

DESIGN + DECOR

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The Amazing
Transformations
Issue

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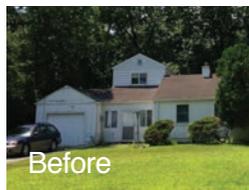


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HEMINGWAY CONSTRUCTION



“We wanted to hit the refresh button on design with this home,” says Peter Sciarretta of Hemingway Construction with a smile. A stunning transformation in the heart of downtown Darien, CT, the 6,100-square-foot home is exceptionally executed to respect the existing lot and neighborhood. “We were very mindful to make the design contextual; we wanted to tie in, but we also wanted to be the best house on the street,” explains Chris Pagliaro of Christopher Pagliaro Architects, which collaborated with Hemingway on the project.

The goal of the design was to create a true center hall Colonial. Its plan indeed revolves around the center of the house, which is the focus of its entire design and flow. The success of an open layout in general, and in this home in particular, stems from the ability to have rooms converse with one another. “We found that all the space could be put into a wide center hall that runs through the house from front to back on both stories,” notes Chris. “The result is a lot of house with less but more effective square footage—a function more pleasant than the traditional maze.”





The interrelationship between spaces is amplified by the ability to define them. The use of ceiling structures and the choice of materials provide harmony and definition. A bright, clean and transitional aesthetic was achieved through careful selection of materials and design touches. The trim is white, which contrasts beautifully with the dark flooring. Similarly, the kitchen has unique finishes and a mix of materials. An industrial range hood focal point boasts masculine metal strapping, which plays off the traditional and transitional elements of the cabinetry.

Windows predominate, offering an abundance of natural light and seemingly extending the home's footprint beyond the boundaries of its walls. Another striking feature is the three-story floating staircase with curved mahogany rails.

The exterior of the home was executed with the same level of detail as the interior. "We purposely chose to create an exterior that was void of the oft-overdone moldings and trim," notes Chris. The shape of the lot dictated not only the overall footprint of the house, but the perpendicular placement of the garage. Symmetrical roof lines and exterior flared walls above ground-story windows serve to elevate and unify the design.

Perhaps the most enduring element of this house, however, is the

organization of space, which creates the drama and what Chris refers to as the "subconscious" experience of the architecture. The home's scale, flow and light pique your curiosity and force you to explore, always eager to discover what waits around every corner.

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