

BETTER THAN EVER

THESE 2021 HOBI-
AWARD-WINNING
PROJECTS SHOW THAT
BUILDING IS BOOMING
BY CATRIONA BRANCA

LAST YEAR'S LONG-AWAITED CELEBRATION OF GREAT DESIGN AT THE HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS Association of Connecticut's Home Building Industry Awards (the HOBI's) dinner did not disappoint. In November, housing-industry professionals gathered to honor the winners in a variety of categories, including custom homes, spec homes, remodeled homes and much more. Here, we highlight just a handful of the best of the best. To see more of these projects, go to cottagesgardens.com/bobis2021. For a complete list of winners, go to hba.org/#/events/bobi-awards.

STEVEN ROSSI



FLETCHER DEVELOPMENT

OUTSTANDING RESIDENTIAL REMODEL OVER \$5 MILLION

An older existing waterfront home was in dire need of a remodel plus some structural adaption. The main challenge, however, was working within the Belle Haven community regulations and guidelines, as well as town historic guidelines. Special features of the renovation include a massive second-floor, in-wall fish tank by Elite Aquatics, a sleek pool/spa by Shoreline Pools on the side of the home, a new basement home theater by Realm Control and an all-glass-and-stainless primary suite balcony (Westport Glass and Carlucci Welding). The finished living space is 9,530 square feet. (Architecture: Bo Malpass)



R.B. BENSON
SPEC HOME OF THE YEAR, BEST
SPEC HOME \$3 MILLION-\$4 MILLION
 Transitional modern vernacular married to classic forms provide a welcoming structure that is grand and inviting. White cedar shingles are complemented by minimal fascia, while black oversized windows and powder blue doors enhance the modern vibe. The entry features an expansive two-story foyer with views through the family room to the Saugatuck River. A patio off the family room is connected to a covered outdoor dining area and porch that's adjacent to the pool. Apple Homekit manages key home functions, and the four-stop elevator completes the tech package. The primary suite includes a spacious bedroom with fireplace, sitting area, a private balcony, two large walk-in closets and a luxurious bathroom outfitted with a 9-foot glass shower. (Architecture: Donald William Fairbanks Architect)



LEGACY CONSTRUCTION NORTHEAST
CUSTOM HOME PROJECT OF THE YEAR, BEST CUSTOM HOME 15,000-20,000 SF, BEST SPECIAL PURPOSE ROOM, BEST POOL HOUSE
 Tango House embodies a sense of modern luxury, while also maintaining a commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency. The clients had an unusual wishlist for their new home that included a Tango ballroom. The answer was a 25-by-38-foot dance studio, featuring a walnut ceiling and Omer Arbel cast-glass spheres, which mimics a suspended "light cloud" to illuminate the dance floor. The gas fireplace in the living room displays textured inky Brazilian quartzite with hand-chiseled edges. This six-bedroom home has an indoor lap pool, wine cellar, media room, library, craft room, art storage room, his and hers home office spaces, electric car-charging garage, spa and sauna, and an outdoor pool with pool house. (Architecture: Carol Kurth Architecture)

LEGACY CONSTRUCTION NORTHEAST: ERIC LAIGNEL; R.B. BENSON: CT PLANS



GATEHOUSE PARTNERS

BEST RESIDENTIAL REMODEL \$1 MILLION-\$2 MILLION

Situated on a lakefront property in Greenwich, this 1950s midcentury home was in desperate need of exterior repair and a complete interior renovation. The homeowners desired an open plan connecting the kitchen, dining room and living room, as well as a better connection with the entry hall. The interior architectural design focused on opening up the plan to create an internal light-filled connection of spaces utilizing the expansive lake views. New Tennessee stone columns and wall finishes reinforce the interior and exterior detailing. A new entrance with a copper canopy and skylight was introduced to visually bring the entry closer to the arrival forecourt. Wide plank flooring integrates all interior spaces. The final renovation gives the home a consistent unified design and a wonderful balance between the new stone framework and the new open interior with views to the lake.

(Architecture: Grandberg & Associates Architects)



DOMUS CONSTRUCTORS

BEST RESIDENTIAL REMODEL \$3 MILLION-\$5 MILLION, BEST ENTRY FOYER, BEST REMODELED KITCHEN

What started with a kitchen addition and renovations to several spaces, turned into a full house renovation plus a new garage with an exercise room and office above. Entry updates include new herringbone floors, a new staircase, a decorative light fixture suspended from a chevron-patterned oak ceiling and additional custom millwork. To gain more space in the kitchen, an addition was constructed and the layout completely reimagined. The living room received all new windows, an updated fireplace with a gas log set, and coffered ceilings with nickel-gap shiplap boards. The dining room has new built-in storage, coffered ceilings, high-glass painted trim and grasscloth wallcoverings. The bathroom was fully renovated and updated to include a steam shower with stone slab floor, more spacious vanities, and new herringbone-patterned wooden floors. The pool area was redone, seating added, and pergolas were built to create a backyard oasis.

(Architecture: Michael Smith Architects)



A&B PAINTING
REMODELED HOME OF THE YEAR,
BEST RESIDENTIAL REMODEL \$2
MILLION-\$3 MILLION
 This home's new spacious family room is surrounded by glass and features rustic oak trusses that are echoed by the floor material. Opposite the fireplace is the new kitchen, which also has oak beams. The blue island color carries through to other millwork in the mudroom and laundry. The stove hood is crafted from stainless and brass. Brass details continue in the powder room, the laundry and lighting, while the stairway railings and family room lighting fixtures are made of wrought iron. Serving as a vertical spine, the main stairway is open to all levels of the house and revolutionizes the entry by bringing space and light to the core of the house. The new adjacent porte-cochere gives the house a larger street presence and features cedar beams and a vaulted interior structure. New stucco was installed on the entire exterior, and many windows were rearranged to provide a more harmonious look, while large modern windows were incorporated into the new portions.
 (Architecture: CAH Architecture and Design)



HOBBS INC.
BEST CUSTOM HOME OVER 20,000 SF
 This project involved creating a new Georgian-style country estate on multiple combined parcels totaling 13 acres, including a 35,000-square-foot main house, a guest house with tennis court, lakeside pavilion, pool pergola and indoor and outdoor pools. The exterior design was inspired by Castle Hill, an estate in Ipswich, Massachusetts, designed by architect David Adler in the early 20th century. The main house has a 1,500-square-foot, two-and-a-half-story living room, with three large skylights and three glass doors with round-top transom windows. The home has its own 30 KW Co-generation electrical supply system that uses gas to produce electricity to run the entire property, and excess electricity is returned to the utility grid. Interiors evolved from traditional at the start to increasingly modern. This project initially started with site layout and driveways entering from the sides of the house, then the client acquired the property and house directly in front of the main house. This was razed and a grand, tree-lined entrance drive coming straight down the centerline of the house was built as the final part of the project.
 (Architecture: Charles Hilton Architects)

HOBBS INC.; ROBERT BENSON; A&B PAINTING; ANTHONY ACCOCELLA





HEMINGWAY CONSTRUCTION

BEST CUSTOM HOME 4,000–5,000 SF

The clever use of architectural details—flat entry roof, metal suspension rods and transitional elements—helped create a modern look on a traditional New England home. The house was designed to maximize the view of and access to the water, create places for social-distance gatherings and easily accommodate overnight guests. Noteable design features include the fireplace in the two-story family room fabricated out of fieldstone and installed in a stacked random square pattern, with an oversized granite hearth and mantel. The house features a four-car garage, stone grotto, generator, residential elevator, custom kitchen and wetbar, butler's pantry, built-in pet/dog house and smart house technology. Outdoor spaces were designed on every level of the structure. A granite hot tub was installed on the first floor's covered terrace, with views of both the water and a retractable outdoor TV screen.

(Architecture: Cardello Architects)

HEMINGWAY CONSTRUCTION: CARL VERNLUND; PRUTTING & COMPANY: DAVID SUNDBERG (OPPOSITE TOP); MICHAEL BONDO (OPPOSITE BOTTOM)

PRUTTING & COMPANY

BEST MODERN CUSTOM HOME

This home is a residential project composed of two shifting parallel “bars” that face Long Island Sound. The building sits on a plinth, and the two bars are linked by a grand spiral staircase that marks the entry into the home. The spiral staircase was created from Corian in one piece, and custom steel rigging plates were fabricated to guide the enormous “sculpture” into place with a very large crane. On the main level, the east bar contains entertainment spaces, while the west bar has functional/service spaces. On the upper level, bedrooms are complete with covered porches. The east elevations are entirely glazed to maximize views of the water. The disintegration of the formal structure into the organic landscape is connected by continuous views to the Sound. (Architecture: Jobb Moore & Partners)

