Cole Harris Homes

PROJECT OF THE YEAR, BEST AMENITY

The 2018 project of the year was awarded to Cole Harris Homes for a pair of homes built on Brush Island in Darien. Designed and built to be quintessential waterfront homes with sweeping lawns and natural indigenous tree and plants, the overriding focus for this property was about lifestyle. Outdoor amenities include perennial gardens, covered entertaining and grilling areas, pools and boat docks.

The first home (this page) was built with a strong, rich and rustic sense, which was realized through many high-caliber finishes, materials and amenities. It is also very contemporary, as seen in simplified details in cabinetry, millwork and steel rails, plus a one-of-a-kind sculptural chandelier built of found driftwood, moss and steel specifically for the home's two-story family room. For the second home (opposite page), approval from the planning and zoning commission was conditioned on saving a 96-inch-diameter European Beech, which became a focal point, and the house was designed around it. The interior spaces have an understated and modern aesthetic. (Architecture: Cole Harris Associates)

This pair of homes also won (LEFT) Best Spec Home Over $7 million and Best Home Staging (LTW Design); and (RIGHT) Outstanding Spec Home Over $7 million.

DANIEL MILSTEIN; TOP RIGHT: AUSTIN ETERNO

SBP Homes

BEST CUSTOM HOME 8,000–10,000 SQUARE FEET, BEST CUSTOM HOME KITCHEN

This more than 8,000-square-foot home was built for a busy family of five. The kitchen anchors the home and is open to the mother's office/command center, the living room, mudroom and a butler's pantry painted in a high-gloss blue lacquer. The dining room is located in the center of the home and abuts the foyer with a modern glass-railed staircase. A large office is located in the back of the house with a floor-to-ceiling, blackened-steel fireplace. A finished lower level includes a custom bunkroom that sleeps eight, a media room and a gym. An outdoor kitchen and patio are complete with an outdoor fireplace, grilling area and professional pizza oven.

Bluewater Home Builders

BEST SPEC HOME $3 MILLION–$4 MILLION

Classic Nantucket shingle style blends with sleek modern finishes for this contemporary beach home. Privately set in Westport's Compo Beach area, this new home has 7,650 square feet of handcrafted elegance on four finished levels, with five ensuite bedrooms, plus the option to convert a first floor study to a first floor guest or master bedroom. The foyer area is separated from the formal areas of the house by a gallery created by floor-to-ceiling white rift oak built-ins with glass inset shelves. Interiors offer four finished levels with handcrafted millwork, paneling and built-ins. Polished chrome fixtures, white painted cabinetry, white Glassos counters and a cool color palette of light grays combine to evoke a transitional and contemporary mood. (Architecture: Anthony J. Tartaglia Associates)

Milton

OUTSTANDING CONTEMPORARY SPEC HOME, OUTSTANDING OUTDOOR FEATURE

This 2,944-square-foot home on a tight lot was inspired by contemporary European architecture. Bright white stucco with black windows creates a crisp, clean look, while black metal and glass railings coupled with floating treads speak to the contemporary architecture of the structure. Inside the open-floor-plan home, the kitchen's modern minimalist design of sleek black cabinets maximizes function and storage. To balance the bold kitchen, a large fireplace makes an equally powerful statement in the family room. Four bedrooms include a master suite with a wall of white-oak accent panels and water views. Topping it off: a rooftop deck overlooking Westport's Compo Beach. (Architecture: Donald William Fairbanks)

SPB HOMES: DAN MURDOCH; BLUEWATER HOME BUILDERS: EILEEN SAWYER; MILTON DEVELOPMENT: VIDELER PHOTOGRAPHY; PRUTTING & CO, WITH JOEB MOORE: TIMOTHY SCHENCK