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The Maestros



1. Christopher Pagliaro, 2. Melisa Adams, 3. Karen Berkemeyer, 4. Diane Durocher, 5. Charles Hilton, 6. Kate Gelfand, 7. Lauren Vallario, 8. Anthony DeRosa, 9. Diane Rath, 10. Nicky James, 11. Courtney Chessen, 12. Brenda MacLeish, 13. Christopher Shea, 14. Jan Hiltz, 15. Jonathan Gordon, 16. Christine Hiltz, 17. Lisa Davenport, 18. Douglas Graneto, 19. Prudence Bailey.



Photos by: Matthew Cherry ♦ Photo Finishing by: Stuart Taranto



PETER SCIARRETTA



D +D: We understand that Hemingway Construction is a family business. Please tell us about its history.

Peter: My father, Sal Sciarretta, was born and raised in Italy. Even at the young age of 10, he had a fond appreciation for stonecutting and masonry. He came to America to have a better life. He received an education and worked as an engineer at Clairol by day, and in the home building industry by night, before founding Hemingway Construction at the young age of 32.

It still amazes me that he started this company with the simple intention of providing for his family, yet now it is a three-generation company that will continue to provide opportunity for our family and many others for years to come. That young immigrant boy from Italy has certainly accomplished all he set out to do and more, in having a good life here.

Dad passed away three years ago now, and it is never lost on us that we are carrying on his legacy. I always joke that if I can only learn what my father forgets, I'll be just fine. He was a man of integrity and a quality control freak, which is the highest of compliments in our industry. It's because of him that we build houses the way we do—with passion, top-tier craftsmanship, and an attention to detail that's often missing in the building industry these days. We miss him, and we're grateful for the family he led and the company he built.

D+D: Was joining the family business always the dream for you?

Peter: As a young child, I remember going to job sites with my dad, so I always had an appreciation for the process and warm memories of that time with him. Later, I went to Babson College, MA, for business, without a particular direction, but having been inspired by the company he built. When I graduated, it just so happened that Hemingway was awarded the largest project of my dad's career: a 28,000-square-foot home—and he was looking for staff members. I rose to the occasion and joined the team. As dad said, I was educated and now I needed to learn. I worked with architects, designers, subcontractors and everyone in between to learn the ins and outs. I committed my heart and soul to that project for the better part of three years.





I recall leaving that job site energized—invoigorated by the creativity the build took.

That's when it sank in—we're not just building houses, we're building the backdrop against which these families will experience their lives. From vibrant parties to quiet movie nights and everything between, these homes need to be built well and built right. This business—it's very personal. I leave a little piece of myself behind with every project. I felt inspired that day—I was all in, and have been with the company ever since.

D+D: How has your journey influenced how you do business?

Peter: We're a family business, and families respect one another and are responsible to each other. We adopt the same approach with our clients: we are honest and transparent, and we take ownership of our role in a project.

My father always said, "If man can make it, man can fix it." When a project is under construction, the buck stops with us, and we don't deflect that. The architects and engineers are the masterminds, the subcontractors are the sculptors of space, and we bridge the gap of this masterpiece with effective communication.

Nothing is black and white in what we do. We're always learning and always educating—with our clients, the architects, the craftsmen—it's inherent to our process. If a detail can be interpreted in a couple of different ways, we address it with everyone and facilitate communication to achieve the best solution.

D+D: What dreams do you have for the future of your career and company?

Peter: The big dream is—like my father—to have a succession plan, so maybe it becomes a four-generation company. The way we work now, we're a finely tuned machine, where every cog in the wheel knows just how to work and properly support the greater whole. It's important that legacy always continues.

Aside from that, we love the work we do and we love our clients. The biggest compliment we get is when a client calls us and says, "You built my home 20 years ago—boy, was that fun. Let's do it again." If we can continue that experience for us and our clients, it will have been a career worth its weight in gold. ♦

Resource: Hemingway Construction: Peter Sciarretta, Chief Executive Officer, Greenwich, CT, 203.625.0566; hemingwayconstruction.com