REAL ESTATE

HOT PROPERTY

Contemporary takes inspiration from modern shipbuilding

By Sloan Brewster

The home at 41 Mohican Road East in Westbrook was designed by a man who loved being on his yacht and wanted to bring that feeling to shore.

"It's like the phoenix rising and when you see it from the water it looks like a small boat," said listing agent Janet Pecknapha of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty.

Built in 1992, the inside of the 6,344-square-foot contemporary resembles a ship, said seller Jeff Polep.

"It's like a ship, like the ocean, like waves," he said.

Sitting back one road from the beach, it has panoramic views of Long Island Sound.

Pecknapha sold the house to Polep three years ago, representing Betty Weber, the widow of Steven Weber, who designed the house.

"The house was the couple's love child," Pecknapha said.

"He wanted to create a house that reminded him of being on a yacht," she said. "It was their dream house."

With curving walls made of glass blocks, glass block floors, two-story walls of windows, stained glass windows, high gloss inlay floors, art deco accoutrements, steel doors and stainless steel railings and fixtures and mood lighting, the finely detailed house is a showplace.

With an iriald floor, a giant marble fireplace and surrounded by windows, the sunken living room is breathtaking.

"It looks like you walked in and you're on the Queen Mary," Polep implored. "In the living room you feel like you're seeing a painting being recreated all the time."

With a unique deck with a hot tub, enclosed porch, a game room, music and music led through the entire home and outside, it's a great spot for entertaining.

Polep, who owns two other houses on the road, uses this one for entertaining. He has had catered events there and gatherings to watch fireworks, which light the sky through the night, he said.

"The house itself is very conducive to parties," he said.

Since he bought the place, Polep has converted the basement into a game room and has a pool table in the living room, so there's plenty to do at parties. For those looking for more relaxation, the rooftop deck has a chair set up for the perfect view.

"It's probably one of the finest ocean views in the state," Polep said. "It's forever, you're really high and you can see everything for miles."

The ever changing views get better and better as you climb higher and higher up the winding stairs of the house, Pecknapha said.

Decorative ceilings in the kitchen and dining room give the appearance of looking up at a cloud. The German-modern kitchen has a curved island with a sink. A large compass rose is designated into the floor at the bottom of the stairwell catches the eye from above.

With a bath with a large granite shower with six shower heads and two walk-in closets big enough to be rooms, the master suite takes up a wing of the second floor. A private enclosed reading porch off the suite is sun filled, yet protected from the elements.

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AGENT PROFILE Bette Zollshan

Expert incorporates relocation

Clients come first for Bette Zollshan. Zollshan obtained her Realtor's license in 2005. She has a bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in Communications Research Methodology from Boston University. While living in Boston, she worked in advertising as a media director for an international advertising firm.

When she moved to Connecticut, she became a brand supervisor in product marketing for Heineken, Inc. and was responsible for a group of consumer brands.

While Zollshan was raising her children, she started a custom container planting business, which she ran for six years.

Her business experiences helped get her ready for a future career in real estate.

"They were unbelievably preparatory because my experience was in marketing," she said.

She sold into real estate with an understanding of what it takes to represent a client, promote products and how to work with the public and achieve success in sales. In addition, her experience gives her an edge in assisting

AGENT PROFILE Stephanie Dorman

An edge with financial markets

One of the things Stephanie Dorman loves most about real estate is that it's different every day. A Realtor since 1997, she started out working in banking and finance. When she had her children, she needed flexibility and decided to try real estate.

Working in the financial industry gave her an edge in her new career as she had knowledge of finances and an awareness of the financial climate of the period, she said. She also gained experience working with the public, which she was able to take advantage of in real estate.

"That's one of the things that I love about real estate is working with the public, and every day is different," she said.

Dorman's first gig in real estate was at her mother's agency, Village Realty, in Branford; where her father was also an agent.

Dorman said her personal touch sets her apart and she loves working with first-time home buyers.

"The main thing is dealing with the public, just helping people achieve their dreams."