

Darien News

Business

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Ladies' Launchpad

Helping each other

I believe there is tremendous power in saying something out loud. I don't suggest that you walk around all day sharing every waking thought with those around you.

You may end up in the psych ward. However, for those things that need

action, verbalizing it can sometimes cause action.

Have you noticed that when

you need something and mention it to someone in passing, they often have a solution?

I was recently checking my phone for messages. I was standing next to a woman and I complained that my

Darien architect captures 10 HOBI awards

Three projects designed by Darien resident Charles Hilton, of Charles Hilton Architects in Greenwich, won 10 HOBI Awards Nov. 12.

Sponsored by the Home Builder and Remodelers Association of Connecticut, the Home Building Industry Awards recognize builders, remodelers and other members of the housing industry for "excellence in home design and construction, home technologies and community service."

The first three of the awards — "Best Out of State Custom Home" — were for a new slate and stucco Colonial guest house and adjacent stone garage in Bronxville, N.Y. They were designed to blend harmoniously with the estate's 1915 main house while respecting the well-established streetscape. The jury was impressed with the "spacious and bright" poolside entertainment room, "creative" kitchen serving bar, classically detailed master suite, and the third floor children's bunk room.

On the rear facade of the house are outdoor porches that front the blue-stone terrace, pool and spa for the "Best

Outdoor Living Environment" award. The focal point of this space is a large stone outdoor fireplace engaged in the end wall of the garage for evening entertainment that won for "Best Outdoor Feature".

These awards were accepted by Matt and Whit Matthews of Significant Management in New Canaan, the general contractors for the project.

The fourth of these awards — "Best Residential Remodel \$2-3,000,000" — was for a gardener's cottage on a French country farm in Greenwich. The design references the scale, forms and character of this period Normandy village while tying seamlessly with its New England setting through the use of vernacular building materials. The worn shingle exteriors were replaced with a new Vermont slate roof, a fieldstone veneer (matching the stone walls on the property), local hand-hewn white oak timbering, stucco, and New York blue stone. The interiors feature antiqued wood timbers, period interior millwork, and imported French plaster walls. The buildings contain a new



Contributed photo

Builder Robert Levine, left; Darien resident Charles Hilton, of Charles Hilton Architects of Greenwich; and Matt Matthews, of Significant Management in New Canaan, accept their HOBI awards.

state-of-the-art greenhouse, work rooms for the farm, a guest suite and an office for the owner of the property.

The award was accepted by Robert Levine of Home Construction in Stamford, which built the project.

The third award — "Best Custom Home 6,000-7,000 SF" — was for a new French Normandy residence on the same site in Greenwich. This new house was designed to reflect an old French manor barn.

"One of the most visible exterior elements is the tall graduated slate roof which is pierced with

carved timber dormers," Hilton said, "the exterior walls framed with antique half-timbering are filled with randomly laid Roman brick that rest on a stone water table."

A stone corner tower is the focal point of the road side facade in the "Best Exterior Home Feature." One enters through a pair of heavy oak doors set in a carved stone entry which leads to the central Great Room. Framed with antique timbers, the authentic French plaster walls, plank and beam ceiling, walk-in Carmague limestone fireplace and floor to ceiling bay win-

dow with views out to the gardens, define the grand scale yet intimate character of this focal point of the house. The room is open to a state-of-the-art chef's kitchen. Stairways, carved from solid English oak timbers, lead to the overlooking guest bedrooms above.

For "Best Interior Home Feature," the master bedroom suite, housed in the tower features a spiral open tread stair and enjoys commanding views across the property. For "Best Special Purpose Room," the tower basement houses a one-of-a-kind old-world wine cellar. These old-world qualities mask the buildings many high-tech green amenities, which include geo-thermal HVAC, a spray foam insulation building envelope, high-performance low-E glazing, automated sun shades, extensive LED lighting, on-site electrical/heat co-generation, smart-house control systems and substantial use of recycled timber materials.

The project was awarded the grand prizes of "Custom Home of the Year" and "Project of the Year" presented to Hilton and builder Robert Levine.