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LUXURY
HOME
QUARTERLY

Pacific Palace

Kari Whitman rolls out the red carpet for this regal L.A. pad



The Dolce Residence

The residence is marked by its unique location: a beautiful hillside sloping down to a nearby lake. On a clear day, the Vermont Slate roof contrasts with a blue sky. Light enters through Marvin windows and doors (marvin.com). Interior door hardware by Baldwin (baldwinhardware.com) and custom turned “beaded” stair balusters by H.A. Stiles Inc (hastiles.com) decorate the home’s entrance. Downlights and decorative lights are manufactured by Lightolier Calculite and Hammerton. In the kitchens and bathrooms, elegant Rohl faucets and plumbing fixtures, and AKDO tile (akdo.com) mosaics provide the final touch throughout the house.

company’s mission statement. “Our projects are the singular expression that results from involved clients and awareness of, and sensitivity to, their specific sites.”

The Dolce Residence located in Eastern Massachusetts was designed as a kind of private

Catalano Architects

MASSACHUSETTS FIRM BOASTS ECO-FRIENDLY HOMES

by Isabel Eva Bohrer

Since 1987, the Catalano Architects firm has been dedicated to the pursuit of contextually sensitive design and the idea of crafting well-built structures that withstand the test of time. From both a notion of aesthetics and durability, Catalano constructions are meant to last. “We believe that well-built houses are truly ‘green’ and we use the collective knowledge that has informed traditional building in the Northeast for the last 250 years,” owner Tom Catalano explains.

Catalano’s approach to architecture has always been informed by the study and appreciation of craft. “I have been a student of the built environment from grade school and I followed that with architecture school at the Rhode Island School of Design,” he says. His firm has done many single-family homes, both primary and secondary

residences. “We are nearing completion of the Dreamland Theater in downtown Nantucket,” Catalano says. “And we have completed work for institutional clients, such as a dormitory and a headmaster’s house for an Eastern Massachusetts boarding school.”

Specifically, his firm focuses on environmentally friendly design; the Dreamland Theater is a candidate for a LEED silver rating, as well as a newly completed residence in Hyannis, MA. Catalano Architects bring a highly refined sense of detail and preparation to their projects, regardless of size. This results in a refreshing alternative to the culture of mass homogenization in which we live. “We believe that good architecture can enliven our existence and relieve us from the mediocrity of much of the built environment,” reads the



02



03



04

01
The main house stair tower and porte-cochère as seen from the parking court.

02
One of the powder rooms on the first floor.

03
The pool wing is bathed in sunlight all day long. The indoor pool as seen from the pub area.³

04
The first floor terraces gradually lead down to the pool areas.

vacation spot that the clients also use as a residence most of the time. In designing the project, Catalano remembers that, “we wanted to take advantage of the relationship of the house to the site.” Another very important factor was “to

maximize the views of nature from every place in the house,” he explains. “The site is a beautiful hillside that slopes down to a nearby lake.”

As is the case with every design project, the Dolce Residence also came with its challenges. One of them was fitting a large program into a form that did not overwhelm or seem out of place. “We used several devices to break down the massing of the house,” Catalano explains. One example would be breaking the four-car garage into two separate structures, which are connected by a porte-cochère. Similarly, in many areas, the rooflines come down to a height of one story, again to minimize the apparent mass of the house.

Looking back, Catalano particularly enjoyed the positive relationship he developed with the clients. “We had very engaged and energetic clients,” he says. “Their passion for the project fueled our work.”

In fact, Catalano tends to develop a positive relationship with many of his clients. His firm prides itself on the ability to listen to its clients and understand not only their functional requirements, but also their aesthetic aspirations. “Our

continuing success is built upon this close working relationship with our clients,” reads the firm’s mission statement.

“I almost feel as though we are spoiled by our clients as most of our projects are in fact dream projects for us and for them,” says Catalano. Personally, he does not really have any “dream projects.” Right now, his firm is working on a house in Weston, Massachusetts that is contemporary in nature. “Our clients are allowing us to stretch our design wings, so to speak,” he says. “That is fun and rewarding.” ■

A MESSAGE FROM E.W. TARCA CONSTRUCTION
Accomplished custom home builder, E.W. Tarca Construction Inc. builds luxurious homes throughout Massachusetts. With over twenty years of experience, Ed Tarca and his team take into consideration how each homeowner lives, works, relaxes and entertains to make every detail perfect. From beginning to end, we provide our technical brilliance and imaginative eye to help you create your unique, breathtaking dream home become a reality.

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