



PROJECT OF NOTE

Modern Masterpiece

A DARIEN WATERFRONT HOME, DESIGNED BY ACCLAIMED ARCHITECT RICHARD MEIER, IS STAGED FOR SUCCESS



View Finder (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) Designer Tina Anastasia allowed the architecture and view to take center stage. Staying true to the home's heritage, she selected period furnishings from iconic designers. In the dining area, a custom Meier table is paired with Knoll seating. The home's study boasts an original Meier desk. See Resources.



When an iconic house comes up for sale, curiosity seekers are eager to take a look. When the home is of the caliber of the Smith house, designed by modernist architect Richard Meier, the buzz is even bigger. Commissioned by the Smith family and used as a summer retreat, the home was Meier's first residential project at 31 years old. On the market for the first time since its conception in 1967, it is rare to find a home in such a pure state, having undergone only one renovation designed by the original architect. The community was able to get a sneak peek of Meier's modern masterpiece during the 2018 Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart sponsored by CTC&G.



Tina Anastasia of Mark P. Finlay Interiors was called upon to ready the home for the tour and completed the redo in record time (less than three weeks). In staging the home she sought to highlight the architecture and illustrate how the timeless design is still relevant today. "It is important to let the architecture shine. We didn't want to detract from the craftsmanship of the building," says Anastasia. "We kept it very simple, without over accessorizing. This allows the visitor to appreciate the building, but it still feels like an inviting home."

Meier's design demonstrates the modernist principles of geometry,

light and the relationship of architecture and the environment. Floor-to-ceiling walls of glass draw the eye to the rocky coastline and panoramic views of Long Island Sound. "You must keep in mind the architect's intention in designing the space. Especially in a home that engages the landscape so extensively," says Anastasia.

To preserve the modern aesthetic, the designer retained significant pieces of furniture and artwork original to the house, including a built-in desk and sofa designed by Meier in the study and a dining table (another Meier design) in the dining room. She supplemented with vintage and period pieces from prominent designers, including Charles and Ray Eames, Eero Saarinen, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Verner Panton, keeping the public spaces minimal and warming up the private areas of the home with color.

While staging, Anastasia envisioned the new owner as a person with a passion for the arts and design. Listing agent Jack Trifero of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty agrees, believing it will be someone who is "artcentric," who appreciates the importance of the home and wants to live in a piece of art and be a part of its ongoing history. —Mary Fitzgerald