

Real Estate

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HOT PROPERTY Sasco Hill Road, Southport

Acclaimed builder crafts dream home

Award-winning custom property filled with light, fine detail, craftsmanship

**By Allison Brophy Champion
Special to Greenwich Time**

Hemingway Construction embraced natural light in building the new original home on Sasco Hill Road in waterfront Southport.

In doing so, the Greenwich-based company earned the notice of the Homebuilders Association of Connecticut, receiving the 2011 HOBI



award for Best Custom Home in the State of Connecticut 4,000 to 5,000 square feet.

Founded in 1972 by Salvatore Sciarretta out of a passion for building acquired in his native Italy, Hemingway Construction, with its penchant for fine details and quality craftsmanship, has earned awards before. But this one is different, said Sal's son, Peter Sciarretta, company vice president.

"This award was particularly special, as it was for a repeat client. We built their first new home as a young married couple in Stamford and now built their dream home in Southport," he said of the exclusive community on Southport Harbor. "So this award, for a lifelong client, has special meaning and is one that will always be remembered."

Sciarretta, a lifelong Stamford resident, teamed with brother Sal and brother-in-law Doug Horn to build the wood-shingled, copper-trimmed home on three levels designed by Nuzzi Architects, of Stamford.

The homeowners purchased the prime parcel near Sasco Beach with a small ranch on it, and contracted with Hemingway to replace it with their castle, moving in early last year. As for price, Sciarretta simply said they built the approximately 5,000-square-foot home for "in excess of \$650



OLSON PHOTOGRAPHIC

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Careful detailing and craftsmanship are found from the coffered ceiling to the hardwood floor in this sunny kitchen.

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Builder awarded for 'custom elegance'

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per square foot" and that the home appraised for \$8 million, including an acre.

The peaked-roof house offers fine architectural features like columns and balconies, 360 degrees of windows and a lovely gazebo-like veranda upstairs and down, extending the living space outdoors. Exterior railings are made of mahogany, and the many windows and doors contain hurricane-proof glass and galvanized anchoring straps. Various portal windows provide the perfect vantage point for views of the sound, a golf course and surrounding meadows.

Located in the Southport section of the town of Fairfield, the high-end custom house with high ceilings commands a small rise above Southport Harbor and the Mill River. Sasco Hill Road is a thickly hedged area that values its privacy, according to the New York Times. Fairfield also has many public parks.

Full of light and open spaces, the first floor of the home provides an entrance hall, dining area, family room, sitting area, fully loaded modern kitchen with walk-in pantry and maple cabinets, mudroom with Dutch door, oak-framed butler's pantry, fireplace and 1.5 baths.

The second floor opens to an upper entrance hall leading to the master suite and three additional "mini" master suites, each with walk-in closets, full baths and balconies. The lower level has a wine room, exercise room, changing room, bathroom, storage areas and a recreational area.

Custom lighting adds to the warmth in this award-winning home.

Sciarretta is certainly proud of it, agreeing that the property stands out on the market, perhaps signifying a shift in building.

"With the last decade of McMansions, this home enters a new era with an original design, and is the epitome of custom elegance," he said. "Homebuilding has changed to smaller, custom and, above all, elegant."

Hemingway Construction built four new homes in 2011 and has jobs lined up for eight renovation/expansion projects, said Sciarretta, looking to 2012. "In the wake of the decline of the speculative real estate market," he said, "custom home building is still alive."



OLSON PHOTOGRAPHIC

The home's spacious entrance hall is open and full of light. It showcases a herringbone hardwood floor. Surrounded by natural beauty, this refined and elegant custom home is equipped with many large windows (below).

