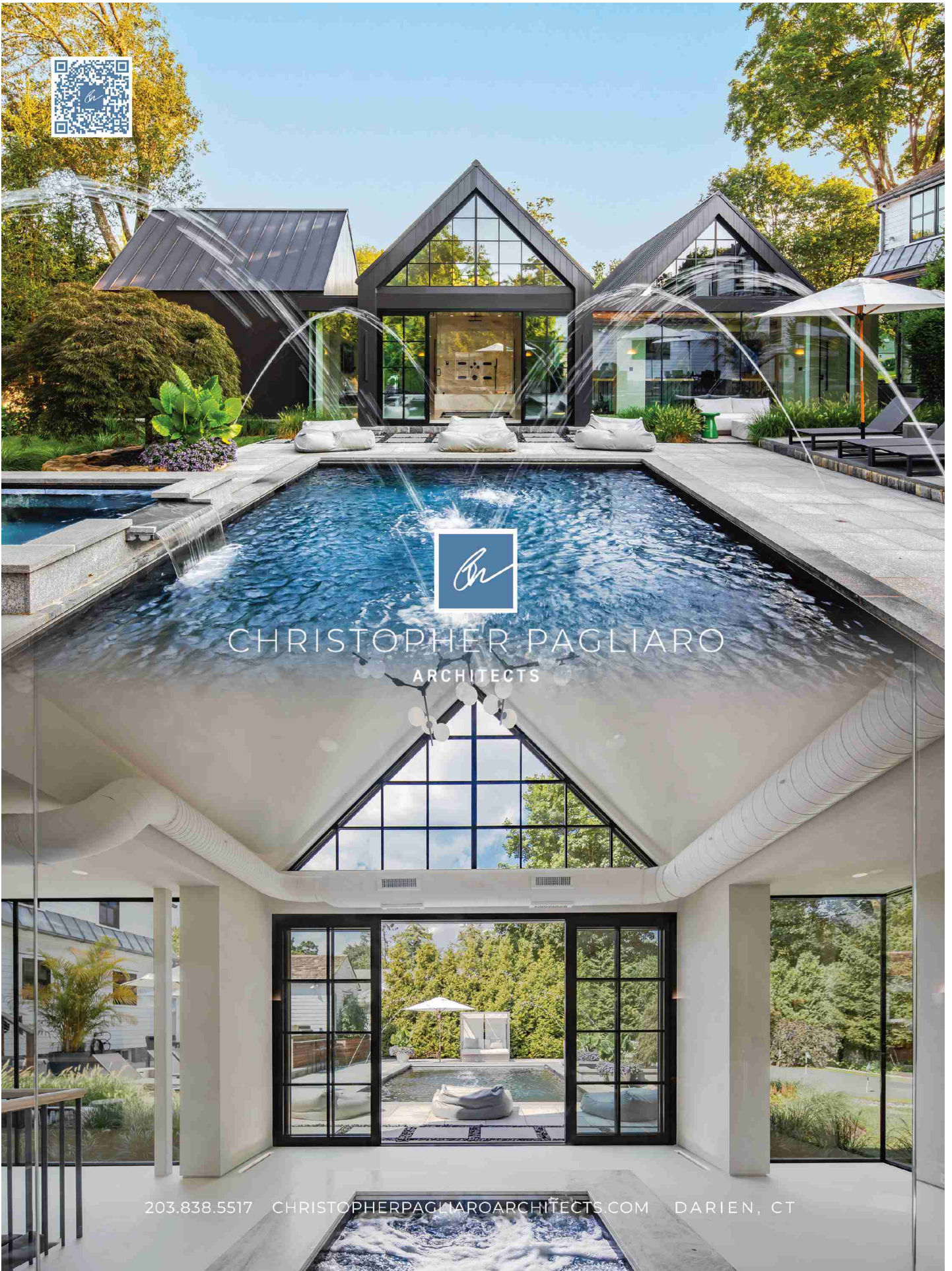


KB Home designer Iris Michaels



CHFA CEO Nandini Natarajan

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Ring's End team L-R Ed Rekos, Stefanie Grodman, Brandon Copans, Andrew Sofroniou, Nataliia Romanchukevych, Andrew Bussmann, Bryant Coogan, Victor Gonzales, Maria DeFiore, HBRA President, Anthony DeRosa & Len Volpe

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CUSTOM HOME PROJECT OF THE YEAR



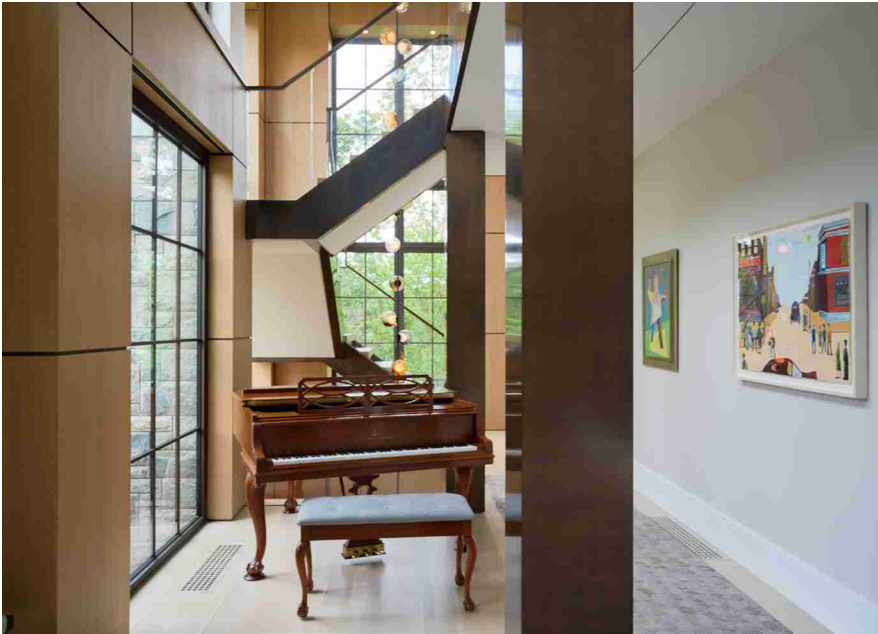
Best Custom Home 10,000 - 15,000 SF
Best Entry and Best Exterior Feature

Hobbs Inc.
Cardello Architects

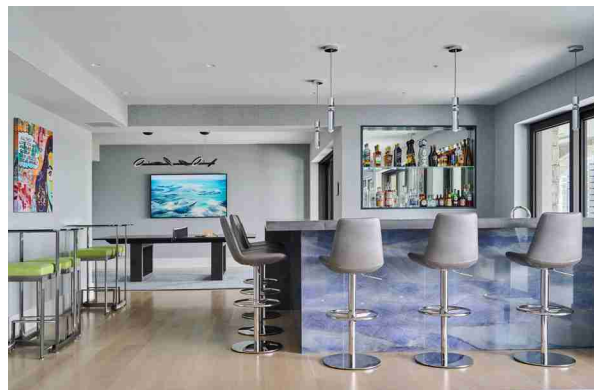


Cardello Architects David LaPierre
& Scott Hobbs, Hobbs Inc.

Designed by Cardello Architects in Chinese granite with slate roof, this exquisitely built home by Hobbs Inc. opens to a winning entry, clad in rift sawn oak panels with custom bronze U channels. The stunning floating staircase with iron glass balustrade connects all three floors.



In the family room, a glass & stainless steel cabinet hanging over porcelain bar is an installation marvel. The lower level rec room features a concrete bar and concave music alcove.



Best Exterior Feature was awarded to the sleek, modern rooftop bar with colorful orange accents pictured above right. It offers a 360 degree view of the water, and is equipped with an electrically operated roof hatch.

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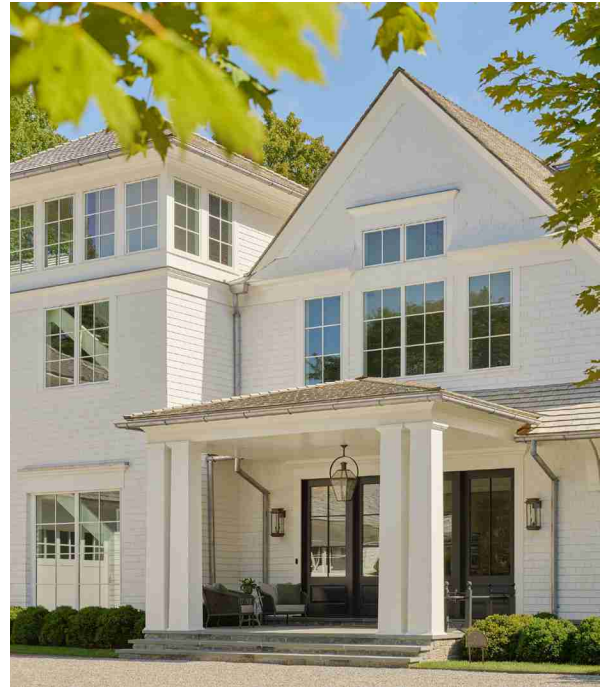


CUSTOM HOME OF THE YEAR
Best Custom Home 7,000-8,000 SF
Best Custom Kitchen & Best Home Office
Bluewater Home
Tanner White, Architect



Bluewater Home Darren Andreoli and Bob Sprouls

Bob Sprouls and Darren Andreoli built this exquisite shingle style home pictured on the cover. It's designed by Tanner White, features Pella windows and Wasca siding, and sits on three sweeping acres in Wilton. Hannah McCann used skillful interior design to create a balance of openness and intimacy.



The warm, homey kitchen with wide plank oak floors, walnut ceiling, marble island, custom black range hood and stunning bronze pendants, was recognized as Best Custom Kitchen. The dining area opens to a stone patio and pool, and the built-in bar features brass and glass shelving and a Zellige tile backsplash to add sparkle and dimension.

CUSTOM HOME
OF THE YEAR
INTERIOR DESIGNER
Hannah McCann



At McCann Custom Interiors, we believe the most extraordinary spaces are born from deep,

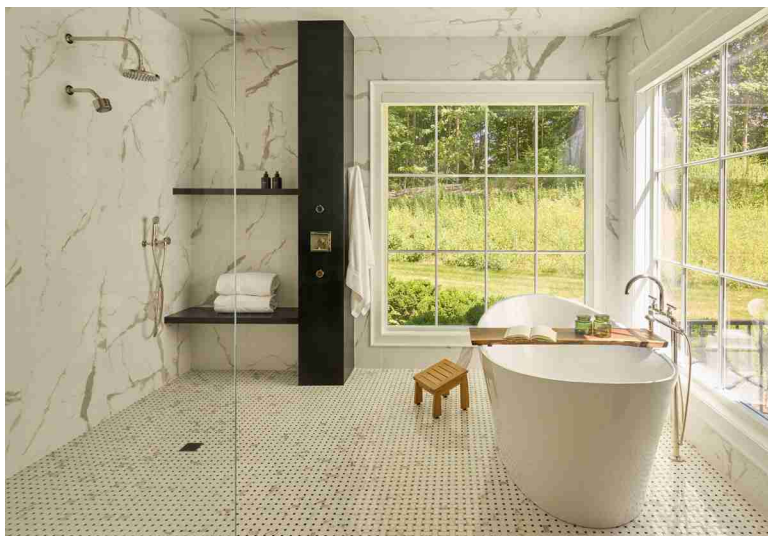
genuine connections. This Wilton, Connecticut project is the culmination of a multi-year partnership that began with the clients' first custom build in Kiawah, South Carolina.

When approaching the design of a "forever home," the technical challenge is to balance timelessness with highly personalized functionality. To us, design is not just about the aesthetic result; it is about the integrity of the process. We prioritize a seamless journey guided by our core values: design excellence, transparent communication, and meticulous organization. For industry professionals, we know that success lives in the details and the collaboration between architect, builder, and designer. For the homeowner, success is felt in the joy of the experience.

What's truly important is capturing the soul of the inhabitants while maintaining a rigorous standard of execution. By fostering a culture of trust and transparency, we ensure that the path to a dream home is as rewarding as the final, award-winning result. This Connecticut residence stands as a testament to what is possible when design expertise & construction skill meets a shared vision.



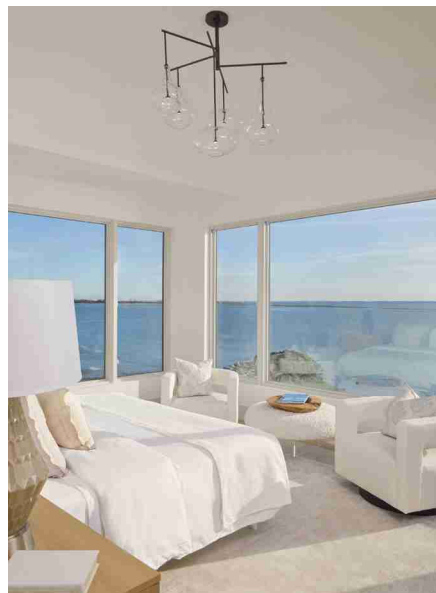
The stunning home office features a monolith fireplace, and rich blue green millwork and cabinetry by Bluewater. The show stopper porcelain slab bath features a sculptured tub, walnut vanities and two picture windows that bring the outdoors in.



(continued)

Best Not So Big Home Best Powder Room Bluewater Home Tanner White Architect

This luxury 4 level Bluewater beach house is designed by Tanner White and located in Westport's VE Flood zone. Highlights include stunning interior spaces by Laura Gorman, with floor to ceiling windows, oak and white kitchen, a winning powder room with feature tile and reeded cabinets, and a luscious primary suite open to the water. The home sold for \$7.2 million.



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FOR AN OVER \$5 MILLION HOME



Beth Krupa
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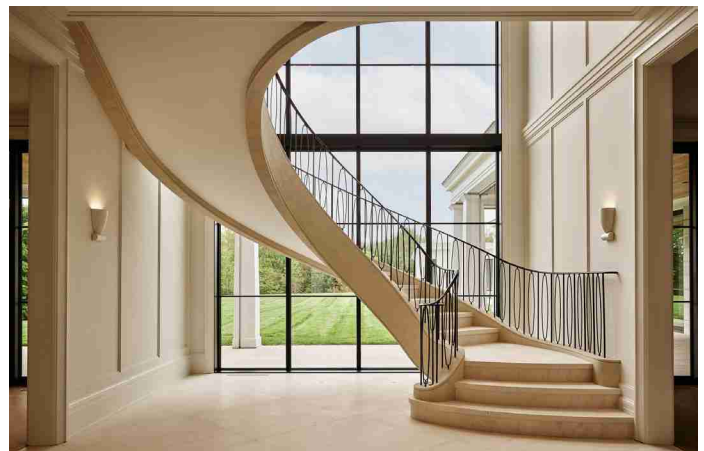
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BEST CUSTOM HOME OVER 15,000 SF

Fletcher Development

Granoff Architects



Ryan Fletcher built this 26,000 sf custom home designed by Richard Granoff in Indiana limestone with slate roof. Highlights include an exquisite helical limestone entry stair, a massive marble kitchen island, an oak paneled fireplace room, secondary elevator with floating staircase and extensive outdoor living. Soon after completion, the home sold for \$43 million.

(continued)

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Steven Mueller Architect



Nicko Nakos & Joe Matta built this spectacular shingle style home designed by Steven Mueller. Highlights include a see thru fireplace from dining room to living room, an exquisite lacquered game room & bar, a tri-level bedroom for a lucky 8 year old, and a heated patio, pool and pool house.

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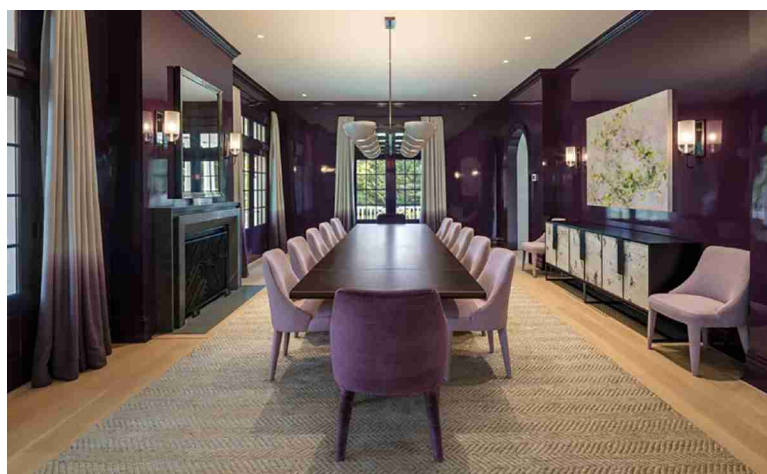
Best Custom Home 9,000 – 10,000 SF

LoParco Associates

Wadia Associates, Architect



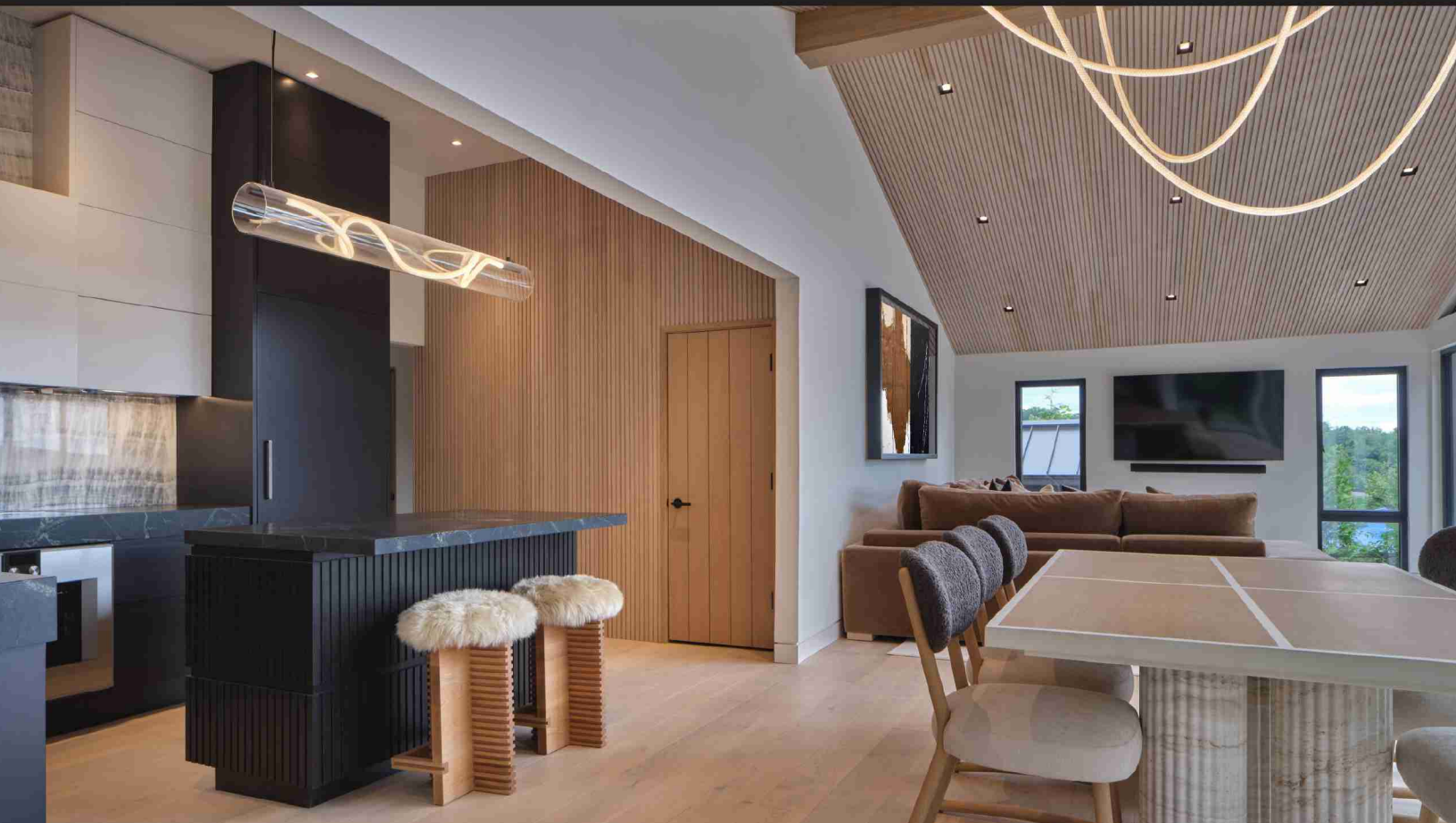
LoParco Associates was recognized for this classic Greenwich home, designed by Stephen Gibson of Wadia Associates with a DaVinci roof, spectacular tiered staircase and exquisite plaster details. The dining room and lounge are in level 5 high gloss paint, and the green lacquer butler's pantry is a stand out.





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BEST CUSTOM HOME 5,000 – 6,000 SF
Best Outdoor Living Environment
Best Outdoor Feature
Lo Parco Associates
Christian Rae Studio, Architect



LoParco Associates team L to R: Joe Tomas - electrician, Mark Baxter - Site Super, Dean Deltosta - Project Executive, Joanne Carroll, Frank Spoto - Owner, LoParco Associates, Frank Spoto Jr.- Project Manager/Site Super. Tom McClure - Project Manage/Estimator, Pat Mallozzi - Finance Manager

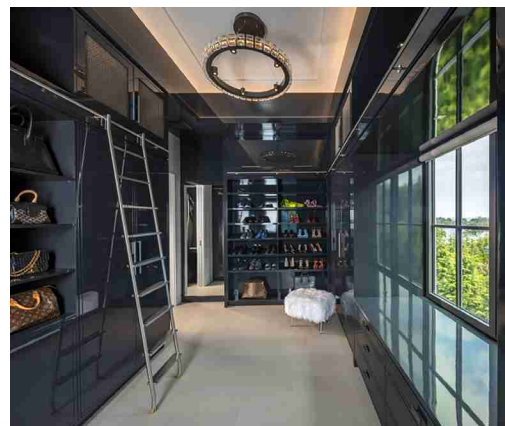


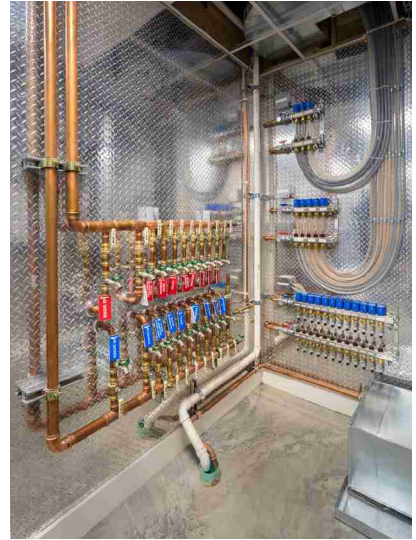
Carl Vernlund Photography



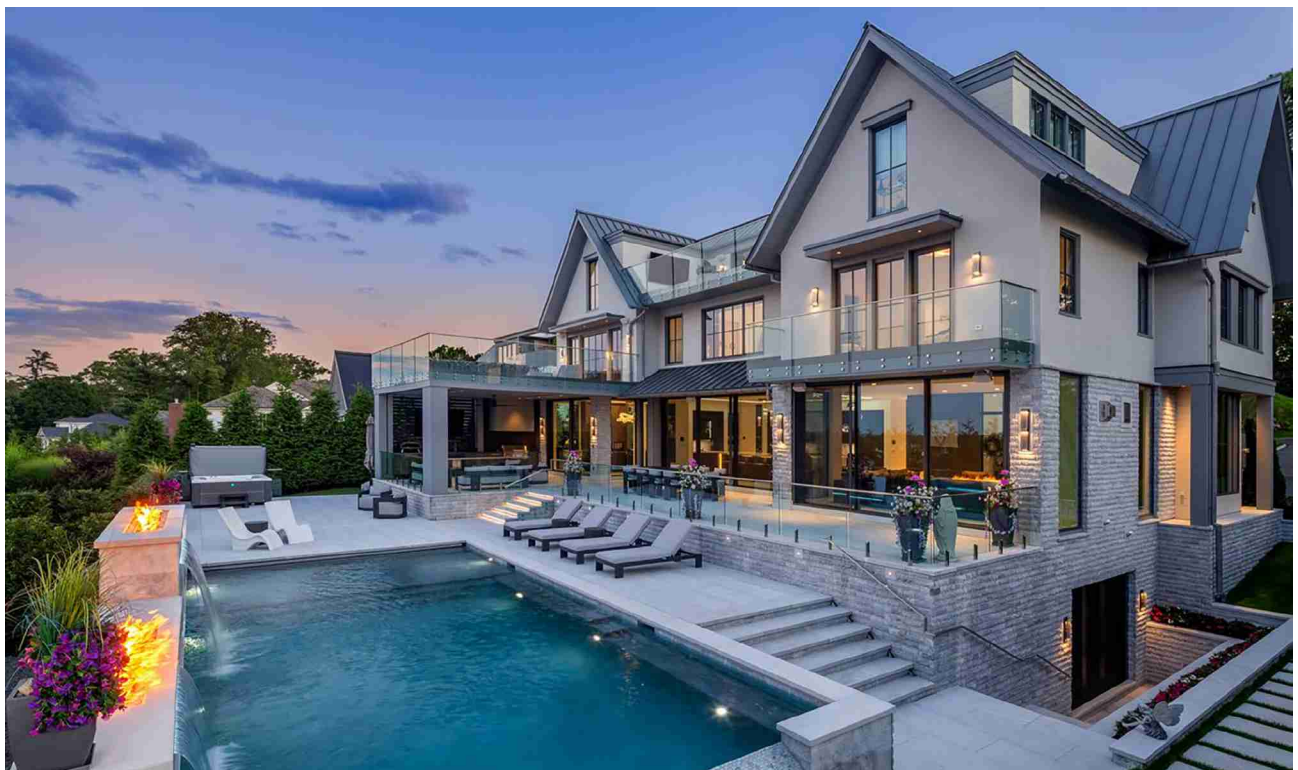
In a 2nd HOBI win, LoParco Associates owner, Frank Spoto, and Frank Spoto Jr. built this challenging home, designed by Christian Rae Studio in dryvit & pillowed granite with glass garage doors.

The intricate floating staircase is constructed using metal stringers and stainless mesh risers with oak treads. The kitchen features an enormous 15 ft island, and Fry Riglet molding was applied flush to the drywall in the impressive walk-in closet.





Highlights of the lower level include a backlit Cristallo quartzite Bar with Ranger logo bar stools, and diamond plate walls in the mechanical rooms. This home offers sensational outdoor living from multiple decks to this infinity edge pool with fire feature.



(continued)



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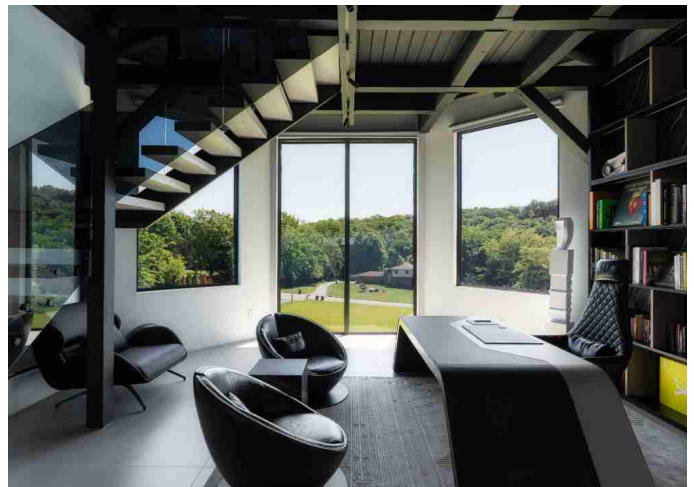
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Jordan Conover Design Wins 6 HOBI Awards for Shadow House in Farmington

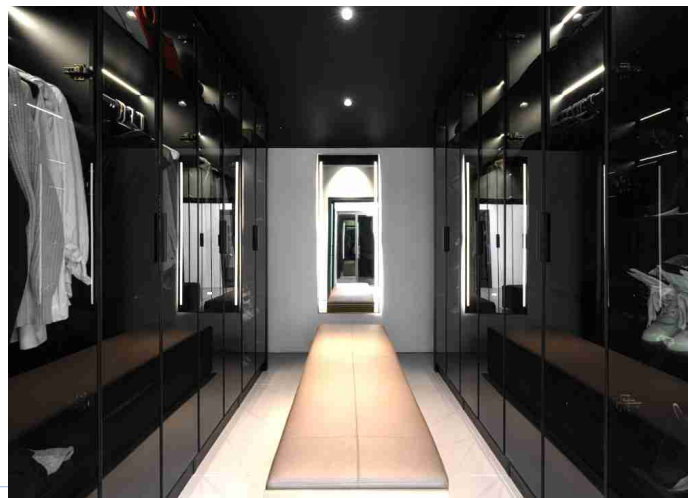


Jordan Conover Design team L-R Devonte Dillion, Jamie Taylor, Taylored Media Group, Kevin Galliford - KG Visuals, Jordan Conover, Nicole Koval and Maraly Moldanado

BEST CUSTOM HOME 8,000-9,000 SF



Highlights of this home include: an 18 ft tall smoke glass mirror integrated into an ACM + fiber cement exterior facade, ceiling height glass pivot entry doors, ceiling height thermal glass windows, stone flooring, stone & glass staircases, full height stone walls and SmartHome automation. Conover won BEST VIDEO and BEST MARKETED HOME for his video tour of shadowHouse and the creative events and publicity he produced. The OUTSTANDING WALK-IN CLOSET at shadowHouse is pictured at right.



Best Pool House
BEST OUTDOOR LIVING ENVIRONMENT
HARTFORD COUNTY
Jordan Conover Design



Spectacular outdoor living includes automated dining pergolas and resort style cabanas, a winning pool house, outdoor kitchen and a 60,000 gallon Onyx Black Pebbletech pool & spa.



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Outstanding Custom Home 6,000-7,000 SF

Segerson Builders

Peter Cadoux Architect



Segerson built this charming beach home on Westport's Saugatuck Shores. Designed by architect Peter Cadoux with inviting beachy living room, custom mud room, dog shower and wood ceiling cabana.



Best Custom Home 3,000 – 4,000 SF

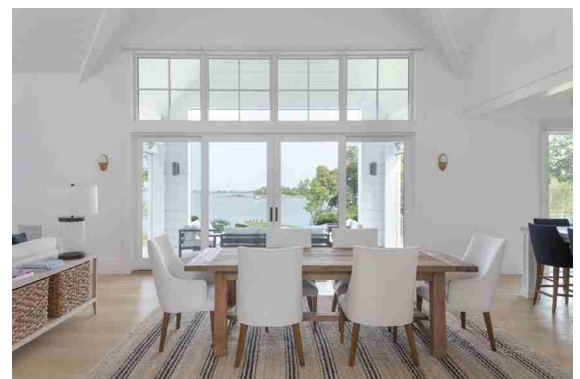
Segerson Builders
Peter Cadoux Architect



Segerson Builders won a second custom home HOBI for another Saugatuck Shores beach home, also designed by Peter Cadoux. Clad in NuCedar siding with rift oak beams in the family room, kitchen, curved windows (a trend) and four incredible outdoor living spaces, including a widow’s walk roof deck to take advantage of amazing view of Long Island Sound.

Best Custom Home 6,000-7,000 SF

The Shanahan Group
Steven Mueller Architect



Sean Shannahan & architect Steven Mueller created this Coastal Modern home with DaVinci slate roof & terraces overlooking Greenwich Harbor.

(continued)



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Outstanding Custom Home 5,000-6,000 SF

Christopher Pagliaro Architects
Sweeney Construction



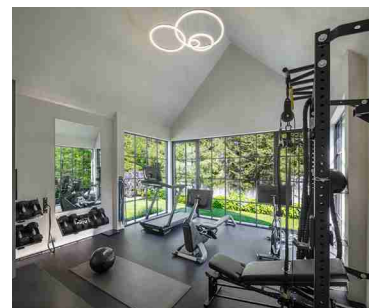
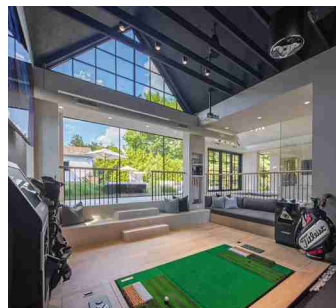
Chris Pagliaro designed this Darien custom home with an abundance of glass, a 26' high great room and kitchen nestled under a 2nd floor bridge.

Best Special Purpose Room

Christopher Pagliaro Architects



Architect Chris Pagliaro designed this spectacular “wellness escape”, a 1,400 sf addition to a 1940 Dutch Colonial in the Cranbury section of Norwalk. In a bold design statement, Chris created three distinct spaces for spa, golf and gym, using monochromatic gable-forms that focus on the pool court. The interior spa is axial to the pool, culminating in a free-standing, roofed steam shower serving as its hearth.



(continued)

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Best Custom Home 4,000-5,000 SF

Hemingway Construction
Burr Salvatore Architects

Hemingway and Burr Salvatore created this elegant New Canaan custom with exquisite arched entry door and Venetian plaster family room, a primary bedroom with limestone fireplace, and an octagonal sunroom and covered porch, each with wagon wheel wood ceilings.



Outstanding Custom Fit Out

Outstanding Interior Design
Bonnie Paige Design Build

Bonnie Paige produced this creative custom fit out for a condominium in the Cortland in NYC. Plaster walls, mid century furnishings and exquisite built-in cabinetry illustrate her building and interior design talent.



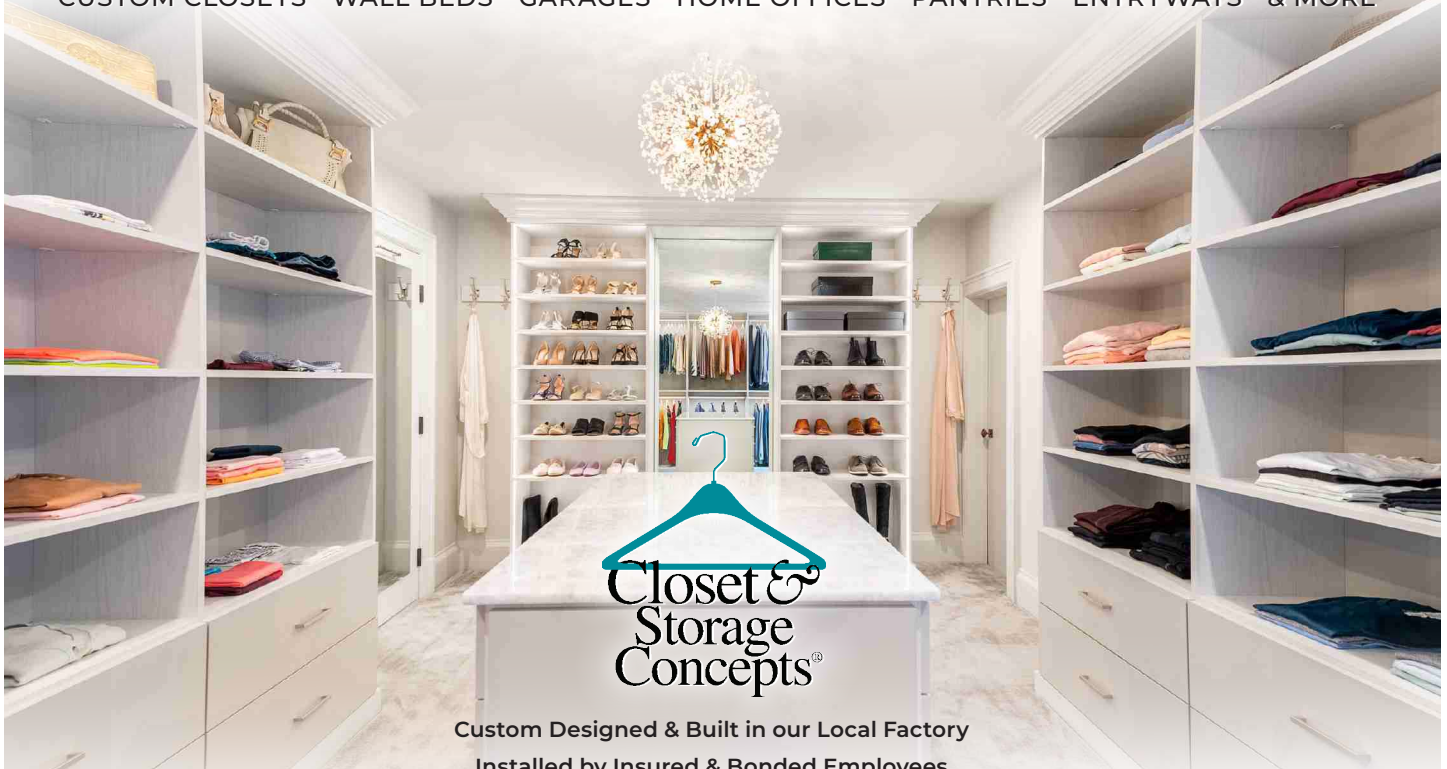
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Best Custom Home Under 3,000 SF
Best Design Build Home
Best Landscape Design by a Builder
 Cole Harris Homes
Outstanding Interior Design
 LTW Design

Architect builder Paul Harris design built this charming custom home on a tiny infill lot overlooking the Saugatuck River in Westport. The striking home is clad in cypress siding, and its lush gardens by Les Arbres won a HOBI for landscaping.



Inside the home lives bigger than its size, and Leia Ward's talented interior design was recognized with a HOBI as well. Highlights include a walnut kitchen, 2nd floor covered lanai with sloped floor for drainage, and a rear deck with spa and cold plunge pool overlooking the river.



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Best Green Energy-Efficient Custom Home

Carbon Custom Builders



In Pound Ridge, this zero energy home by Carbon Custom Builders is designed by Amalgam Studio with steel frame, triple glazed windows and ICF walls. Inside, the home's water and air systems feature advanced filters and self-testing mechanisms that deliver the purest possible supply of both water and air. Plumbing materials and wall plasters were carefully selected to reduce exposure to harmful plastics, adhesives, and VOCs.



Best Not So Big Custom Home

Guiltec

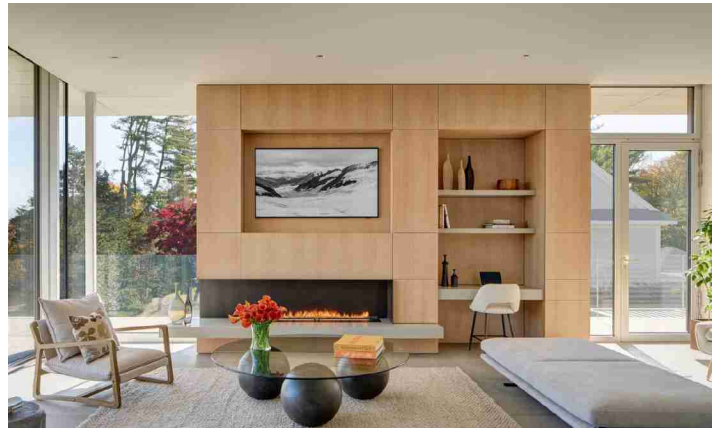
This 1,000 sf Stamford beach house by Guiltec is on piles 85 feet deep. Inside, there are intricate wood ceilings and water views everywhere.



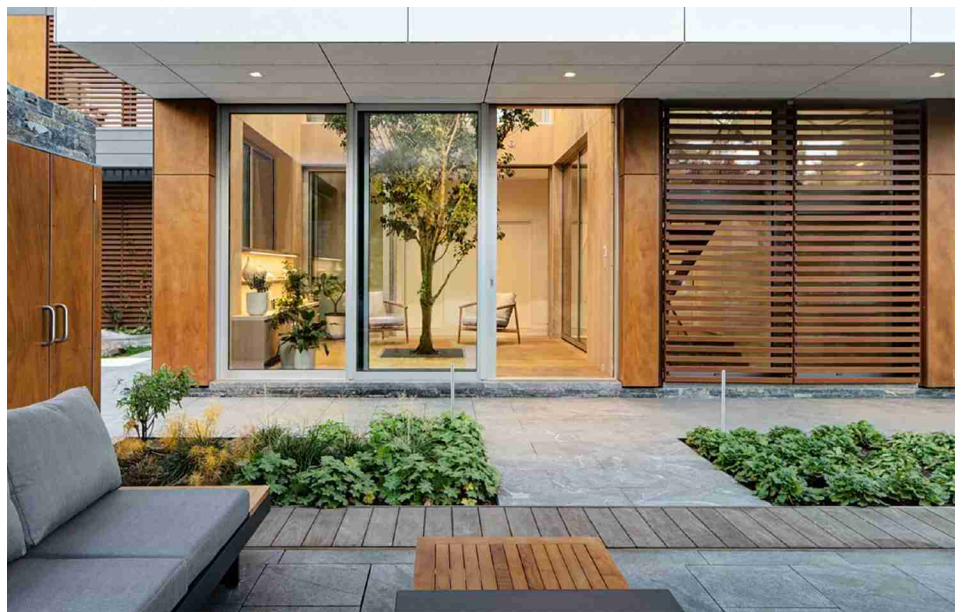
Best Modern Custom Home Under 5,000 SF

Prutting & Company

Amanda Martocchio Architecture



Prutting's net positive modern home is skillfully designed by Amanda Martocchio, and clad in Parklex Prodema with cantilevered living overlooking Greenwich Harbor. A striking front entry with Zen garden sets the serene mood of this special home. Inside, a floating staircase is open to the glass enclosed atrium with a living tangerine tree. The home is designed and built with exquisite millwork and a commitment to sustainability.



Best Modern Custom Home Over 5,000 SF

Able Construction
Brooklyn Studio, Architect

Peter Greenburg built this modern home designed by the Brooklyn Studio in Shou Sugi Ban charred wood with walnut windows, Venetian plaster and solid walnut staircase, and an infinity pool and cantilevered sun breaker overlooking L.I.S.



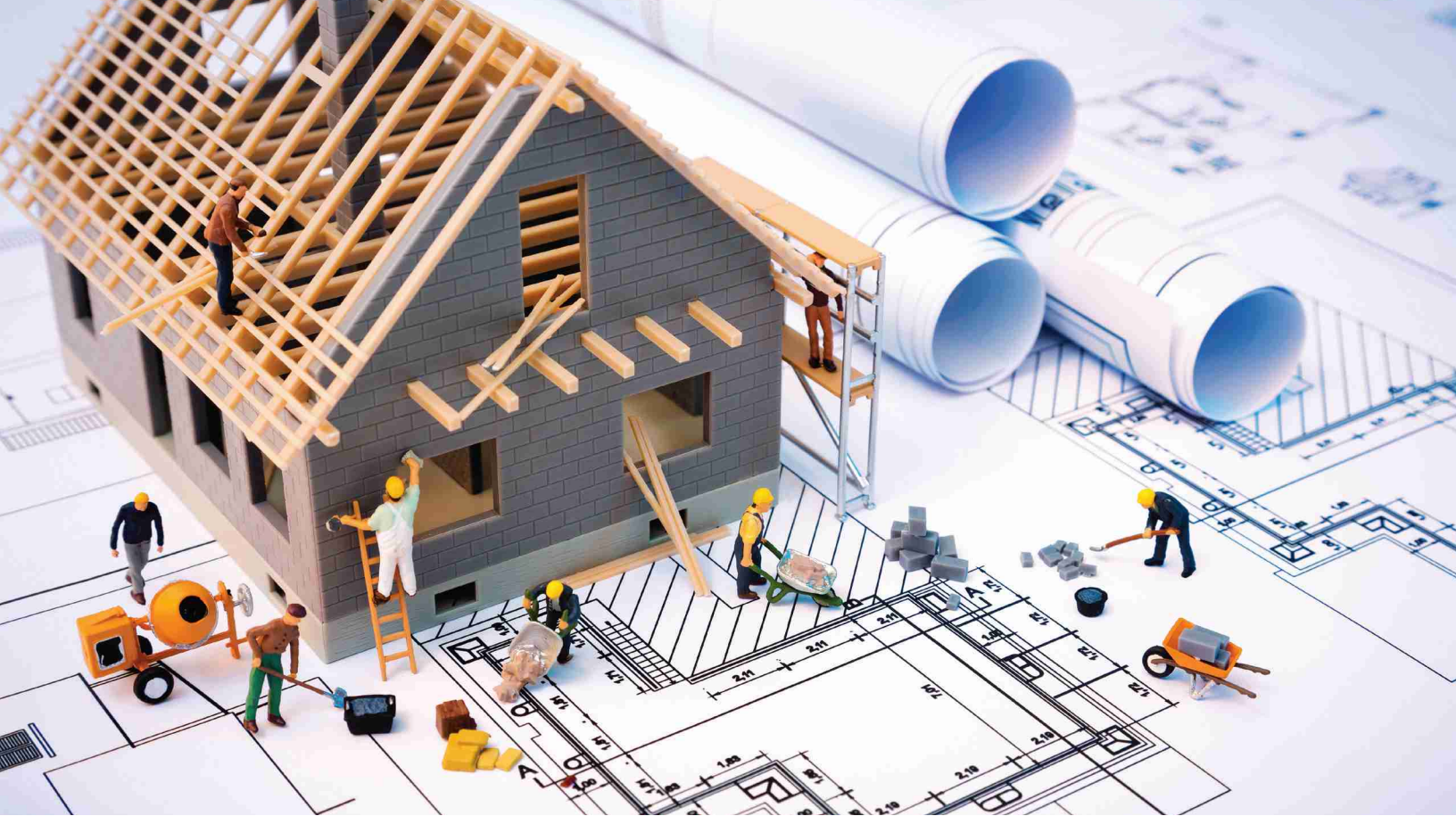
Best Out of State Custom Home

Karp Associates
CAH Architecture

Arnold Karp followed his clients to Dallas, and architect, Chis Hull, designed this fit out of a luxury high rise condominium. Highlights include a two-sided sofa to view either TV or city lights, a backlit Cristallo waterfall kitchen island 14feet long, an Oak dining table that flips for billiards, a ski slope faucet in the powder room, and 3D tiled office with a financial tombstone wall commemorating the owner's hedge fund deals and IPO's.



(continued)



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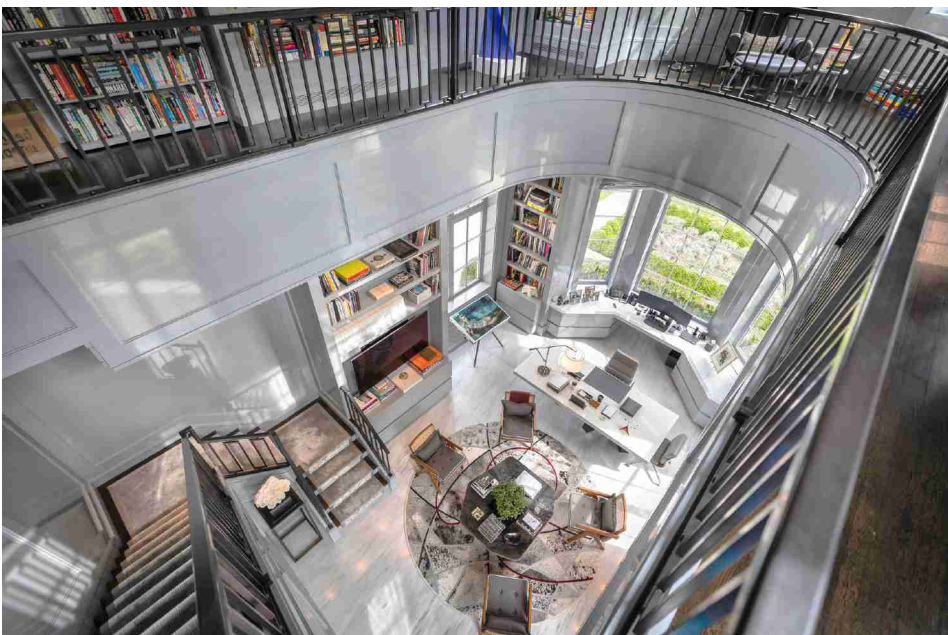
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Best Designed Custom Home

Anthony Minichetti Architect

Architect Anthony Minichetti designed this 21,000 sf Passive Home in French classic style, clad in limestone with a hand forged bronze railing enhancing an exquisite main staircase.



A sodalite stone fireplace and custom silk rope light brings rich elegance to the salon; and a double height gallery and two story library with fluted millwork create drama and a bold design statement. For at home sports excitement, a viewing room overlooks the hockey rink.



(continued)

Best New Construction ADU

Further Architecture

Woodlawn Property Development

In Westville, Further Architecture and Woodlawn Property Management design built this ADU in the footprint of a garage. It's one of the first approved ADUs in New Haven.



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Best Special Purpose Building

Garrett Wilson Builders

Christian Rae Studio Architect

Best Audio Video Technology

SmartHome & Theater



Here's a dynamite Wellness Center by Garrett Wilson & Christian Rae. A walkway connects the center to the main house. The stunning interior is designed with a spectacular pool, waterfall grotto and fireplace, a sports court, lounge with fireplace and TV, and living wall opposite the gym. The outdoor space is beautifully landscaped and features an outdoor fireplace and spa.



This Special Purpose Building embodies health and wellness, while showcasing the the construction skill of Garrett Wilson Builders, the Architectural and Lighting Design talent of Christian Rae Studio, and the Audio Video expertise of SmartHome & Theater.

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SPEC HOME OF THE YEAR

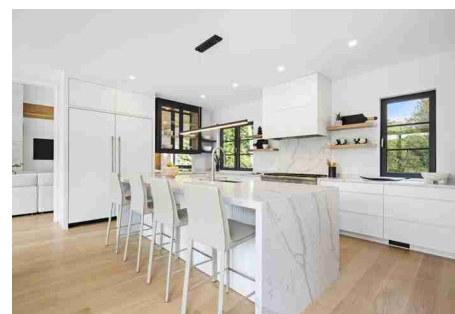
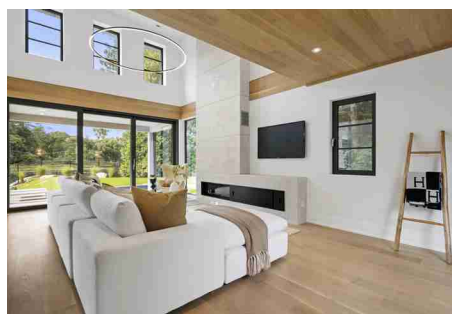
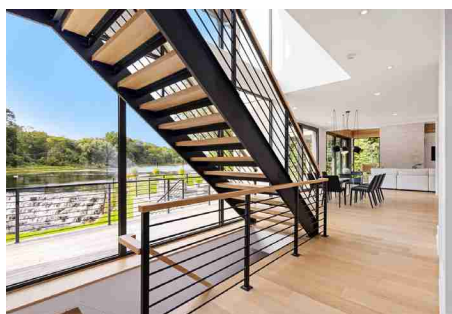
Best Spec Home \$4-5 Million

Able Construction

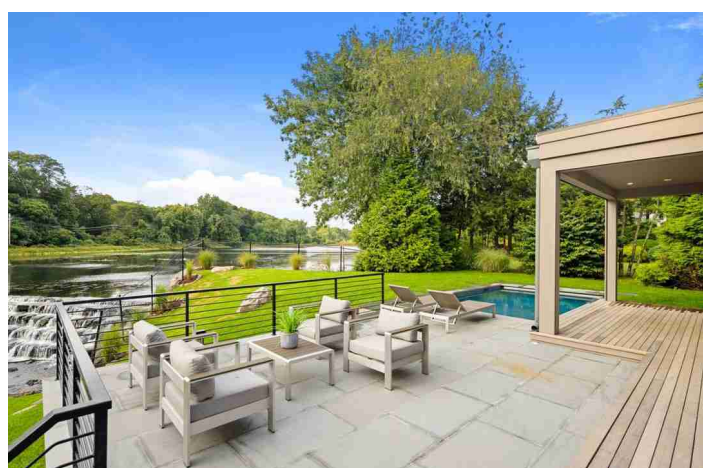
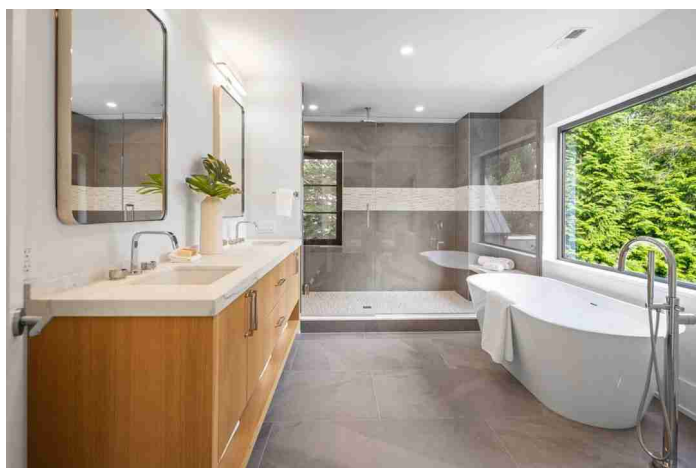
Christian Rae Studio, Architect



L-R Able Project Managers Cal Mooney & Jason O'Donnell, owner Peter Greenberg, Charles J. Katz & head designer Lindsay Petrizzi



Our Spec Home of the Year, built by Able Construction, is designed by Christian Rae Studio with an oak and metal floating stair, Venetian plaster fireplace wall, fluted waterfall kitchen island, oak & porcelain bath, and great outdoor living. It sold for \$4 million.



Best Spec Home \$5-6 Million

EPG Development Vona Builders



On two New Canaan acres, EPG & Vona built this 10,000 SF home with Taj Mahal waterfall island and a luxury primary bath with shower for two. It sold at \$5.7 Million

Best Spec Home \$3-4 Million

Westport Family Homes



Westport Family Homes skillfully sited this winning spec on a steeply sloped lot, and added a stone wall for curb appeal. Interior designer Shawna Feeley used Benjamin Moore Van Deusen Blue to dress the kitchen base cabinets, and paired it with decorator white and natural oak accents in the ceiling and floating shelves. The home listed at \$3.3 million, and sold for \$3.6 million.

Best In Town Spec Home

Westport Family Homes

David Popkin won a 2nd HOBI for this in town spec with dark oak and brown silk marble kitchen, and dining room looking into a wood ceiling office.





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Best Spec Home \$2-3 Million

Beachwalk Homes

Oscar Leal design built this Fairfield Beach home, with open floor plan, walk-in pantry and mahogany roof deck, and sold it for \$2.3 million.



Best Spec Home \$1-2 Million

Peter Stofa & Company



Peter Stofa’s striking 4,000 sf Fairfield spec is sided in durable Hardie Clapboard & Ascent Wood Veneer and Boral Composite Trim. It features a lifetime roof and professional landscaping with irrigation. This home offers incredible value with five bedrooms, four full bathrooms, a walk-up attic and an unfinished basement. It sold for \$1.875 million.

Outstanding Fairfield County Spec Home \$1-2 Million

DeLaurentis Developments



This charming modern farmhouse in Fairfield by DeLaurentis Developments listed & sold for \$1.99 million.

Outstanding Hartford County Spec Home \$1-2 Million

Dalos & Stern



In Hartford County, Dalos & Stern listed this 3,800 sf Canton home at \$995,00 and sold it for \$1.2 million.

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Best Single Family Home \$1-2 Million

By Carrier Inc.

In Cromwell, Johnny Carrier built this impressive 4BR home with double island kitchen and primary bath with oversized shower at a value added \$1.45 million.



Best Single Family Home \$400,000-600,000 T&M Homes



Steve Temkin won for this 3,000 SF home in Torrington with three bedrooms PLUS a luxury primary suite at \$599,900.

Best Detached 55+ Home Under 3,000 SF Ridge Builders for The Ridge at Monroe home

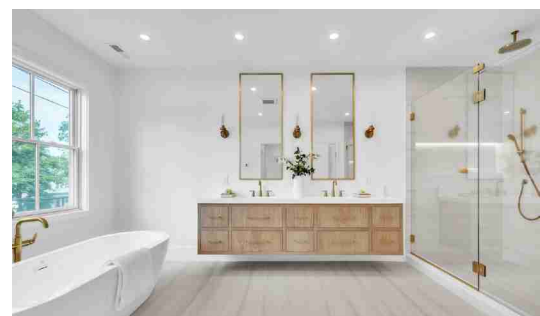
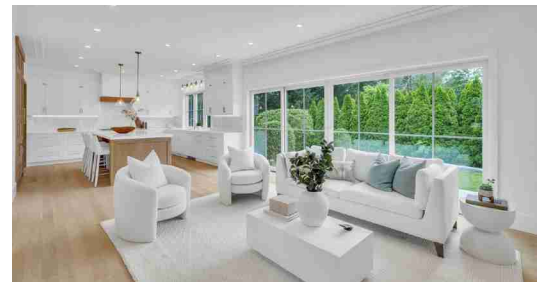


Ridge Builders won for their Zero Energy Ready model in Monroe with heated two car garage, first floor primary suite and open concept living. The impressive kitchen is equipped with a long bar stool island, quartz counters and luxury stainless appliances.

Best Luxury Townhome

EPG Development & Cypress Enterprises

In New Canaan, EPG & Cypress built these high end duplex townhomes designed by Ana Soto, Omni Consulting Group. Each unit is equipped with home elevator, spacious family room, kitchen, dining and primary bath with floating vanity and 10'X 4' two person shower. They sold for \$2.3 & \$2.4 million.



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COMMUNITIES

EG Home Is Recognized with Eight HOBI Awards

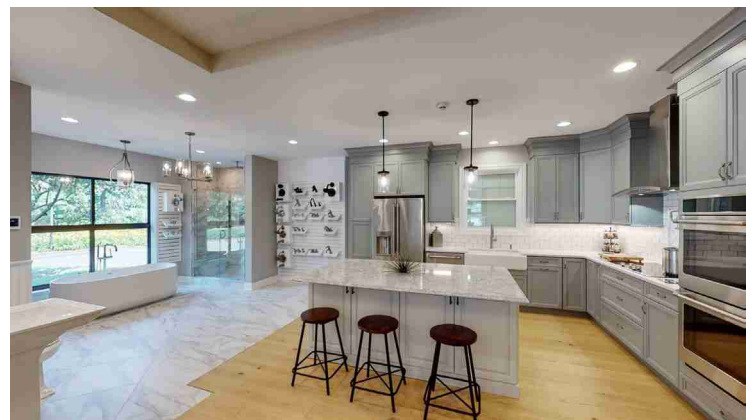


EG Home won New Home Sales Team of the Year and Best Product Showroom Under 5,000 SF, and the company was honored to receive six HOBI Awards for new homes and communities in Oxford, Pawcatuck and Cheshire.

New Home Sales Team of the Year

Over the last year, EG Home's in house sales team of Nicole Kolinchak, Shabs Sadat, David Pippin, Felicity LeClair, Jason Helton, Lori Civitillo & Mike Helmuth had 84 new home sales across four communities at total sales revenue of \$46.3 million!

Best Product Showroom Under 5,000 SF



The 2,750 sf EG Home Design Center allows every buyer of an EG Home to work with Professional Design Consultants in personalizing their home. Large samples and functioning displays of products, materials, features and finishes are enhanced by several kitchen and bath vignettes. The Design Center is equipped with two selection areas, two private office areas and a hospitality area, serving sales and design functions simultaneously.

COMMUNITIES

Best Green Energy-Efficient Community EG Home for The Bridges at Oxford Green



At the Bridges, EG Home delivers Hers 10 Zero Energy Ready homes with solar from Earthlight Technologies.

"Sam, I really appreciate the partnership we have with Earthlight. It's been amazing! It's allowed us to really grow our company to being CT's only Zero energy ready, and zero energy production builder. We couldn't have done it without you. We really appreciate you."

– Matt Gilchrist, EG Home

Earthlight Technologies is an energy solutions company based in Ellington, Connecticut, and a trusted name in commercial and residential solar throughout the region. Partnering with builders, developers, and commercial property owners, our fully in-house team manages every phase of a project, from system design and engineering to installation and long-term service. By keeping all expertise under one roof, we ensure accountability, efficiency, and consistent quality across complex builds. This integrated model supports streamlined coordination, dependable performance, and long-term value for commercial energy investments.

Best Small Lot Community Best Single Family Home \$800,000-1 Million

Outstanding New London County Spec Home \$1-2 Million

EG Home for *The Enclave at Barn island*
in Pawcatuck



A Limited Collection of New Luxury
Homes Close to the Coast

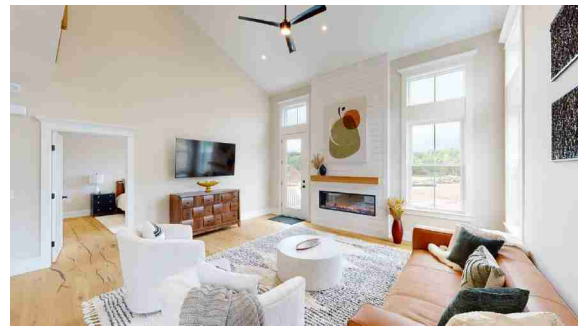
In Pawcatuck, EG Home's small lot community offers Zero Energy Ready single family homes. The Lincoln model features a vaulted ceiling great room, a first floor primary suite and the option of 847sf on the 2nd level. The Roosevelt farmhouse offers 3,165 sf plus 813 sf with a finished basement and sold at \$1.2 million.



COMMUNITIES

Best New Haven County Condominium Community Best Luxury Condominium

EG Home for The Reserve at Stonebridge Crossing in Cheshire



The Reserve at Stonebridge Crossing offers spacious Townhomes and luxury Carriage Homes in a close-knit community with beautiful open spaces. A solar farm contributes toward each homeowners monthly HOA fees, and a dedicated walking loop, covered pavilion for outdoor gatherings add to its appeal in the desirable town of Cheshire. EG Home is selling the homes from \$500,000-679,000.

Greyrock Homes Wins Three HOBI Awards in Community, Spec Home & Remodeling Categories

“Jerry Effren was HBRA President 32 years ago, when he asked me to take over the Design Awards, which I renamed the HOBI Awards, and have been producing ever since.

Thank you, Jerry!!

– Joanne Carroll



L-R Jackie Bertolone, Greyrock PM Kyle Bertolone, Jerry Effren, Sandy Effren, Lisa & Ryan Platt

Jerry Effren is an industry leader, and an award winning builder/developer. He has been recognized as an NAHB Pacesetter, and his company, Greyrock Homes, has won more than 20 HOBI Awards over the last 30 years, including the top award, Community of the Year several times. Jerry helped create new zoning regs for cluster housing development and in both Norwalk and Greenwich.

This year, Greyrock Homes distinguished themselves by being recognized with three HOBI Awards in three separate categories: Spec Home, Community and Remodeled Home.

Best Single Family Rental Community Greyrock Homes for The Cottages at Pepperidge



Ever the trendsetter, Jerry Effren began developing single family rental communities before this form of rental development became popular in Connecticut, and he has raised the bar in luxury ever since. Greyrock’s newest single family rental community in Norwalk is an age restricted, multi-gen enclave of 3-5 bedroom luxury homes, with rents starting at \$7,500.

Outstanding Spec Home \$1-2 Million Greyrock Homes



Located in Singing Woods, Norwalk, Greyrock’s contemporary cottage offers stunning open concept living with a luxury 1st floor primary suite, and sold for \$1.9 million.

Best New Old Home Greyrock Homes



Jerry Effren reimagined this Norwalk home for empty nesters, with a private home office, sunken family room with bar, and luxury 1st floor primary suite.

COMMUNITIES

Best Fairfield County Pocket Community HB Capital for *The Reserve at Sterling Ridge*



In Stamford, HB Capital was recognized for Sterling Ridge, an 11 home enclave starting at \$1.7 million.

Best Marked Community – Fairfield County Denise Walsh & Partners for *The Reserve at Sterling Ridge*



Denise Walsh & Partners delivered Outstanding Marketing in print, social media and events for Sterling Ridge.

Best New Haven County Pocket Community Corbo Associates for *Lakeside Estates in Oxford*



At Lake Zoar on the Housatonic River, Ralph Corbo just completed Lakeside Estates, an 8 lot pocket community, with homes selling from \$2- 4 million including boat docks.

COMMUNITIES

Best Townhouse Community By Carrier for *Smith Center Lofts* in Glastonbury



Johnny Carrier gut remodeled a 1760 building on Main Street in Glastonbury, and made it the centerpiece of a 10 unit townhouse rental community. Smith Center Lofts is fully leased at \$4,000-5,000 per month.

Best Detached 55+ Community Best Detached 55+ Home Over 3,000 SF Toll Brothers for the *Regency at Rivington* in Danbury

In 55+ Housing, Toll Bros. won for the Regency at Riverton in Danbury, 133 detached single family homes featuring first-floor primary bedrooms, low-maintenance living, and exclusive resort-style amenities.

Best Clubhouse Toll Brothers for the *Regency at Woodbridge*

Regency at Woodbridge is a Toll Brothers 55+ community of 70 homes located in Woodbridge, New Haven County. The Regency Woodbridge clubhouse offers a pool, fitness center and the impressive clubroom pictured.



Best Fairfield County Condominium Community Best Mid-Priced Condominium Steiner Inc. for *Fieldstone Commons* in Bethel



In Bethel, Chris Steiner won for Fieldstone Commons, 22 detached condos starting at \$600,000.





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COMMUNITIES

Lovley Development & Renee Meuse Lovley Win 4 HOBI Awards for Exceptional New Home Sales



New Home Broker/ Realtor Of The Year
 Century 21 Renee Meuse Lovley
 Lovley Development &
 Newport Realty Group

Best Attached 55+ Community
Best Marketed Community
 Lovley Development for *Aberdeen*
Estates at Benson Woods in Middlebury



Our 2025 Realtor of the Year, Renee Meuse Lovley, closed \$25 million in new homes sales with \$43 million on deposit. In 2024, she ranked #1 Century 21 Agent in CT and #17 in the nation!



Best Traditional Community
 Lovley Development for
Winchester Estates in Southington



All 34 homes at Lovley’s Winchester Estates in Southington were sold and occupied in 2 years.

At their 55+ Community in Middlebury, Lovley Development had deposits on all 32 homes before the model was built.



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LEAD TIMES

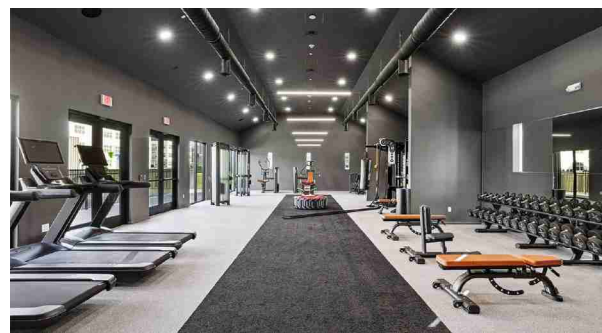


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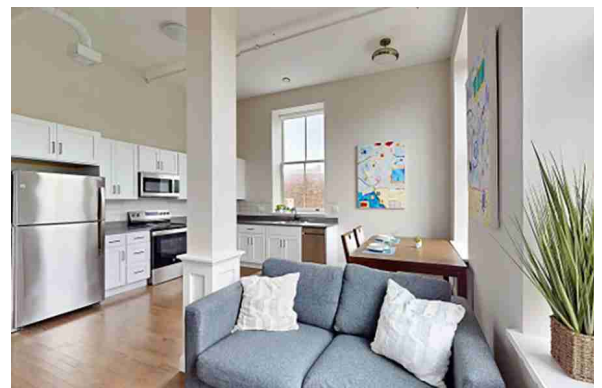
COMMUNITIES

Best Rental Community Three Stories or more Dale Development for *Springside Middletown*



Bob Dale's *Springside Middletown* is an outstanding 240-unit garden-style apartment community offering 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, and this spectacular club room and fitness center. Leases are \$1,900 -3,800 per month.

Best Retrofit Mixed Use Heritage Housing Inc.



David McCarthy redeveloped the historic Reid & Hughes Building in Norwich for retail space and 17 apartments, which are leased at \$1,600-1,900 per month.



COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

Wellbuilt Company

Do H. Chung & Partners, Architect for
The Lafayette Stamford



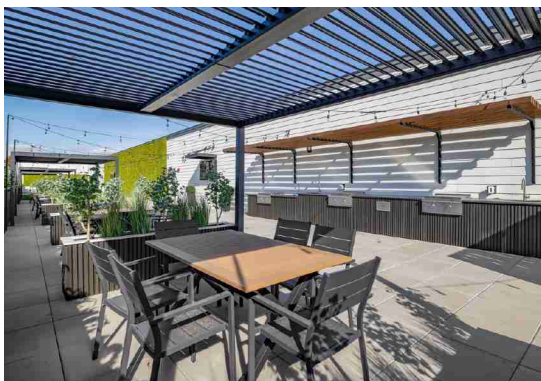
Wellbuilt partner Mitch Kidd with architect Sotheby Chung



The Lafayette Stamford is a transformative mixed-use residential community on Stamford’s East Side. This 130-unit development of studios, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom apartments offer both affordable and market rate apts. at \$2,000-3,400.



At street level, Lafayette retail tenants include a locally beloved Coffee Shop and a branch of the Ferguson Library. Amenities at the Lafayette Stamford include a 9,000-square-foot rooftop deck, with lounge seating, kitchen and BBQ stations, large-screen TVs, a dedicated children’s play zone, and a secure dog run. Indoors, residents enjoy a 2,000-square-foot fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment, a communal lounge with co-working areas and a games room with billiards and entertainment.



Beyond its own footprint, Wellbuilt is working closely with the State of Connecticut, the City of Stamford, and local stakeholders to reimagine adjoining DOT-controlled properties, turning what were once unsafe, underutilized spaces into safe, vibrant public destinations. At its heart, Lafayette reflects the spirit of its signature slogan: “Love Where You Live.”

REMODELED HOME OF THE YEAR

Best Historic Rehab Braydan Construction

Jesika Estepanian, Aventine Architects



Builder Jamie Duggan & architect Jesika Estepanian

One of the original coastal homes in Greenwich, this estate has a history as remarkable as its sweeping 180-degree shoreline views. Built in the 1890s as a summer retreat by the Binney family—who made their fortune in carbon and petroleum, and are best known as the inventors of Crayola crayons - the house was rebuilt as a stone fortress after a devastating fire in 1927.



Jaimie Braydon & architect Jesika Estepanian preserved the home’s historic character, while reimagining it for modern family living. This vision included raising the home’s 2nd floor and roof to allow for 10 ft ceilings. The home’s original two-foot-thick stone walls required inventive solutions to craft new arched openings for European windows and to integrate new construction seamlessly with the historic structure.



Highlights of this outstanding renovation include a modern bar and custom kitchen, a mastersuite with sumptuous double island walk-in closet and pool overlooking L.I.S..





HAVE CLIENTS LOOKING TO BUILD?

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- Builder-led scheduling of draws including amount and frequency; all draws paid directly to builder
- Up to \$50,000 paid to the builder at closing
- At time of modification, if the current available rates are lower, homeowners will be offered a float down to a lower rate. If the current available rates have gone up, they are protected against a rate increase.

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REMODELING



Murphy Brothers team L-R: John Torpy -project architect, Diane Murphy, Michael Anecharico – assistant PM, Kathie Anacherico, Joe Zito, Chris Murphy, Danielle Murphy, Joanne Carroll, CJ Murphy - PM, Vinny Hackett – head of operations, Evans LeCompte - estimator, Michael Murphy & Andrew Hopkinson – owner rep.

Best Residential Remodel \$5-7 Million Murphy Brothers Contracting Granoff Architects



For this Greenwich renovation, Murphy Brothers used Thermory wood cladding with a ventilated rainscreen. Highlights include the winter garden, mahogany library, spa room with sauna and 45ft indoor pool.

Outstanding Historic Preservation Murphy Brothers Contracting

Murphy Brothers restored the 1740 Zebediah Meade House for the Greenwich Audubon Campus. Murphy Brothers team, from owners to construction staff, attended the HOBI Awards Dinner with great enthusiasm for their double HOBI wins.

Best Historic Rehab Under \$3 Million Peter Stofa

Peter Stofa renovated this 1840 Frederick Moore House, replacing 1st floor joists with steel LVL's. Pictured is the charming kitchen with 12" knotty pine floor and black granite and marble counters.



(continued)

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REMODELING

Gatehouse Partners Is Recognized with Five HOBI Awards



Gatehouse Partners team L to R: Matt Sullivan (Gatehouse Partners PM), Kathy Sullivan, Randy Sullivan, Joanne Carroll, Kristen Sullivan, Jose D'Auria (supervisor) & Michele D'Auria

Best Out of State Remodel Gatehouse Partners



Gatehouse and Studio MM renovated this unique Catskills retreat, creatively connecting it to a stunning primary suite addition with a glass walkway.

Pictured are the primary bedroom and sitting room, and in the main house, a unique modern kitchen with thick marble wall as a backdrop. Outside, a pool and pool house at center.



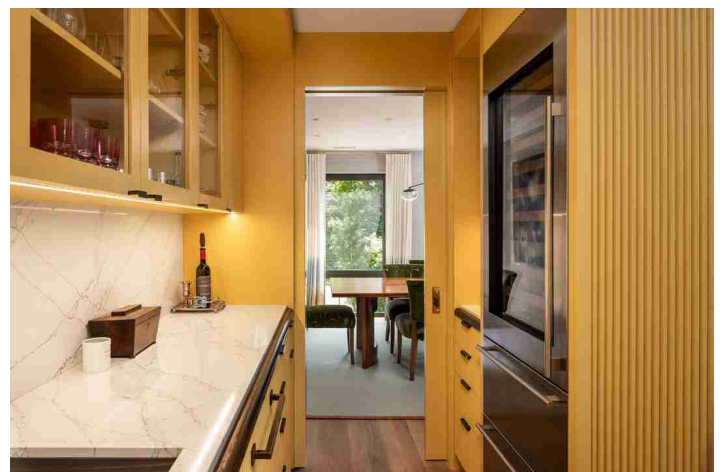
REMODELING

Gatehouse Partners Is Recognized with Five HOBI Awards

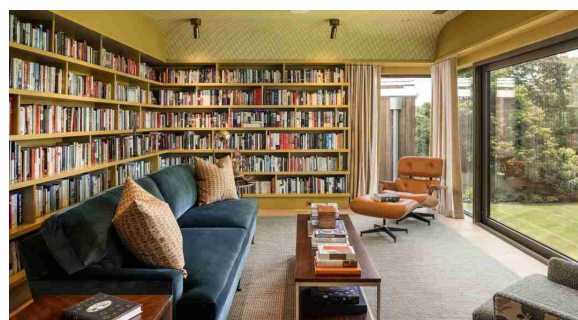
Best Residential Remodel \$3-5 Million
Best Library - Best Butler's Pantry
Outstanding Interior Feature
Gatehouse Partners
Studio Bartolotta Architect



Gatehouse Partners and Studio Bartolotta creatively linked two additions to an existing Westport home (pictured at far right). Lightwells illuminate the stunning plaster staircase, with clean lines and natural wood treads, complemented by a custom handrail that flows seamlessly with the structure. A unique textured column adds an unexpected tactile and visual element, elevating this Outstanding Interior Feature staircase to an art form.



Other highlights include a striking bold contrast kitchen, a winning butler's pantry in trendy mustard, and the winning library with colorful ceiling wallcovering.

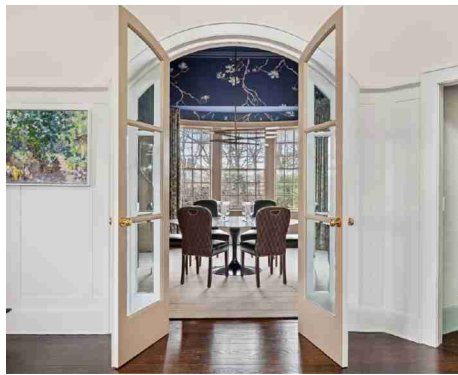


Titus Built Scores Two Remodeling and Four Special Focus Awards



Titus team L-R: Steven Alix Michael Magliochetti, Andrew Vergara, Joe Hattendorf, Krystal Stone, Jeff Titus, Josh Stufano, Mike Bourdeau Mike Cook & John Gelmetti,

Outstanding Residential Remodel \$3-5 Million



Titus completely renovated this Darien home with stunning arched glass French doors, which open to formal dining room. Other highlights include the coffered family room, and charming bar with rich wood cabinetry and marble countertop, striking the perfect balance between warmth and sophistication.



Outstanding Primary Bath Best Walk in Closet

In the same Darien remodel Titus was recognized for this beautiful all white primary bath with marble floor and brass fittings, and for this exquisite walk-in closet.

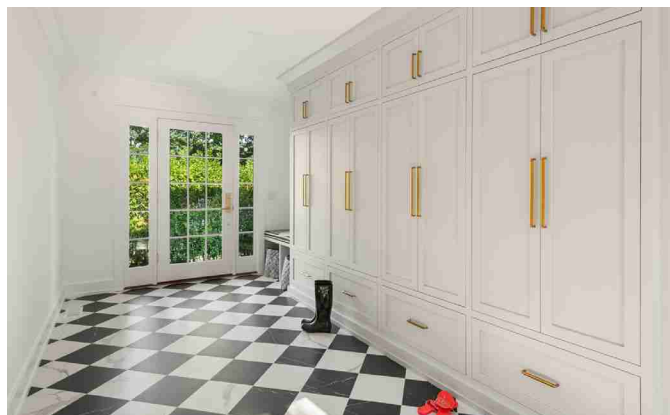


Outstanding Remodel \$2-3 Million in
Fairfield County
Titus Built for Rowayton home



Jeffrey Titus blasted the back off this Rowayton home and made it perfect for entertaining both inside and out. Pictured is the kitchen with built-in banquette.

Best Mudroom and Outstanding Kitchen by a Builder – Titus Built



Titus won two additional Special Focus Awards for this sunny, functional mudroom in a Westport home, and for this magnificent New Canaan kitchen in quarter sawn oak and arched built-ins.

Best Residential Remodel \$2-3 Million Domus Constructors

Chris Shea reimagined this Greenwich home by adding a stone foundation and improving its roofline. Pictured is the elegant interior and indoor outdoor connection.



Outstanding Remodel \$2-3 Million in New Haven County Outstanding Powder Room

Leland Torrence Enterprises and Design by the Jonathans



In North Haven, Jonathan Gordan and Leland Torrence design renovated this historic home. Pictured is the winning powder room with lucite vanity legs and Jardin magenta wallcovering, and the living room with new coffered ceiling in Lincrusta.

Best Residential Remodel \$1-2 Million
NR Contracting & DeMaio Design Group
Best Designed Remodeled Home
DeMaio Design Group



How about this BEFORE and this AFTER.

Nick DeMaio and Norman Romero, NR Contracting maintained almost all of the original foundation in this full house renovation, while adding a stunning three story glass stair tower to anchor the home to its corner location in Rowayton.

The double height stair tower space is the focal point both inside and out. DeMaio accented the ceiling with the same white oak planks as the flooring, and he defined spaces with mitered white oak beams. There's a cozy dining niche off the beautiful white oak kitchen.



The project features a coastal shingle style aesthetic with contemporary accents such as standing seam metal roofs, large windows, and galvanized gutters. A bluestone terrace with natural field stone marks the home's main entry.

REMODELING

Outstanding Residential Remodel \$1-2 Million Sterling Associates and DeMaio Design Group



Sterling Associates and DeMaio Design Group remodeled this Darien home using a 2 ½ story rear addition. Pictured are the charming kitchen, eating area and all season screened porch with glass windows.

Best Residential Remodel \$750,000-1 Million



SOHO Group and Wojtek Construction used creative design and exquisite detailing to deliver a remarkable transformation of this Old Greenwich home. A delightful family room opens to a screened porch.

(continued)

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MEET OUR TEAM

RESIDENTIAL

LAUREN HINES

*Northern Fairfield & Litchfield
County Residential Sales*

lhines@tileamerica.com



TERESA PERUZZI

*Northern & Eastern
Connecticut Residential Sales*

tperuzzi@tileamerica.com



MICHELLE HUGHES

*Southern Connecticut
Residential Sales*

mhughes@tileamerica.com



COMMERCIAL

RYAN COYLE

Outside Sales Manager

rjcoyle@tileamerica.com



PATRICK DONNERSTAG

Architectural Sales

pdonnerstag@tileamerica.com



RYAN ZIBOLD

Commercial Sales

rzibold@tileamerica.com



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REMODELING

Best Residential Remodel \$250,000-500,000

Polcer Home

Kevin Polcer gut renovated the first floor of this Westport home for a new kitchen, butler's pantry and mudroom. He installed floor to ceiling custom cabinetry with cove crown molding, quartzite counters and quartzite slab backsplashes, a custom plaster hood and an oversized, tiered white oak island with waterfall edges.



Best Residential Remodel \$100,000-250,000

Polcer Home

For this Fairfield remodel, Kevin Polcer installed a floor to ceiling masonry gas fireplace with raised hearth, oak ceiling beams and shiplap. The kitchen was gutted, and a new custom white oak island features vertical shiplap at both ends to tie in with the family room shiplap ceiling.



Best Remodeled Kitchen

Polcer Home

In a third HOBI, Polcer remodeled this Westport kitchen with an extended footprint, custom cabinetry featuring a painted perimeter and glass cabinets, a large white oak island, paneled appliances, a plaster hood and farmhouse sink with elegant bridge faucet.



Best Lower Level Remodel

DeLaurentis Developments

DeLaurentis turned a Fairfield lower level into this rec room and gym for a young family with paneled doors for concealed storage and functionality.

Best Conversion Beachwalk Homes



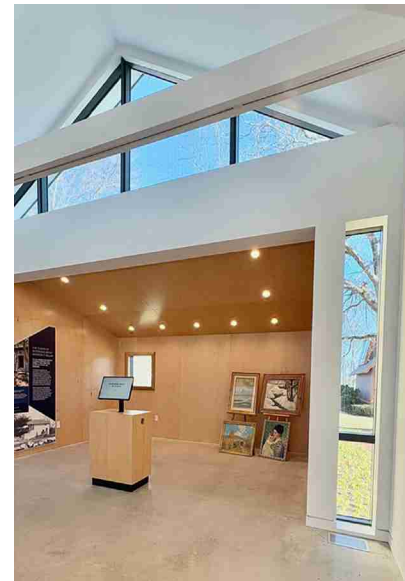
Oscar Leal converted this charming Fairfield barn to an ADU by retaining the barn's antique beams for what became a living room and kitchen, and installing glass doors to a bluestone patio.

Best Adaptive Reuse Advanced Construction



David Preka repurposed the 2nd floor of the historic Liberty Bank building in downtown New London into 4 apartments with rents of \$1,800-2,100.

Best Community Amenity Karp Associates



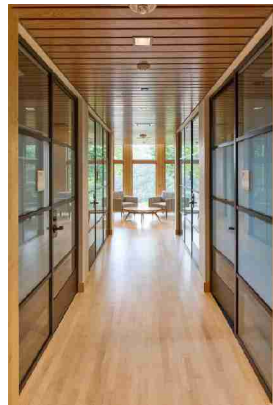
The New Canaan Museum found an antique horse drawn carriage at the town dump, and Karp built the James Bach Museum addition around it.

Best Commercial Rehab Under 20,000 SF

Petra Construction



Petra was recognized for the rehab of an historic home at 37 Hillhouse Avenue in New Haven for the Yale University Department of Linguistics. Petra transformed the three story Victorian home with an addition, using cross-laminated timber (CLT) panels for sustainability.



Best Commercial Rehab Over 20,000 SF

Fletcher Development



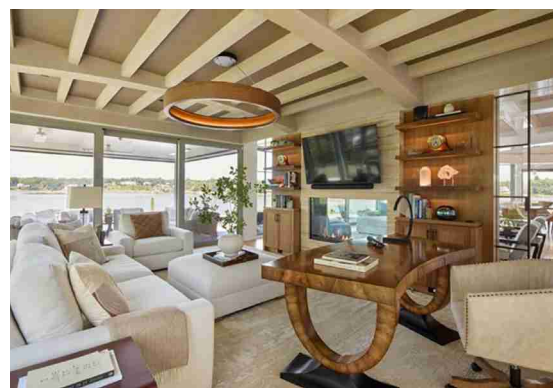
In Redding, Fletcher renovated two Class C office buildings as a unique 144,000 sq. ft. net zero storage facility with rooftop solar and climate controlled self-storage, wine storage and luxury auto storage.

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SPECIAL FOCUS AWARDS

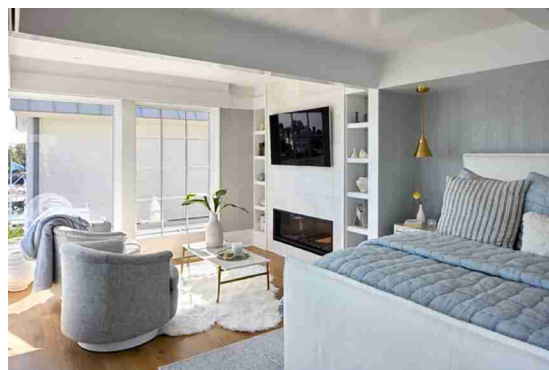


Tina Anastasia nailed it with six HOBI Awards. Pictured at center is a walnut entry with live edge bench. A large picture window frames the curved bathtub in this **Outstanding Primary Bath** with floating walnut vanities and marble floors and tops. (fixtures and fittings by Torrco). An impressive walnut home office in a Darien home won a 3rd Special Focus Award.



The **Outstanding Library** Tina designed in a Rowayton custom home includes a sitting area and deck.

Also pictured is a stunning two story glass enclosed link connecting a garage to a renovated home. A mural spans the wall of the garage including the door. And a butler's pantry in a Rowayton home features floating shelves, prep and storage areas and zip faucet with carbonated hot and cold water and beverage center.



Finally, Tina won an **Interior Design** award for this gorgeous bedroom retreat with sitting area and fireplace, a serene and soft palette of blues to connect with amazing harbor view.

SPECIAL FOCUS AWARDS

Best Kitchen Remodel

Laura Gorman Interiors



Laura Gorman transformed a dated, segmented Westport kitchen into a warm, functional, and elevated heart of the home. Two striking islands anchor the space, one dedicated to prep and the other designed as a central gathering place for family and friends. Layers of natural stone, rich green painted cabinets and warm wood tones with hand-finished metal accents add depth, texture, and sophistication.

Outstanding Kitchen by a Supplier

Karen Berkemeyer Home



Monte Bianco marble covers nearly every surface of KB Home kitchen in Westport, and soft custom wood cabinets with lots of storage, shelving and a wine fridge create a picture window pass thru into the adjacent dining room.

Outstanding Kitchen by a Supplier

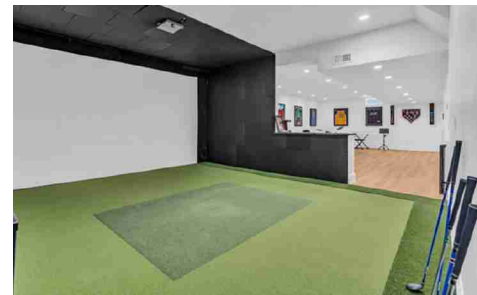
Design by the Jonathans



Jonathan Gordon turned a small, closed off prep kitchen into this beautiful entertainer's dream with high end appliances and oversize barstool island, open to the family room, and flooded with natural light.

Outstanding Gym Playroom

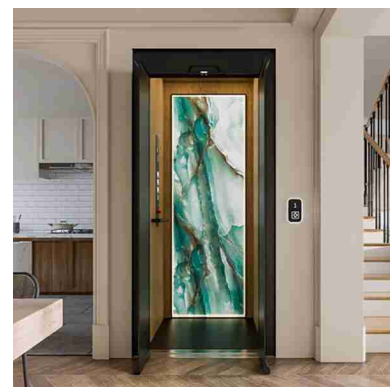
Guiltec



Guiltec turned this basement into a gym, golf room & home theater.

Best Home Elevator

Elevator Service Company



Back lit panels in the new Dream Plus elevator turn your home elevator into a design statement.

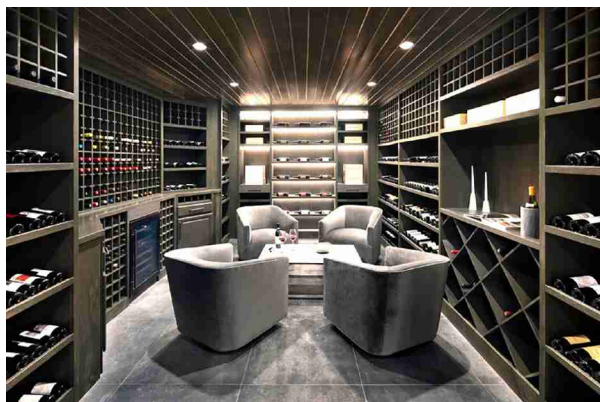
SPECIAL FOCUS AWARDS

Outstanding Walk in Closet by a Supplier
Closet & Storage Concepts



A Greenwich attic accessory closet was created for jewelry, handbags, shoes, make-up and hair supplies. The make-up vanity at the end of the space has a custom mirror. The system is a High Gloss Ash with a material mimicking leather for the drawers. Strip lighting was used in all shelving.

Outstanding Special Purpose Room
Merrin Jones Interiors



Merrin Jones turned an unfinished basement into this beautiful wine cellar, along with a bar.

Outstanding Outdoor Living Environment
E.A. Quinn Landscape
for *Hartford County Estate*



Quinn outfitted a Hartford County estate with pool, pool house, porcelain patio and two firepits.

Best Landscape Design by a Supplier
Torrison Stone & Garden



Torrison used tiered plantings & stone terraces for this Niantic home.

Best New Product
Accurate Lock & Hardware



Jeffrey Alan Marks coastal California collection was recognized for Accurate Lock & Hardware.

SPECIAL FOCUS AWARDS

Best Construction Technology

Pella Windows & Doors



Pella Steady Set is the industry's 1st INTERIOR installation system for new construction windows. Pre attached components make it 3 X faster to install than a standard window!

Best Home Technology – Air Quality

Vibrant Building Technologies

Builder Ryan Fletcher founded Vibrant Air, an AI integrated ventilation, filtration, and purification system, that allows homeowners to control airflow, air quality & even appointment scheduling.



Outstanding Home Staging

for \$1-3 Million home

Saybrook Home



Custom furniture, lighting fixtures, wallpaper selections and decor accessories were curated specifically for the footprint of this new build home. A spring open house event attracted nearly 100 prospective buyers and real estate professionals.

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INTERIOR DESIGN

Best Interior Design Overall

Laura Michaels Design

Laura Michaels Design is known for an unconventional, intuitive approach to interiors—where the obvious is never the answer, and challenge is the catalyst. Both of her award-winning projects began in near-disaster condition.

Candlewood Lake: A Study in Reinvention

“Beyond the extraordinary view, it was hard to imagine what could entice someone to purchase a home so small and in such disrepair. The 1,100-square-foot footprint needed to perform double—and even triple—duty, housing a family of four (now five), while accommodating frequent visits from friends and extended family. Sightlines to the lake had to remain completely unobstructed. Spaces needed to feel open, fluid, and uncluttered, yet deeply comfortable. Seating had to be cozy and cocooning—but still conversational. A supersized sectional anchors the living area with cozy sophistication, and I wrapped the walls and ceiling in beautifully ribbed wood for warmth and texture, and layering in architectural LED lighting for a modern, unexpected twist.



Best Renovated Kitchen – Historic Home

Ridgefield: Rewriting a Historic Kitchen



“My clients loved to cook and entertain, but their kitchen was divided, cluttered, and functionally obsolete.

Semi-exposed posts and beams awkwardly split the space in two, and the room was perpetually too hot or too cold, with little light and no flow.

I removed a central wall, repositioned the structure, and floated an 11-foot island between two original posts—just clearing the perimeter cabinetry. Four skylights and two new windows—including a future pass-through to an outdoor kitchen—flooded the room with light. We added HVAC, radiant floor heating, and tripled the usable space.

The original posts and beams were preserved and celebrated, becoming integral architectural features. The design blends restraint with bold detail: a curved, reeded walnut island, a hand-troweled plaster hood, and fully integrated appliances that disappear into the architecture. A 48-inch workstation sink and highly durable island stone anchor the room in function, while marble perimeter surfaces honor the home’s historic roots.

At the Heart of It All - A winning project is a happy client. That is the ultimate measure of success. Recognition is a gift, but trust is the true reward.”

INTERIOR DESIGN

Outstanding Interior Design for a Home Over \$5 Million

Beth Krupa Interiors



This whole-home interior design and renovation project in Greenwich, was created for a career-driven couple entering their next chapter of life. Pictured is the husband’s home office, a bold, modern space in deep rich color, and the light filled living room with statement chandelier. The transformation softened the home’s formality and gave the family a space that truly reflects who they are today.

Best Interior Design – Lower Level

Beth Krupa Interiors



In a 2nd HOBI win, BKI designed this lower level in a Greenwich home as a hub for family sports viewing, games, and casual gatherings, the space was outfitted with performance fabrics to ensure comfort and durability. The existing bar was rebuilt with custom bistro shelving, stone countertops, tailored lighting, and soffit with custom grillwork.

A custom pool table is equipped with a removable top, transforming it into both a ping-pong table or buffet serving area



for large gatherings. Beth Krupa transformed an underutilized space into a vibrant recreational, entertainment, and destination space for our family.



“At Beth Krupa Interiors, our approach to design is rooted in the belief that a home should be a true reflection of the people who live there—beautiful, functional, and deeply personal. We begin every project by understanding how our clients live, work, entertain, and unwind. This allows us to support not only their daily lives at home, but the energy and focus they carry into the world beyond it.

The most memorable interiors have thoughtfully sourced objects that are felt as much as they are seen. We love revealing the artistry and stories of the makers and pieces chosen with intention. Art often serves as a starting point in our process and helps us in the telling of the unique narratives of our clients. The thoughtful layers of color, texture, and form bring the added depth and character that guide the emotional tone of the space.

We collaborate closely with architects, builders, and sub-contractors to deliver seamless, full-service experiences from concept through completion. The result are homes that are warm, layered, and enduring—admired designs, yet most importantly telling a story that grows with each family and their home—to be lived in and loved for years to come.”

- Beth Krupa, ASID Allied, GREEN AP Creative Director, Beth Krupa Interiors

BA Staging Wins Best in Every Home Staging Category

Best Home Staging for \$1-3 Million Home



“Where Art Lives”, incorporated contemporary furniture and original artwork by Creative Director Birgit Anich and resulted in multiple offers.

Best Home Staging for \$5-8 Million Home



Warm, natural tones, bold and sculptural details, and high-end furniture and decor were used to showcase impressive architecture of this Darien new construction home. The property sold in a private sale for \$7.7M.

Best Home Staging for \$3-5 Million Home

The staging of this new construction Westport home, titled “Shimmer”, transformed its expansive, modern architecture into a warm, inviting living environment. The results were exceptional, resulting in multiple competitive offers and a sales price of \$4.9 million.



When Staging Becomes a Performance Strategy

Birgit Anich, CEO & Director of Experience Design
BA Staging & Interiors



For years, home staging was treated as a final aesthetic layer. Today, neuroscience tells a different story.

At BA Staging & Interiors, our science-based approach, Neur-Allure™, is grounded in neuroscience and buyer-behavior psychology. We analyze how buyers subconsciously process space, light, proportion, and flow, then design environments that align with how the brain evaluates value, clarity, and emotional safety.

When a home feels intuitive and emotionally balanced, buyers stay longer and form stronger attachments. This translates into higher perceived value, resulting in faster decision-making, and greater pricing conviction.

Our proprietary, science-driven methodology has repeatedly supported faster sales and stronger offer confidence with fewer objections, particularly in competitive and luxury markets. Homes are not just viewed, they’re remembered and prioritized.

For builders and developers, the impact is tangible. Strategic staging doesn’t just showcase finishes; it shortens time-to-decision, reinforces architectural intent, and reduces sales friction. This means a clear buyer alignment with greater control over time-to-contract and value realization.

This isn’t about styling for looks. It’s about designing environments that support how buyers actually think and feel. When design works with the brain, not against it, homes don’t just look beautiful, they perform.

“Strategic staging is not about how a home looks, but how clearly it is processed, remembered, and valued.”

SALES AND MARKETING

Outstanding Sales Middlesex County
Calcagni Real Estate



Daniel Volvo closed \$14 ½ million in sales at By Carrier community, Arbor Meadows, in Cromwell.

Leasing Agents of the Year
Calcagni Real Estate



Calcagni leasing agents, Nancy Lydell and Brette Stern leased all 56 units at Maplecroft Village in Cheshire.

Outstanding Marketed Community
Hartford County
Calcagni Real Estate



Smith Center Lofts in Farmington is Johnny Carrier’s upscale rental community in the heart of Glastonbury. These attractive units ranged from \$3,950 to over \$ 5,100 per month. The first lease was signed March 20th, 2025, and the final lease was signed August 22nd, 2025. Ten high-end luxury leases signed in 5 months.

Outstanding Special Promotion
Calcagni Real Estate



Calcagni’s Spec Home Reveal Party at Saybrook Marina attracted 150 realtors and potential buyers, and the home sold.

Outstanding Marketed Condominium
Community
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services



Thornberry Ridge is a thoughtfully designed community of 21 single-family condominiums, representing Phase Four of an established neighborhood in Bristol. Within three months, four condominiums are under deposit, with additional buyers actively engaged.

Best Special Promotion
Bender

Bender hosted a very successful CASA Gessi showroom tour in New York City for their designer clients.



SALES AND MARKETING



Best Social Media Campaign
Design by the Jonathans

Jonathan Gordan’s skillful use of Instagram has resulted in 10,000 followers.

Best Large Product Showroom
Fletcher Development for Fletcher Wakefield in Stamford

Fletcher Wakefield is a new 10,000 sf design center in Stamford. Merchandise is available for off-the-floor purchasing, while rotating vignettes



spark inspiration and showcase products in context. A sample library contains over 10,000 fabrics, hundreds of finishes, and 1,000 linear feet of the latest samples.

Best New Product Showroom Under 5,000 SF
StoneHouse by Temponi for Wethersfield showroom



A brother-and-sister team worked side by side realized a long-held dream: a custom-built showroom in Wethersfield, CT.

Stonehouse is proud to feature the largest Cambria display in the state, a reflection of their commitment to offer clients the finest materials.

Outstanding Hearth Product Showroom
CT Appliance & Fireplace Distributors for Southington showroom



CAFD’s newly reimagined 1,100-square-foot hearth showroom brings together gas, wood, and electric fireplaces in a wide range of fully functioning displays, complemented by mantel, stone, and finish options.

HOME FINANCING

Best Construction Permanent Custom Home Loan
Elm Tree Funding

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Harry Petrucci & John Vecchitto

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AI Overview

Luxury home builders in Connecticut offer high-end custom construction, with top names including Uccello Fine Homes, known for boutique experiences and prime locations; Nordic Construction, specializing in Greenwich with traditional craftsmanship; Fox Hill Construction, with decades of custom luxury builds; and BuildLabs, focusing on sustainable, high-performance homes. Other reputable builders like The Corbo Group, Benchmark Builders, and Kling Brothers Builders also serve the CT luxury market.

Top Luxury Builders in CT

- Uccello Fine Homes
- Nordic Construction
- Fox Hill Construction
- BuildLabs
- The Corbo Group
- Benchmark Builders
- Kling Brothers Builders

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These architects created amazing homes that were recognized by their peers with 2025 HOBI Awards. Here are their comments on how and why they produce winning architecture.



Anthony Minichetti Architect LLC



Anthony Minichetti Architect ALLC is an architecture and design firm based in Greenwich, and specializing in luxury residential, resort, and retail environments. We blend a rigorous understanding of classical principles with contemporary insight, ideals, and techniques to ensure that every project, whether traditional or modern, is timeless in character and enduring in relevance.

At AMA, we seek to elevate the built environment through architecture that is deliberate, precise, and deeply considered. Each project is approached as a holistic composition in which landscape, exterior form, interior space, art, and custom detailing are synthesized into a cohesive architectural vision. We believe architecture has the power to shape experience, inspire action, and meaningfully enhance the quality of life.

Central to our mission is a commitment to material integrity and long-term sustainability. We prioritize high-quality, durable materials and responsible construction strategies that not only enrich the sensory and aesthetic experience of a space but also



2025 Best Designed Custom Home

extend building longevity, reduce operating costs, and preserve long-term property value. By aligning design excellence with longevity and efficiency, we create environments that are both architecturally enduring and economically sound investments for our clients.

(continued)



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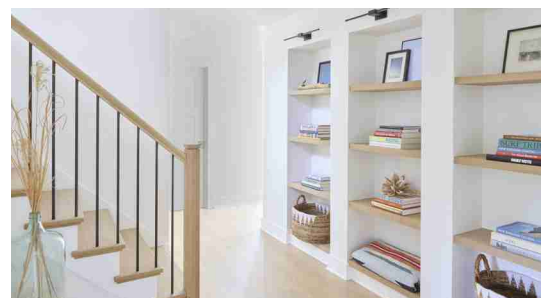
Winning Architecture

(continued)



For Nick DeMaio, award-winning design begins with a deep respect for place and history. Growing up along the New England coastline, and now practicing in his hometown of Darien, Nick has cultivated an intuitive understanding of Fairfield County's architectural heritage

and evolving residential landscape. His approach blends timeless waterfront vernacular with thoughtful, modern livability—creating homes that feel both rooted and refined.



2025 Best Designed Remodeled Home

As founder of DeMaio Design Group, Nick views architecture as more than structure; it is a lived experience. Each project begins with careful listening—understanding how a family moves through their day, gathers, entertains, and finds quiet moments. From there, he shapes spaces that enhance daily life through

natural light, proportion, material authenticity, and seamless indoor-outdoor connections.

Educated at Cornell University and grounded in both architectural engineering and design, Nick brings technical rigor to every detail while maintaining a strong aesthetic vision. His HOBI Award-winning project, recognized by HBRA, exemplifies this balance: a home that honors classic New England character while embracing the comfort and functionality expected in contemporary living. Pictured at right and below.

For Nick, winning design is not about trend—it is about creating enduring architecture that feels personal, contextual, and built to last.

Winning Architecture

(continued)

CHRISTIAN RAE STUDIO



Rachel & Christian Calemno

At Christian Rae Studio, we design buildings that are shaped by intention, grounded in craft, and measured by time. As an architectural, interiors, and lighting design studio, we believe that the most meaningful spaces are created when these disciplines are considered together from the very beginning.

Materiality plays a central role in how our projects are experienced. We gravitate toward honest, enduring materials that carry texture, depth, and longevity, allowing spaces to feel grounded. When paired with thoughtful light, these materials come alive. Light reveals dimension while shaping how a space is perceived throughout the day. Sustainability is achieved through durability and thoughtful construction, designing buildings that endure, adapt, reduce energy and the need for replacement over time.

Wellbeing is embedded in our design process. We carefully consider the relationship between light and movement to create environments that feel calm, intuitive, and supportive of daily life. Natural light is prioritized to strengthen the connection between interior and exterior, while layered artificial lighting is designed to enhance comfort, mood, and functionality without overpowering the architecture.

Function guides every decision. Layouts are clear and purposeful, transitions are intentional, and the details work seamlessly over time. When architecture, interiors, and lighting are designed wholistically, the result is a home that feels personal and enduring.

Projects that integrate all three disciplines are where our work becomes unique. We move beyond individual design moments to design complete environments that feel quietly elevated, deeply functional, and thoughtfully crafted for each of our clients to be enjoyed.

Christian Rae Studio Designed a HOBI Winning Custom Home in Greenwich and an Exquisite Wellness Center in Easton.



Loparco Associates - Christian Rae Studio
Best Custom Home 5000-6,000SF



Loparco Associates
- Christian Rae floating staircase



Garrett Wilson Christian Rae Beat Special Purpose Building



CAH Architecture & Design, LLC is a full-service architectural firm providing unique, innovative architectural design solutions.

Feasibility and zoning studies - to determine the highest use for a specific property. Schematic site plans, designs, and massing studies are often used for profitability analysis, zoning permit acquisition, and zone change applications.

Architectural Design – Each site has specific challenges whether they are related to setbacks and zoning, topography, historic or wetlands restrictions, energy efficiency requirements, or complicated programs. After careful study of each project’s specific constraints and attributes, creative, thoughtful design solutions and options are crafted. The solutions reflect the needs of the project and the client’s aesthetic goals whether they are timelessly traditional or cutting-edge modern. These projects range in scale from additions and reconstructions to luxury new homes, multi-family residences, and mixed-use projects.



Project recovery – CAH steps into existing projects to correct their course and get the project back on track with the owner’s goals. The firm has a team of highly-skilled partners, including contractors, suppliers, lenders, and other construction-related professionals, who form an integral part of the team necessary to provide the highest level of quality, skill, and effectiveness. CAH recently designed a stunning 7,337 SF spec home in Greenwich. Built by Red Canoe Partners, the 8 bedroom, 10 bath home sold for \$12,500,000.

CAH’s Principle, Christopher Hull, has served as a HOBI Remodeling Judge, and the firm has been recognized with numerous HOBI Awards, including Remodeled Home of the Year. This year, CAH designed the stunning and unique fit out of a Dallas hi-rise condominium for builder Karp Associates, which won Best Out of State Custom Home.



Gabriel Swire
Co-founder and partner at SOHO Group



Architecture, at its most enduring, is defined more by the quality of its planning than by its visible expression. At SOHO Group, the design process starts by carefully considering the constraints, such as zoning, site limits, existing structures, and construction realities, which are seen as guiding parameters rather than obstacles.

The firm's approach is centered on making key decisions early on. Basic questions about proportion, circulation, and systems are addressed while they can still be easily adjusted. This careful planning helps minimize surprises, increases consistency, and protects both the design vision and the investment.

The design process is not just a background for creativity, but its primary vehicle. The team is brought together early, sharing responsibility and a clear direction. Ideas are evaluated based on their potential impact, rather than just their novelty, and decisions are tested against how a house will perform over time, not just when it's finished.



The resulting homes are intentionally understated. They are shaped by their purpose, clarity, and proportion, rather than a desire to impress. In this way, architecture is seen as a long-term commitment, carried out through careful planning, coordination, and disciplined decision-making, rather than just a grand gesture.

Burr Salvatore Architects



Every project we design is carefully sited with relation to the sunlight, views, topography, and the surrounding context.

For the New Canaan Regency house that won Best Custom Home 4,000-5,000 SF, we took great pains to maintain the grand oak tree in the middle of the front yard, which provides generous shade, but moreover lends the new house a sense of permanence, and the impression of having stood there for the past hundred years. The looping round driveway is a direct response to the fulcrum that this stately oak tree introduced.

With any custom project, we are only as good as the builders and tradespeople that realize the design. We rely heavily on close coordination in the field with masons, millworkers, carpenters, and many other specialty craftspeople. Given that they know their trade and materials better than we do, often-

times there is a dialogue between our initial design, and what is feasible given the constraints of the materials.



One example where the skill of the craft was crucial to the success of the design can be illustrated by the curved front entryway in the New Canaan Regency house skillfully built by Hemingway Construction. This took a good deal of ingenuity from Sean O’Sullivan at Blade Millwork in order to engineer, given that there is no horizontal lintel to hold the door in place. Other door

companies that we had approached prior to Sean all said that it could not be done. The visual impact of this design is the effect that the door is free-floating within the opening.

The consistency of the design, combined with the integrity of the materials and the skill of the execution lend an intrinsic harmony that can be felt both inside and outside the house. ■



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Building Connecticut's Future:

HBRA of CT's Advocacy Agenda for the 2026 General Assembly

By Jim Perras, CEO & Chief Lobbyist, Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut



As the Connecticut General Assembly convenes for the 2026 legislative session, the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut (HBRA of CT) once again enters the Capitol with a clear

mission: to serve as the preeminent advocacy organization for the residential construction industry and to advance policies that allow our members to build the homes Connecticut desperately needs.

Our mission is straightforward—using effective advocacy and new knowledge to solve our members' problems—and it is guided by a broader vision of building Connecticut's economy, communities, and better lives one home at a time. Those principles shape every position we take, every coalition we join, and every bill we support or oppose. In a state facing a persistent housing shortage that is constraining workforce growth, economic competitiveness, and household stability, the stakes in this session could not be higher.

Expectations for the 2026 Session

The 2026 session will be defined by a familiar tension: a widely acknowledged housing shortage on one hand, and an increasingly complex regulatory and political environment on the other. Over the past several years, lawmakers have shown a growing willingness to engage on housing policy, culminating in the passage of Public Act 25-1 at the end of last year. While that legislation advanced important conversations around land use and housing production, it also means the General Assembly enters this session with a degree of land-use reform fatigue as elections loom on the horizon.

HBRA of CT understands that reality. We are not approaching 2026 with unrealistic expectations or a one-size-fits-all agenda. Instead, we are focused on pragmatic, targeted reforms that can move the needle on housing production without imposing new taxes, expanding bureaucracy, or undermining local governance. Our goal is to create a policy environment in which residential construction can thrive, investment can flow, and housing supply can better align with demand.

Expanding Starter Home Opportunities—With Pragmatism

One of our signature initiatives this session is legislation to encourage the production of modest, for-sale starter homes for Connecticut families. Homeownership remains the cornerstone of household wealth creation and community stability, yet for many working families, the first rung on the ownership ladder has effectively disappeared.

Our proposal is designed to restore that rung. It would create a clear statutory pathway for “starter home developments” served by sewer and water, establish predictable densities, and ensure a meaningful set-aside of deed-restricted homes affordable to households earning up to 120% of area median income. The bill also includes time-limited resale restrictions that balance affordability with the homeowner's ability to build equity over time, along with a targeted state tax credit to offset expensive off-site infrastructure costs.

At the same time, we are realistic about the political landscape. Given the passage of Public Act 25-1, we recognize that some legislators may be hesitant to revisit broader land-use reforms so soon. HBRA of CT is committed to having an honest, constructive conversation about starter home production—one that emphasizes incentives, predictability, and market feasibility rather than sweeping mandates. We believe modest land-use reforms, paired with infrastructure incentives, can expand homeownership opportunities without reopening every zoning debate in the state.

Building Code Adoption Reform: Stability Without Sacrificing Safety

Our second major initiative addresses an issue that quietly but profoundly affects housing costs: the frequency of building code adoption. Connecticut's current approach—characterized by frequent updates and amendments to nationally recognized model codes—adds cost, complexity, and uncertainty for builders, designers, municipal officials, and code enforcement professionals alike.

HBRA of CT is advancing legislation to establish a six-year building code adoption cycle, coupled with a temporary pause on non-essential code changes, while preserving emergency authority for matters of public health, life safety, federal compliance, and funding eligibility. This proposal does not weaken codes or compromise safety. Instead, it promotes stability, allows for better training and compliance, and reduces unnecessary cost escalation at a time when affordability is already under severe pressure.



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Kitchen Designed by: Robert Mondavi

Importantly, this reform supports not only residential construction but also the broader construction ecosystem that underpins economic development across the state. It is a fiscally responsible way to promote housing production without new spending programs or revenue measures.

Coalition-Driven Advocacy for a Pro-Housing Economy

HBRA of CT does not advocate in isolation. We will continue to work closely with broad, pro-business and pro-housing coalitions to advance policies that foster economic growth and housing supply. Connecticut's housing shortage is no longer just a builders' issue—it is a workforce issue, a competitiveness issue, and a cost-of-living issue affecting employers and families alike.

By aligning with business organizations, trade partners, and housing advocates where appropriate, we strengthen the case that a healthy residential construction sector is essential to Connecticut's long-term economic vitality. When housing production lags, job growth stalls, employers struggle to recruit talent, and communities lose opportunities for reinvestment.

The First Line of Defense Against Bad Policy

Just as important as the bills we support are the proposals we oppose. HBRA of CT will remain the first line of defense against legislation that would further undermine housing affordability or the viability of residential construction. That includes renewed efforts to impose so-called mansion taxes, misguided wage theft proposals that conflate bad actors with compliant employers, rent control expansions that discourage investment, and other measures that would increase costs or inject uncertainty into the housing market.

Our role is to separate rhetoric from reality and to ensure lawmakers understand the real-world consequences of these proposals—not just for builders and remodelers, but for the families who ultimately bear the cost.

A Call to Engagement

Advocacy is not a spectator sport. HBRA of CT's effectiveness depends on an engaged, informed membership willing to share real-world experience and build relationships with policymakers. I strongly encourage every member to get involved—join our weekly Government Affairs strategy calls, participate in Lobby Day at the Capitol, and take the time to connect with your local legislators.

When lawmakers hear directly from the professionals who design, permit, finance, and build homes in their districts, the conversation changes and Connecticut wins. ■

Building the Pipeline: Strengthening Connecticut's Construction Workforce

The Connecticut Institute for Professional Builders & Remodelers, Inc. (CIPBR) is the 501(c)(3) workforce development and education foundation of the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut (HBRA of CT). Through strategic partnerships and industry leadership, CIPBR is addressing one of the residential construction industry's most pressing challenges: the shortage of skilled labor.

CIPBR's mission is to advance trades education and prepare students and adults with practical, job-ready skills by fostering innovation, collaboration, and excellence across secondary education, higher education, and workforce training systems. By aligning education with real-world industry needs, CIPBR is helping to build a sustainable talent pipeline that supports housing production and economic growth across Connecticut. A key focus of CIPBR's recent work has been expanding the use of the Home Builders Institute (HBI) Core PACT pre-apprenticeship curriculum in Connecticut public high schools. Approved by the Connecticut Department of Labor, the nationally recognized curriculum introduces students to careers in residential construction while providing foundational training aligned with industry standards. Interest in the program continues to grow among school districts statewide.

At the same time, CIPBR is advancing an adult workforce development initiative in partnership with the City of Waterbury and the Northwest

Regional Workforce Investment Board to explore the creation of an HBI Academy at the former Sacred Heart High School campus. The proposed academy would provide hands-on training for young adults and career-changers and support broader workforce, housing, and economic development goals.

CIPBR extends special recognition to Chair Frank Festini and Vice Chair Bepin Mgushi for their exceptional leadership and dedication in advancing these initiatives, as well as to CIPBR Trustee Cathy Lapierre for strengthening the organization's grant readiness through recent collaborations with NAHB and McCallister Quinn.

Together, these efforts reflect CIPBR's commitment—on behalf of HBRA of Connecticut—to strengthening the residential construction workforce and ensuring Connecticut is prepared to meet its future housing needs.

LEGISLATIVE SNAPSHOT

Supporting the Construction Workforce

During the 2026 legislative session, HBRA of CT is advocating for increased apprentice tax credits and new funding for schools using HBI pre-apprenticeship curriculum. Together, these initiatives help employers invest in training, broaden access to construction careers, and align workforce policy with the state's housing needs. ■

Connecticut's Housing Moment: Turning Policy into Possibility

By Luke Williams, President Calcagni Real Estate



Connecticut is at a pivotal moment when it comes to housing. As someone who has lived and worked in this state my entire life — and who collaborates daily with builders, buyers, sellers, and fellow real estate professionals — I've seen firsthand how our housing challenges have quietly grown into an economic and demographic threat.

Governor Lamont's signing of the Housing Growth Bill marks an important turning point, not because it forces change, but because it finally gives towns a framework and an incentive to embrace growth in a thoughtful, locally driven way.

For years, Connecticut's limited housing supply has pushed prices higher, while shrinking options. Young professionals struggle to buy their first home; families outgrow rental options with nowhere to go; and downsizing seniors can't find suitable alternatives within their own communities. Too often, the result is that residents leave the state altogether — not because they want to, but because they can no longer afford to stay.

Housing affordability is no longer just a real estate issue; it's a workforce issue, a tax-base issue, and a long-term competitiveness issue for the entire state.

The Housing Growth Bill acknowledges this reality. It asks every municipality to take a proactive role in planning for housing growth, either individually or in partnership with neighboring towns through regional planning organizations. Importantly, the law respects local control while encouraging towns to think beyond historic zoning patterns that no longer match today's needs. Communities that align their planning with state and regional housing goals are also eligible for funding support, particularly for infrastructure improvements that make housing development feasible rather than burdensome.

But planning alone does not build housing. Financing and execution matter just as much — and this is where existing state programs can play a critical supporting role.

The Homeownership Construction Program administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) is a powerful tool that can help translate housing plans into real, on-the-ground development.

The program provides construction and permanent financing to support the creation of one- to four-family homes that will ultimately be sold to income-qualified homebuyers.

By reducing risk and improving access to capital, CHFA helps builders move forward on projects that might otherwise stall, particularly in communities where rising construction costs have made entry-level homebuilding increasingly difficult.

For towns, alignment does not have to mean dramatic transformation. In many cases, it starts with small, practical changes — updating zoning regulations to allow a wider range of housing types, encouraging accessory dwelling units, or supporting modest multi-family and mixed-use development in appropriate areas. These “missing middle” housing options fit naturally into existing neighborhoods, and create attainable opportunities for teachers, nurses, tradespeople, and young families, who want to live where they work. When paired with programs like CHFA's Homeownership Construction Program, these zoning updates can directly support the creation of new, owner-occupied housing rather than simply increasing demand for an already limited supply.

The broader goal is not growth for growth's sake. It is about ensuring that Connecticut remains livable for the people who already call it home, while remaining attractive to the next generation of workers and entrepreneurs.

When housing supply lags behind demand, costs rise, mobility declines, and opportunity narrows. Conversely, when towns plan intentionally for growth — and leverage tools like CHFA financing to support builders — they create flexibility: for residents to stay, to move within their community as life changes, and to invest long-term in the state.

The Housing Growth Bill gives Connecticut a chance to shift from reaction to strategy.

Success will depend on whether municipalities view this law as an obligation or as an opportunity. For those willing to engage, collaborate, modernize local planning, and partner with builders and state housing resources, the payoff is significant: stronger communities, a more stable workforce, and a future where people do not have to leave the Nutmeg State to find housing that works for their lives.

Connecticut has always balanced tradition with innovation. This moment calls for us to do both — honoring the character of our towns while building the housing our residents need to stay, grow, and thrive here for generations to come. ■

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The Quiet Return of Discipline

By Sean Ryan, National Lumber



If you read the headlines, you'd think residential construction is either on the brink of collapse or waiting for a miracle rate cut to save it. On the ground in Connecticut, what I'm seeing feels very different and frankly, much healthier.

What's really happening right now isn't a slowdown as much as an adjustment.

For the better part of a decade, cheap money has masked a lot of bad habits. Projects penciled because they could, not because they should. Specs crept up without corresponding discipline. Carrying costs were an afterthought. When everything sold, everything looked smart.

That environment is gone, and that's not a bad thing.

Today's market is quietly rewarding builders who know their numbers, control their schedules, and make decisions with intention. The speculative "hope it works" projects are thinning out. In their place are builders who understand margin, sequence trades carefully, and design homes that sell because they're right-sized and well executed, not because the market forgives mistakes.

I'm seeing more thoughtful starts, not fewer good ones.

Yes, interest rates are higher than they were. But in practice, most well-run builders have already adapted. They're structuring deals more conservatively, managing cash flow tighter, and spending more time upfront so jobs don't drift midstream. That's not paralysis, that's professionalism.

What has changed is tolerance for sloppiness.

In Connecticut, this discipline matters even more. Between zoning and inland wetlands reviews, coastal flood requirements, energy code compliance, and approval timelines that routinely stretch longer than anyone plans for, time is not an abstract concept here. A few extra months in carrying can erase a margin that looked fine on paper.

Materials pricing has largely stabilized compared to the volatility of recent years, and lead times are far more predictable. That predictability exposes execution. When a job runs long now, it's rarely because "the supply chain" failed. It's because planning, coordination, or decision-making did.

That's an uncomfortable mirror but a useful one.

The builders who are winning today aren't necessarily the biggest or the flashiest. They're the ones who answer calls, return submittals, lock specs early, and don't ask the market to bail them out. They understand that every week on a schedule costs real money again.

And buyers feel it. End customers may be more rate-sensitive, but they're also more discerning. They're choosing builders who project confidence, clarity, and control, not just price.

From where I sit, this cycle is doing something important: it's separating activity from quality. Fewer starts don't automatically mean a weaker industry. In many cases, they mean a stronger one with fewer forced mistakes and better long-term outcomes.

The market didn't break. It matured.

For builders who've always run disciplined operations, this moment isn't something to fear. It's a return to fundamentals. Fundamentals, done well, have always been Connecticut's strength.

BUILDER INSIGHT

3 Practical Moves for Builders in 2026



1. Lock Specs Earlier Than You Think You Need To

Clarity up front protects margin later.

Finalize windows, doors, hardware, and key structural components early. Mid-stream changes are where schedules slip and profit disappear.



2. Treat Time Like a Material Cost

Every week on site has a dollar value.

In Connecticut, approvals, wetlands and permitting delays can be as impactful as lumber pricing. Build realistic schedules with buffer and measure performance by weeks on site—not just dollars on paper.



3. Use Pricing Stability to Your Advantage

Predictability is an opportunity.

With materials markets more stable, now is the time to secure pricing for multi-month projects and plan purchases strategically. Don't wait for volatility to return before getting disciplined.

BOTTOM LINE

Execution Wins This Market

Builders who plan better, communicate faster, and control schedules will outperform those still waiting for the old market to return.



Builder News

Bob Wiedenmann Builds a Custom ADU in Wallingford

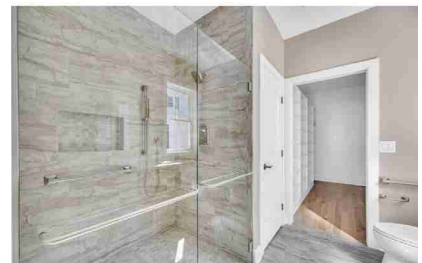
Builder Bob Wiedenmann and his wife, Judy, have a new home, a detached ADU, 2 bedroom, 2 baths, 2 car garage and 1,500 sq. ft.

“We demolished an existing house and created 2 lots on North Main Street in Wallingford, 0.3 miles from the center of town. We really like being in the center of town, where we can walk to everything.”

Built in conjunction with a newly constructed Colonial-style main home, this detached accessory dwelling unit (ADU) showcases Sunwood Development’s commitment to thoughtful, family-centered design. As a trusted custom home builder in

Wallingford. This project reflects one of today’s fastest-growing trends, multigenerational living, with a fully independent residence just steps away from the main house for their adult children. Designed for both comfort and accessibility, the ADU offers a seamless blend of style, function, and flexibility.

Just like the main residence, this detached ADU was built with long-term comfort and sustainability in mind. Every element, from insulation and windows to flooring and fixtures, offers durability and energy efficiency. With features like high-performance heating and cooling systems, energy-efficient lighting, and well-insulated exterior walls, this space remains comfortable year-round while keeping utility costs low.



Office to Multifamily: What Actually Works



L-R Joan Barrett, architect Richard Granoff and Michael Murphy

At a recent Dealmakers lunch, industry professionals gathered for a practical discussion titled Office to Multifamily: What Actually Works, focusing on the growing opportunity to convert 1970s office buildings into multi-family housing. The conversation cut through the hype to examine the real factors

that determine success, including design constraints, feasibility challenges, and the early decisions that can make, or break, a conversion deal.

The session was led by Rich Granoff, founder and principal of Granoff Architects, a Greenwich-based firm known for its expertise in adaptive reuse, mixed-use development, and complex redevelopment projects. Granoff shared insights from the front lines, emphasizing how architectural solutions must align with financial realities, regulatory frameworks, and market demand.

Dealmakers, co-hosted bi-monthly by John Barrett of RM Friedland and Michael Murphy of Murphy Brothers Contracting, continues to provide a forum for real estate conversations that prioritize both smart investment and lasting community impact.

Michael Murphy, Murphy Brothers Contracting Heads Building Realty Institute of Hudson Valley in 2026



The Building and Realty Institute of the Hudson Valley (BRI) is continuing into 2026 with Michael Murphy of Murphy Brothers Contracting being elected to a second term as BRI president.

Also continuing to serve will be Stacey Tompkins of Tompkins Excavating as secretary and Christine McCabe, who has been reelected as treasurer.

Murphy told Westfair’s Westchester County Business Journal, “During the year ahead my focus is on four things: growing

our membership; developing the next generation of industry leaders; keeping the BRI a strong and trusted voice on issues like housing policy and other member-related issues; and marking our 80th anniversary by looking ahead. The industry is changing, and we’re focused on what our members will need to succeed.”

Murphy said that BRI will continue to deliver what he described as “real value through education, advocacy, and reliable information, such as offering our members information on preparing for ICE raids. The guidance we put out is about clarity, not politics.” ■



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Bonnie Paige on a New Design Direction for 2026

The Shift and The Purpose:



As we move deeper into 2026, interior design is finally shedding the minimalism that defined the past decade. Grays, neutral sets, and open floor plans that once signaled modern are now finding something new in their place. A warmer, more well lived and centered approach is taking root—one that prioritizes character, comfort, and personal narrative over fleeting trends.

The mood is Modern Heritage: a thoughtful fusion of historic references and contemporary living. Designers are championing handcrafted details, patinated woods, antique textiles, and pieces with stories. Darker, character-rich timbers (walnut, oak, reclaimed elm) are everywhere, paired with tactile finishes like limewash, plaster, and handmade tiles. These spaces feel lived-in, layered, and quietly luxurious—not because they're expensive, but because they feel real.

Curves are the new straight lines. Arches, rounded islands, sculptural furniture, and soft geometry are softening architecture and softening us in the process. They bring movement into rooms that once felt static. Oversized, furniture reinforces this shift toward comfort—deep sofas, generous chairs, and pieces that invite you to sink in rather than perch.

Color is back, and it's unapologetic. Kitchens in particular are embracing saturated hues: forest greens, rich burgundies, deep navy, and warm terracotta. Painted floors—whether boldly patterned or subtly washed—have become the easiest way to inject personality. Earthy neutrals (creamy caramels, buttery taupes, muted ochres) serve as grounding backdrops, while occasional shades of pink or electric blue, wallpaper and scenic murals add joy without chaos.

Wellness has moved to a built environment. Dedicated meditation rooms, spa-like bathrooms, home gyms with natural light, and garden rooms are no longer indulgences—they're essential. The emphasis on natural materials, and sensory richness reflects a broader cultural vision: after years of remote work and uncertainty, we want our homes to make us feel good.

The focus is on longevity, repairability, and traceable provenance—vintage finds, local craftsmanship, and materials that age beautifully. Layered textiles (tassels, trims, heirloom quilts), lacquered statement pieces, and sculptural lighting all contribute to spaces that feel collected rather than curated.

In 2026, the most desirable homes aren't the most "on trend." They're the ones that feel unmistakably yours—warm, textured, imperfect, and joyfully comforting. Design has stopped trying to impress and started trying to embrace. That, more than any single color or form, is the true direction forward.

Eagle Woodworking Moves into a New 40,000 SF Facility



“We’ve officially settled into our new 40,000 sq. ft. space in Methuen, MA,” said Eagle partner, Blake Schwartz, “and it’s already helping us serve customers better. With expanded capacity, more streamlined workflows, and upgraded machinery, we’re producing more drawers and cabinet doors with the same Eagle attention customers can count on.”

VELUX Global Executive Vice President Visits Connecticut

The Global Executive Vice President of VELUX, Anders Dam Vestergaard, visited from Denmark, and made some stops in Connecticut with Senior Sales Representative, Steve Bushnik and District Sales Manager, Tim O'Neill. On November 5, they met with T&M Building personnel, including Steve Temkin, Marketing Director Joe Duva, Project Manager Graham Davis, and Director of Construction Andre Ugalde at the VELUX facility in Windsor, where they demonstrated how the Cabrio balcony skylight operated. T&M Building plans to install a Cabrio Balcony Skylight in the model home at their new development at Edith Lane in Bloomfield.



L-R: Steve Bushnik, Graham Davis, Tim O'Neill, Joe Duva, and Andrew Ugalde at the Windsor VELUX facility seeing a demonstration of the Cabrio balcony skylight.

Then they viewed a T&M house under construction where two windowless bathrooms had natural light brought in, one from a skylight and one from a SUN TUNNEL®. T&M Building plans to feature A SUN TUNNEL® in the laundry room of the Edith Lane model.



L-R: Steve Bushnik, Anders Dam Vestergaard and Tim O'Neill in an upstairs bathroom in a T&M home under construction in Glastonbury.

From there they went to a home nearing completion in Glastonbury where three skylights help illuminate the kitchen and nook. T&M Building is excited to continue this partnership with VELUX Skylights to bring a brighter future to each new home.



L-R: Steve Bushnik, Anders Dam Vestergaard, Joe Duva, Steve Temkin, and Andrew Ugalde

Hartford Fence Wins National AFA Award



The American Fence Association awarded Hartford Fence Company of West Hartford, Connecticut with the 2026 National Project of the Year, at the FenceTech conference in Indianapolis. Winning for their Fence and Gate work at the shadowHOUSE in Farmington, Connecticut, the project features a striking contemporary design language communicated through all black materials ranging from glass railings and horizontal aluminum fence, to automated slide gates and powered dining pergolas. It was described by the AFA as “the best look at what is possible for the future of fence”. ■

Lumber Market Update

by Frank Sanford, Sanford & Hawley, Inc.
Quality Building Materials Since 1884



What are the Trends in Lumber Prices?

Since my last column in September (I am writing this in February.) the markets have been relatively stable. Douglas Fir dropped 3.7% before bottoming in early December and has then risen 5.6% leaving it only 1.7% above its September price. Douglas Fir has gone up for the last nine weeks.

SPF has risen in almost a straight line since September and is up 7.3% and has gone up for the last 8 weeks without interruption.

Plywood dropped 3.3% until late January and has since turned upward for three weeks, rising 1%. It is still down 2.3% since September.

OSB has dropped 3.4% since September, hit its bottom in late November and has been unchanged for the past eleven weeks. This probably won't last much longer as OSB is rising in regions other than the northeast.

Canadian Lumber Duties

The current combined duty on Canadian lumber is 45.19%, this consists of an Anti-dumping duty of 20.56%, a countervailing duty of 14.63% and a Section 232 National Security duty of 10% which was imposed as the Fall issue of Connecticut Builder went to press. As required by law the Anti-dumping and countervailing duties will be reinvestigated this year and potentially revised. There is no news on this as yet. Last year these duties increased substantially due to lumber prices dropping between 2022 and 2023. My records show Douglas Fir dropping 33% and SPF dropping 40%. 2022 was the tail end of the pandemic induced price boom. From 2023 to 2024 my records show Douglas Fir dropping 3% and SPF rising 1%. Based on this, I would not expect significant changes in duties this year. The Supreme Court's decision on February 20th to overturn many of President Trump's tariffs does not affect lumber tariffs in anyway, they are all under different legal authority.

Can the U.S. be Self-Sufficient in Lumber?

I have seen no significant expansion in the U.S. lumber industry in the past year, in fact, it has probably shrunk a bit. We will need a significant and long term increase in demand for significant capital to be invested in new production facilities as well as the timber supply for it to draw on.

What to Expect in the remainder of 2026

It seems likely that price increases may continue into the spring as seasonal demand builds. If mortgage rates fall, that will add to demand and put more upward pressure on prices. Meanwhile production is falling in eastern Canada, especially Quebec, as mills struggle to pay tariffs or find other outlets for their lumber. ■

Construction Workers' Compensation: The Real Cost of Injuries

by Kim Marie DiMatteo, CIC, MWCA | Senior Vice President, Cross Insurance



Construction remains one of the most hazardous industries in the United States, and workers' compensation claims continue to reflect that risk. Construction claims are nearly double the all-industries average in cost, driven by the severity of injuries, extended recovery times, and the physical demands of the work. These claims impact far more than medical expenses and lost wages — they directly affect productivity, insurance premiums, dividends, and a company's experience modification factor (EMR).

Where the Biggest Losses Occur

The most costly construction workers' compensation claims are those exceeding \$250,000. These high-severity claims often involve life-altering injuries, extended disability periods, and long-term financial consequences. The most common causes of these large losses include:

- ◆ Slips, trips, and falls
- ◆ Overexertion and repetitive motion
- ◆ Being struck by an object
- ◆ Motor vehicle accidents
- ◆ Caught-in or caught-between hazards

Among these causes, slips, trips, and falls alone account for approximately 48% of incurred construction claim costs, making fall protection, housekeeping, and job site awareness essential components of any effective safety program.

The Impact of an Aging Construction Workforce

The construction workforce continues to age, and this trend has a measurable impact on both claim frequency and severity. Currently, 10% of injured construction workers are age 60 or older, up from just 7% during the previous five-year period.

Injured workers aged 60 and older miss an average of 12 additional workdays compared to the construction industry average. Since the pandemic, this represents nearly five additional lost workdays per claim, increasing medical costs, wage replacement, and operational disruptions.

First-Year Workers: A Critical Risk Area

Newly hired construction workers face elevated injury risk due to unfamiliarity with job sites, equipment, and safety procedures. First-year workers account for 44% of all construction injuries and drive 47% of total construction workers' compensation claim costs.

These statistics highlight the importance of strong onboarding programs, task-specific training, mentoring, and consistent supervision during an employee's first year on the job.

The Most Severe Construction Injuries

While less frequent, certain injuries result in the highest claim costs, longest recovery periods, and greatest impact on workers and employers. These severe injuries commonly include:

- ◆ Cardiovascular injuries
- ◆ Multiple trauma injuries
- ◆ Electric shocks and electrocution
- ◆ Head and traumatic brain injuries
- ◆ Crushing injuries and amputations
- ◆ Serious dislocations and musculoskeletal damage

Why Return-to-Work Programs Matter

When an employee is injured, getting them back to work as soon as medically appropriate is essential to maintaining productivity and controlling claim costs. Well-structured return-to-work programs reduce lost-time days while supporting employee recovery.

Effective programs include written return-to-work policies, light-duty or modified job options, and ongoing communication with medical providers, claims adjusters, and insurance agents. Active claim management helps ensure appropriate treatment, timely recovery, and proper claim resolution.

Workers' compensation claims affect more than just insurance premiums. They can reduce dividend eligibility and negatively impact a company's experience modification factor (EMR), which follows the business and directly influences future workers' compensation costs.

For further information on maintaining a safe workplace and implementing effective risk management practices, contact:

Kim Marie DiMatteo, CIC, MWCA
Senior Vice President, Cross Insurance 203-231-0825 | Kim.
DiMatteo@crossagency.com ■

Developers Forum Highlights

January Forum- Land Use Under HB 8002: What Developers Need to Know

Developers Forum attendees received an in-depth analysis of Connecticut’s recently signed omnibus housing bill, presented by two of the state’s foremost authorities on land use law, Attorneys Andrea Gomes and Tim Hollister of Hinckley Allen. Thank you to our Chairman for the evening, Ken Mita and to all our attendees for their participation!



(L-R) Ken Mita, Andrea Gomes, Tim Hollister, Jim Perras



(L-R) House Majority Leader Jason Rojas, Ken Mita, Planning & Development Co-Chair Eleni Kavros-DeGraw, Banking Co-Chair Jason Doucette, Bob Wiedenmann, Jim Perras

February Forum-

At our February Developers Forum, members were joined by legislative leaders at the forefront of Connecticut’s housing policy debate—House Majority Leader Jason Rojas, Planning & Development Co-Chair Eleni Kavros-DeGraw, and Banking Co-Chair Jason Doucette—for a timely and substantive discussion on the priorities shaping the 2026 legislative session.

Serving as Guest Forum Chairman, HBRA Government Affairs Committee Chair Bob Wiedenmann led a dynamic conversation focused squarely on the policies that will influence housing production across our state. Topics ranged from affordability and strategies to encourage starter home development, to brownfield remediation, construction financing tools, and innovative public-private partnerships.

The program offered members direct access to key decision-makers and meaningful insight into the legislative landscape at a pivotal moment for Connecticut housing.

(continued)

Developers Forum Member Greg McCracken



“Soon after I began practicing law in Connecticut, Gurdon “Don” Buck advised me that I needed to be part of what was then the Developers Council,” recounted Greg McCracken, who became a Developers Council member back in 2001, and never misses a meeting.

“Don Buck had been a member since the beginning,” said Greg, “and he and I both found tremendous value in the relationships and programs that it offered. I am grateful to have been a part of it for 25 years.”

Gregory W. McCracken, a partner in Jacobs, Walker, Rice & Berry law firm, practices common interest community law and land use, planning, and zoning law. He represents community associations and developers, and he advises property owners and other lawyers on the creation of common interest communities and the governance and operation of common interest communities.

He is a member of the Board of Directors and the Legislative Action Committee of the Connecticut Chapter of the Community Associations Institute (“CAI”), and he is the President-Elect of the Chapter. He also is a member of the Developers Forum of the Connecticut Home Builders and Remodelers Association (“HBRA-CT”), the Executive Committee of the Real Property Section of the Connecticut Bar Association (“CBA”), and the Planning and Zoning Section of the CBA.

He represented the HBRA-CT when he served on the Connecticut Law Revision Commission Study Committee, which adapted the 2008 revisions of the Uniform Common Interest Ownership

Act for adoption in Connecticut, and he is a co-author of the Connecticut Common Interest Ownership Manual (2nd Ed.), published by the CBA. Greg has been named to the Connecticut Super Lawyers® list in the area of Real Estate from 2009 to the present.

Developers Forum Working Group

The Developers Forum Steering Committee has been assembled and is working diligently on creating the 2026 DF Agenda. A small group of both veteran and newer DF members from all parts of the state are meeting weekly. Currently, all the meeting topics for the remaining 2026 meetings have been established, starting with a broad overview of development in our state. Ensuing meetings will drill down on more focused topics residential developers deal with. The steering committee is working on recruiting engaging and knowledgeable speakers for the meeting panels. New and geographically diverse venues are being sought out. The committee is also establishing a set of Developers Forum guidelines to assist with Forum practices and to ensure that the Developers Forum continues to deliver interesting and valuable information to members.

Developers Forum Working Group participants include:

Ken Mita, Central Connecticut Construction Management LLC, Working Group Chair
Jeff Jakubowski, Team Green Innovative Consulting Solutions
Rob Michaud, Michaud Development
Greg Ugalde, T&M Building Co., Inc.
Bob Wiedenmann, Sunwood Development

HBRACT Staff-

Jim Perras, CEO
Michele Quadrato, Director of Administration & Events

NAHB BUILD-PAC- Record breaking splitback check



NAHB BUILD-PAC marked a record-breaking year as Connecticut Trustee Ken Boynton presented the HBRA of CT Board of Directors with a \$48,456.57 splitback check on behalf of HBRA members. As NAHB’s bipartisan political arm, BUILD-PAC supports pro-housing, pro-business candidates for federal office and strengthens the industry’s voice on Capitol Hill—

efforts made possible through member contributions and events like the Fiano Family Golf Classic. A portion of every dollar raised returns to support HBRA-CT advocacy —helping protect essential business operations, fight burdensome taxes and regulations, and keep housing attainable in Connecticut. Please consider contributing to BUILD-PAC and continuing this important work. ■

HBRA Connecticut River Region



Steve Temkin, T&M Homes & Sheri Cote, HBRA CT River Region in one of the parade homes.

◆ The HBRA of the CT River Region celebrated the 2025 Parade of Homes with a weekend of inspiration, innovation, and incredible craftsmanship with some of Connecticut's finest builders and 15 incredible homes in October.



Charitable Foundation Chairwoman Liz Koiva of Nordic Builders of Tolland



(L-R) Johnny Carrier, By Carrier; Patrick Caulkins, Caulkins Homes; Ralph Riccio, EOS & Outgrow; and Nick Uccello, Uccello Fine Homes



Foundation beneficiary – the Salvation Army

◆ The HBRA Charitable Foundation held its Biennial Benefit Auction on November 7th at the Aqua Turf Club with Shake Rattle & Roll Dueling Pianos. It was an evening of great company, lively bidding, and meaningful impact, raising more than \$115,000. Every ticket, every bid, and every cheer helped fund scholarships and local programs that strengthen Connecticut communities.



New Members and Board members at reception

◆ The Association held a New Member Reception in December, highlighting membership benefits provided by the local association, HBRA CT, and NAHB.

Strategic Plan November 25



Back row: (l-r) Matt Gilchrist, EG Home; George LaCava, Trilacon Development Corporation; Matt Morrell, Chelsea Groton Bank; Bryant Coogan, Rings End; Jeff Miller, Larew Doyle; Chip Poenhert, Liberty Bank; Sean Blette, Elite Contracting Services; Greg Ugalde, T&M Homes; Eric Person, HBRA CT River Region; Patrick Caulkins, Caulkins Homes; Greg Chandler, Gold Sheild Construction
Front row: (l-r) Sheri Cote, HBRA CT River Region, Cathy LaPierre, Laza Properties; Barbara Donn, Core Plus Federal Credit Union



Strategic planning committee at work

- ◆ The Association held a Strategic Planning Retreat in November to solidify 2026 Priority Areas: 1) Foster membership growth that advances the HBRA’s mission; 2) Offer innovative events and programs that provide member value; 3) Strengthen Partnerships to expand impact and resources; 4) Build advocacy strength through unified efforts; and 5) Drive operational excellence



Multifamily Council members at The Olmsted in Farmington



Multifamily Council Chair Bob Wiedenman speaking to members at CT Lighting



- ◆ The HBRA CT River Region’s Multifamily Council met in December at Centre Mall Redevelopment in Bristol, January at The Olmsted Farmington, and February at CT Lighting Centers with presentations from Eric Lynch, Economist, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and Victor Noletti, Executive Managing Director, Institutional Property Advisors (IPA).

Multifamily Council members touring the Centre Mall Redevelopment

HBRA Holiday Celebration



(l-r) Rachel Wardwell, Calcagni Real Estate; Jill Florian, Freedom Property; Luke Florian, Freedom Property; Paul Serafino, Lynx Systems; Carolyn Serafino, Lynx Systems



(l-r) Barbara Donn, CorePlus Federal Credit Union; Jeff Jakubowski, Team Green; Jessica Burzycki, Keith's Appliances; Kim Tondreau, CorePlus Federal Credit Union; Garrett Reed, Keith's Appliances



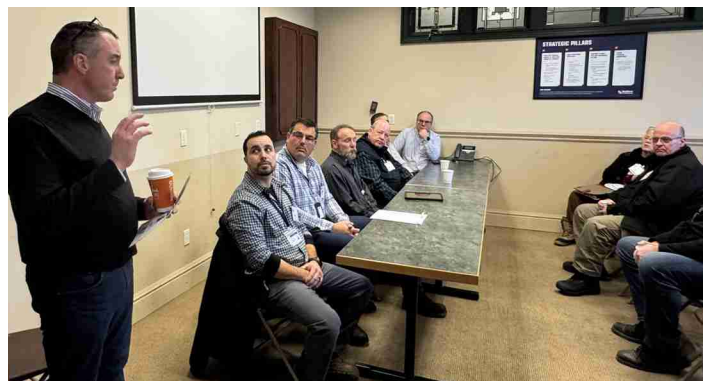
(l-r) Dare Olumori, Diamond Homes; Amanda Lai, QuinnHaven Kitchen Cabinets; John Vecchitto, Elm Tree Funding

- ◆ The HBRA celebrated the holiday season at Saybrook Point Resort & Marina in December with a festive evening of networking, fabulous food, and meaningful connections among members and industry partners.

Building Officials Jan 15 and Feb 12



Building Officials from Groton City, Guilford, Enfield, Ledyard, Stonington, East Lyme, Franklin, and the State of CT



Eric Person, HBRA CT River Region CEO, and Building Officials from Enfield, Simsbury, Waterbury, Bloomfield, South Windsor, and the State of CT

- ◆ The Association held two Building Officials events this winter: “Meet the Building Officials” at Riverhead Building Supply in Niantic in January, and a Building Officials Breakfast at Builder’s First Source in East Hartford in February. Attendees at both events were very engaged, sharing real-world challenges and solutions.

HBRA Annual Awards Gala and Installation of Directors



Event Attendees



(l-r) Ken Boynton, Boynton Construction and Hall of Fame Inductee; Bob Peterson, NAHB 2nd Vice Chairman; Steve Dalene, Dalene Flooring; Micky Dalene, Dalene Flooring



Board of Directors swearing in



Greg Ugalde, T&M Homes & HBRA CT River Region Chairman

◆ The HBRA Annual Awards Gala + Installation of Directors took place in January and was a fabulous night of celebrating excellence, leadership, and community in the home building industry. 2025 Award Winners were Builder of the Year: Dare Olumorin, Diamond Homes; Remodeler of the Year: Andrew LaRoche, LaRoche Builders; Associate of the Year: Tony Pion, Andersen Windows; Multifamily Member of the Year: Bob Wiedenmann, Sunwood Development; New Member

of the Year: Jeff Jakubowski, Team Green; Housing Hall of Fame: Kenneth Boynton, Boynton Construction, as well as 3 President's Awards: Patrick Caulkins, Caulkins Homes; Liz Koiva, Nordic Builders of Tolland, and Chip Poehner, Liberty Bank. The Parade of Homes People's Choice Awards were also celebrated: Favorite Home: Diamond Homes; Favorite Kitchen: EG Home; Favorite Bathroom: Rebuilt Homes; Special Feature: LaRoche Builders. Bob Peterson, NAHB Second Vice Chairman presided over the Installation of Officers, and swore Greg Ugalde, T&M Homes in as he took the reins as President of the Association for 2026 + 2027. ■



Beach House Trio

IBS Connecticut Attendees Night Out February 18 - Rodizio Grill- Orlando FL

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Fairfield County Exec Officer Kerry Brunn,
Kim DiMatteo & Jessie LaChance



L-R Sheila Leach, Nort Wheeler,
David Preka & Matt Gilchrist



L-R Ken Boynton, Liz & Allan Koiva, far right,
Connie Hanbury



Ken Mita and his wife Lynn with
Jack Surato, EG Home



HBRA CEO Jim Perras with
Tom Fredo



Interstate Sales Manager Brian Kurtz



Greg and Mary-Jane Ugalde



Connecticut turns out for the Area 1 Caucus



Bender VP Sales James Narduzzo with guests



Chris Nelson pictured front left.



National Housing Endowment Chairman Greg Ugalde presenting the "Herb Kohler IBS Travel Grant" check for \$185,601 to NAHB Student Chapters.



At left students, Greg Ugalde center with Laura & David Kohler at check presentation. KOHLER® is a huge supporter of Workforce Development.



L-R: DJ Harris (EG Home), Sean Ryan, George LaCava & Sheila Leach (National Lumber) & Chuck Fowke



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Sanford & Hawley, Inc.
1790 Farmington Ave
Unionville, CT 06085
860-673-3213