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Westport, New Canaan Homes among HOBI Award Winners

Katie Curnutte, Reporter

Trumbull-based Cerreta Builders won the Home Building Industry Award for best spec home for this 7,000-square-foot stone-and-shingle house the company built in Westport. The HOBI Awards, given by the Home Builders Association of Connecticut, were presented last week at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.



A remodel that turned a tired ranch house in New Canaan into a 6,400-square-foot shingle-style home and a new \$4 million home in Westport that adhered faithfully to the turn-of-the-century style of its stone-and-shingle design were among the homes ...

‘Old-World Look’

Trumbull-based Cerreta Builders won the award for best spec home for a 7,000-square-foot stone-and-shingle house the company built in Westport. The home includes details like a 2-story entry foyer with a limestone floor and a curved staircase; a coffered-ceiling living room with a stone fireplace; a cherry-wood library; and a marble master bath with split vanities and an oversized whirlpool tub, according to the Home Builders Association. The backyard has a stone terrace and a swimming pool enclosed with a wrought iron fence.

The interior of the six-bedroom home, which is on a 1.7-acre lot, also has a lot of niches and built-in bookshelves, features that the judges were impressed by, said Mike Cerreta of Cerreta Builders.

“We really tried to create the old-world look,” he said.

Cerreta, who founded the company 20 years ago, personally oversaw the construction, as he does with all jobs, he said.

“We tried to keep it authentic inside and outside,” he said.

The awards were presented on Oct. 19 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

According to the Home Builders Association, “The HOBI Awards are the most prestigious recognition in the state for excellence in new construction and land development, remodeling, sales and marketing, and home financing.”

“This is an exciting event that celebrates the best in our industry,” said Home Builders Association President Greg Ugalde. “The HBA is proud to recognize and showcase these outstanding winners.”

The awards have been presented since 1993. This year’s judges came from out of state to Connecticut for three days and visited the homes and developments that were up for the award. Entries ranged from a \$5 million sports barn in New Canaan to an 11,500-square-foot weekend home in Darien and from a \$230,000 luxury condominium in downtown Hartford to a 1,773-square-foot attached home in a Litchfield subdivision.

“It’s all about diversity in Connecticut,” said HOBI Awards producer and Home Builders Association Director Joanne Carroll.

“HOBI winners demonstrated the latest housing trends and the newest construction technology,” Carroll added. “Special focus awards recognize home products, homebuilding technology and home features that add value to today’s homes.”