

EAST COAST HOME+DESIGN

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THE AMAZING TRANSFORMATIONS ISSUE

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Builder of Fine Homes,
Designer of Dreams.



Builder of Fine Homes

HEMINGWAY CONSTRUCTION



The box Colonial is familiar to us all: a New England tradition and an example of American colonial architecture. We know the layout with its central hall separating discrete living and dining rooms, while the kitchen, family and breakfast rooms are grouped at the back. We recognize its shingled profile and rooflines, its flat face. As Peter Sciarretta of Hemingway Construction puts it, “You know this story—you can tell it to your children!”

Here’s another story we know: Hemingway Construction, fine builder of custom homes, does not build on spec. That’s what makes this

project such an amazing transformation. Hemingway Construction seized inspiration and strove to reimagine the traditional box Colonial home. We are so often living in the modes of yesterday. We cleave to homes that don’t facilitate our modern life because it’s what we’ve always known. We live habitually.

What if we didn’t?

Hemingway Construction decided to find out, and began by rewriting its own story. Peter eagerly describes the inception of this spec home. “We took what we do every day with our custom clients and wrote down their top 10 or 15 wishes and wants, and customized those into





a home for sale,” he says. His energy was infectious, and Hemingway Construction’s questions were compelling. “We said, ‘What is trending now? What is popular now? What is popular for these young adults who are the families of tomorrow?’”

The answers to these questions resulted in a sumptuous house well balanced between classical grandeur and modern sensibilities. The design team opened up that central hall, leaving the first floor as an airy common space where the conventional concepts of rooms blended one into the other. The living room, kitchen, family room and other areas

don’t need walls—they are delineated by architectural features, such as the striking center sash marking one corner of the living room. Gorgeous, warm-stained hardwood floors offer a continuity of flooring throughout, and a profusion of broad windows fills the home with light. Generously thick marble countertops and a custom range hood with nickel strapping lend the kitchen a crisp feel, and pendant lights from Circa Lighting hang suspended as burnished works of art. The more practical aspects of daily life are attended to via a private entry space with cubbies, a laundry center with sink and clothes rack, and kitchen-adjacent desk space.



It is recognizable as a Colonial home—just with the proportions shifted into something fresh and vital. Where a traditional Colonial home might feature six to eight windows, this home revels in walls of glass. The front door is tucked between wide side panels of glass rather than smaller side panes. There are no shutters, but there are shingles. That familiar profile is present in this residence, and yet its details are as individual as a human face.

This home was a labor of dreams for many fantastic professionals: Peter Sciarretta worked alongside his team members Salvatore Sciarretta, Doug Horn and Michael Sciarretta. Hemingway Construction teamed up with distinguished architect Christopher Pagliaro of Pagliaro Bartels Sajda Architects of Norwalk, staging designer Cynthia Princi of Cynthia Princi Restyling and Design of Darien, and landscape architect Glenn Ticehurst of Benedek & Ticehurst of Bedford. Together, they accomplished something truly memorable—and maybe will even begin their own trend. Even now, Hemingway Construction is working on another two homes in this fashion.

BUILDER

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The second floor returns privacy to those who live there: each bedroom features its own bathroom and incorporates a built-in workstation to accommodate computer use or homework. There's even a communal desk in eye-catching black tucked into a corner near the stairwell, so parents can work within earshot of their children, or children can browse the Internet in a monitored setting. The reimagined Colonial baths are a study in charming asymmetry and strong lines: sinks are square, the cabinetry features sharp deep drawers, and clean lines abound. Yet there is whimsy there, too: one vanity sports a vertically rectangular mirror and an utterly delightful small window where you'd normally expect more mirror.

The exterior of this home scales to the neighborhood and does not unduly distract the eye.