

New Canaan's Hobbs, Inc., wins top honors at HOBI's

By John H. Palmer
Correspondent

A New Canaan building firm has been recognized for building, well, great big homes.

Grove Street-based Hobbs, Inc., took the award for "Fairfield County Project of the Year," for its work on a 10,000-square-foot luxury home in the northeastern part of Greenwich.

The awards are given out annually by the Home Builders Association of Connecticut. The HOBI's, as they are known, are considered the only awards given out in Connecticut for builders' work and are held in high esteem in the industry. This year, the association's 16th annual awards presentation, were given out at a dinner at Southington's Aqua Turf Club on Nov. 10.

"It feels very good to get recognized," said co-owner Scott Hobbs. "We are very proud of the work we do. All of our people take pride in what we do, and everyone in our company builds homes it as if it were their own."

According to Hobbs, the home, located at 18 Byfield Lane in Greenwich, is a 10,000-square-foot Georgian-style home made of clapboard and stone with a slate roof. It is noted for its detailed exterior landscaping, including a cobblestone courtyard and sunken garden in the backyard with an archstone

bridge. It also boasts a built-in terrace chessboard, a saltwater pool and spa, and a car garage with lifts. The house, which listed for about \$5 million, was designed by Greenwich architect Rich Granoff.

In addition to being named Project of the Year in Fairfield County, the house was also awarded Green Project of the Year for its use of materials and building techniques to cut down energy waste. Hobbs said the couple who helped design the home was interested in having a green home, and it was designed to have minimal maintenance needs.

It was built using engineered lumber from wood scraps to cut down on waste and spray foam insulation. On the inside, the home uses radiant heating that utilizes floorboards with trenches already pre-cut so pipes could be easily run. High-efficiency boilers and air conditioners maintain the temperature, and solar panels sit flush on the rooftop helping to provide power. Finally, all paint, fabrics, carpets and draperies emit very little low volatile organic compounds, which cuts down on fumes and chemicals in the home.

"When we started the house three years ago, 'green' was still relatively new to our marketplace so it was a great learning experience for us to research all these great products and seeing



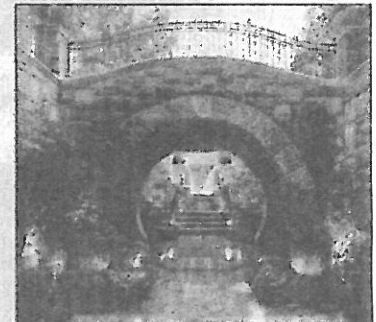
Hobbs, Inc., located on Grove Street, was awarded Fairfield County Project of the Year, for its work on the 10,000-square-foot luxury home pictured above. The awards are given out annually by the Home Builders Association of Connecticut. At right, the archstone bridge overlooks the cobblestone courtyard.

how we could implement them," Hobbs said. "I hold tribute to the owners, who were very concerned about the health of their children, and their own health."

To win a HOBI, builders from all over Connecticut submit written entries and photos of their work. Judges review the

submissions and then physically visit the site to review the quality of the building. Hobbs was also awarded in the category for renovation work down on a house in Darien and also on Weed Street in New Canaan.

Hobbs, Inc., was founded by Ted Hobbs in 1954. Brothers



Scott and Ian Hobbs took it over in 1998. The firm also has offices in Bridgehampton and New York City.