

**REAL ESTATE**

LUXURY LIVING

# Front doors that make a statement

By Bernadette Blaze

In a few days front doors and doorbells will be working overtime on Halloween night. And while scarecrows, ghosts and pumpkins may set the mood for the evening, what makes for an eye-catching front door?

Beautiful front doors enhance a home's curb appeal. According to Remodeling's Cost Vs. Value report, a front door replacement is the number one return on investment. A strong paint color, combined with stately architectural details, and lush landscaping make standout design elements that visitors will enjoy before they even enter the home.

Andrew Whiteley of AFA Homes of William Raveis Real Estate explains that the front door and entry are used to make a statement. "They are meant to be reflective of the home you are entering," says Whiteley. "They convey that this is a house of prominence."

"The front entry sets the tone," adds Maria Tziolis of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty.

"Color matters, as does having nice, sturdy hardware," she continued. "You want to feel that there is something solid."

The Nantucket style home at 35 Burnham Hill in Westport's Compo Beach has a striking arched front door made of cherry wood with curved sidelights.

"We wanted something that brought in light but gave enough privacy so



28 Darbrook Road, Westport

Contributed photo



35 Burnham Hill, Westport

PlanCmatic / Contributed photo

that the interior was not totally exposed," says owner/agent Maria Tziolis.

The door was designed to mirror the cherry barrel ceiling of the entry, which

also incorporates a covered, wraparound slate terrace. It is an impressive entrance to the well-appointed 8,272 square foot home that is just a short walk to the beach. The property is set on .65 private acres with 3 en-suite bedrooms, which Tziolis says is rare for homes in the beach area, and that there is no need for flood insurance.

The home is offered at \$3,900,000 through William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty.

Coming through the elegant gated entry of 28 Darbrook Road in Westport, the eye is drawn to-

ward the stone façade and beautiful portico with its gracious, curved ceiling, and heavy oak front door. "It is a focal point of the house and a very commanding presence," says listing agent Andrew Whiteley.

The 8,000 square foot stone and shingle masterpiece is set on over 3 acres convenient to the Town Center. The 6-bedroom, 7-bath home offers 4 levels including home theater, game room, gym, au pair suite, pool and pool house.

It is offered at \$3,500,000 through AFA Homes, William Raveis Real Estate.



412 Gulf St., Milford

Not just for windows anymore, shutters are becoming popular to add around an exterior door to frame the entrance for a decorative touch to a front porch.

The gracious Victorian/Colonial at 412 Gulf Street in Milford has a sweeping covered front porch and a stunning stained glass window as the centerpiece of the bold red front door, framed with contrasting black shutters. One of Milford's hallmark homes, the exterior is graced with gingerbread trim and is nestled on Gulf Pond, just a few steps from Gulf Beach. The 4,900 square foot, six-bedroom home features two master suites, gourmet kitchen, formal living room and third floor retreat with two bedrooms, family room and kitchenette area.

It is offered at \$1,499,000 through Carolyn Augur and Company of Coldwell Banker Real Estate.