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Fort Hill Construction

A Family of Fine Craftsmen

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Fort Hill Construction: A Family of Fine Craftsmen

By Lalaena Gonzalez-Figueroa

When they established Fort Hill Construction in 1971, the company's founding partners — George Peper, Randy Foote, Joey Goldfarb, Mark Spector and Jim Kweskin — envisioned a small firm whose personal approach and dedication to fine craftsmanship would make a difference in the building industry. An artistic group that included musicians, artists and architects, the firm established itself early on as a business that was focused on exceptional quality in residential construction and remodeling throughout Boston and New York. As Fort Hill Construction's reputation grew, the firm acted on the ability to expand beyond the East Coast. In 1974, the group established company headquarters in Los Angeles, and continued to grow at an impressive rate.

"When we began, we weren't in this to create a big business," reflects Peper. "Then, and now, our aim has been to make a good living doing something we really enjoy." As clients began to spread the word, the company's partners capitalized on the opportunity to handle large-scale, upscale residential



projects. Despite their success, the group never lost sight of their business principles. "Even as our volume increased and our scope expanded, we always maintained the idea that if, for any reason something on our project wasn't turning out right, we would always work to fix it," explains Peper. "In our line of work, challenges will arise. When they do, we take the steps necessary to address them and move forward successfully with each project."

Fort Hill Construction specializes in a range of residential projects, including custom-home builds, major remodels and additions, historical renovations, screening rooms, custom cabinet work and fine finish carpentry. Exterior features including coastal seawalls, swimming pools, retaining wall systems and tennis courts are also offered. In keeping with the firm's commitment to quality control and a hands-on approach, the company maintains its focus on projects exclusively within the greater Los Angeles area, spanning from Hancock Park, Hollywood Hills, Beverly Hills, Bel Air, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades and Malibu to Encino and portions of the San Fernando Valley. With a great variety of topographies and lifestyles represented within this region, the firm approaches each project with a carefully chosen team of specialists. "In our region, there are unique demands associated with each neighborhood," observes Goldfarb. "We have the ability to meet those needs, and to build a variety of styles, from Minimalist to Classical to Contemporary. And for every job we handle,

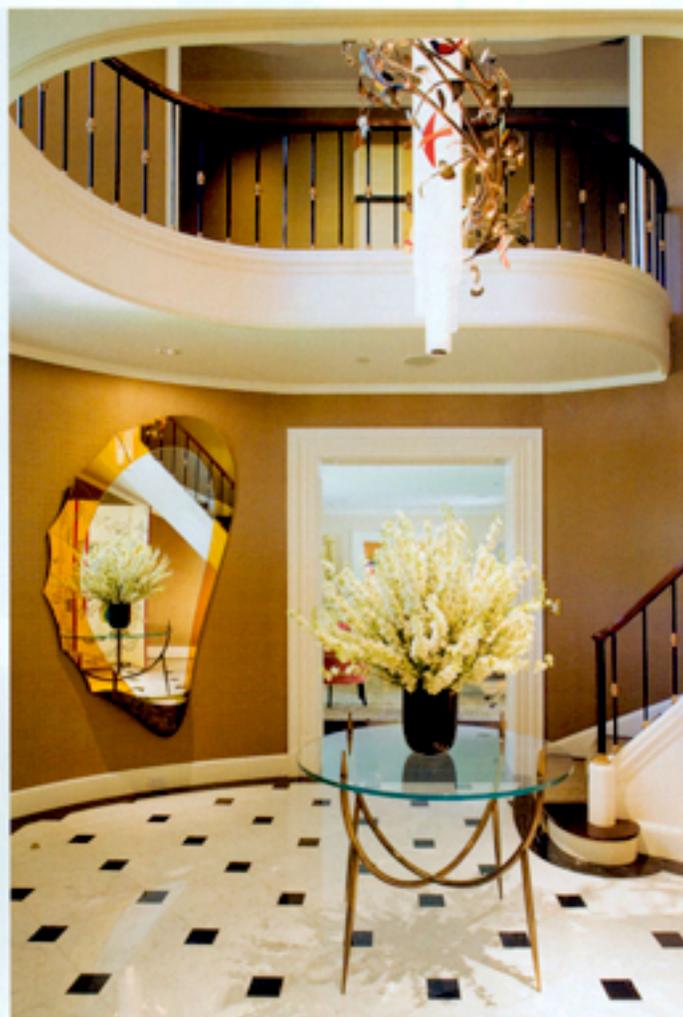
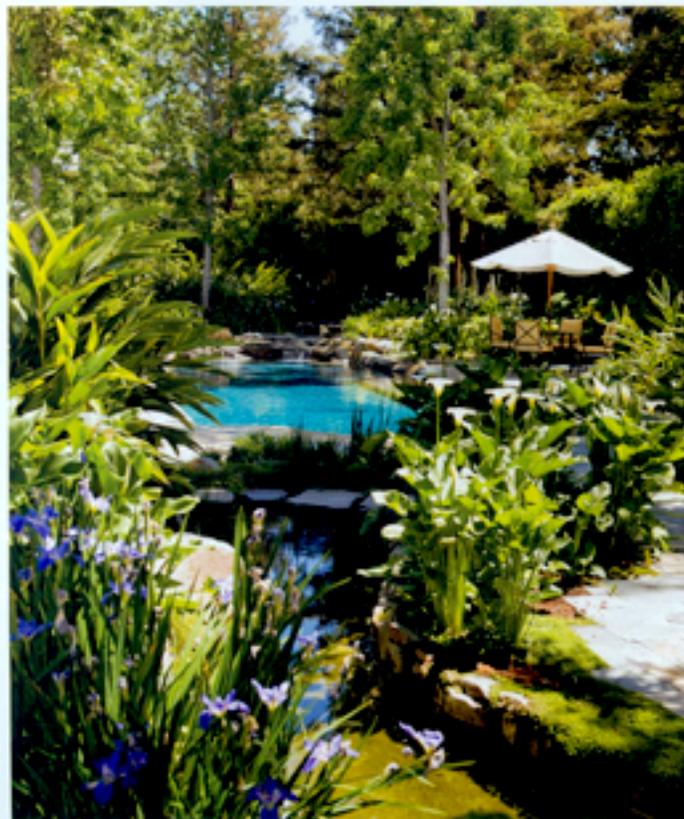


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we utilize the strengths of specific superintendents who are particularly strong in the appropriate areas."

Accountability is a driving factor in the success of Fort Hill Construction, where ongoing communication between clients and subcontractors ensures a smooth process throughout each project. Weekly meetings are scheduled for the duration of each job, with the participation of clients, architects, designers and any additional personnel who are critical to a particular stage of construction. "We find that our regular meetings help us to present and obtain information in a timely fashion," explains Kweskin, who emphasizes the importance of client awareness. "We understand that, as obvious as procedures and paperwork are to us and our construction professionals, they may not be as clear to our customers. By coming together on a weekly basis, we are able to answer our clients' questions and concerns, and to keep them updated on the status of the schedule and budget of their project."

While the firm has maintained decades-long professional relationships with some of the region's most professional subcontractors, Peper notes that Fort Hill Construction is constantly developing new relationships with area tradespeople



PHOTOS BY CAMERON CAROTHERS

and craftspeople. "We are adamant about competitively bidding each project we handle," he explains. "By bringing new groups into the mix, we ensure that our clients are getting excellent work at the best possible prices."

The team at Fort Hill Construction is committed to creating lifelong relationships with their clients, as well as their subcontractors. The firm's dedication to its customers and its projects is evident in the company's creation of a full-time service department. The division employs up to a dozen full-time employees who handle a range of projects, from small repairs and maintenance work on homes that Fort Hill Construction has built to larger projects including minor additions and remodels. In order to familiarize themselves with every project, they will be maintaining service department personnel to assist

in the final punch-out of each home built or remodeled by Fort Hill Construction. "We have had the opportunity to care for houses that we built 20 years ago," says Kweskin. "It's a great benefit to our clients, because they're getting service by the people who have firsthand knowledge of the construction and design of their homes."

While they've had the opportunity to work with high-profile individuals including A-list actors and Hollywood studio heads, the team at Fort Hill Construction maintains the utmost in discretion and privacy for their clients. In every project, says Peper, the greatest rewards stem from enthusiastic clients and colleagues. "We have been very fortunate to work with great architects and spectacular designers from around the world," he offers. "And nothing means more to us than a satisfied customer. That's what keeps us fresh and excited about our work; we're here to care for our clients, to give them a good home to live in. Our reputation has been built on that level of dedication."

A longtime interest in environmentally friendly building has finally been rewarded; after years of searching for sustainable products that were appropriate for the high-end tastes of their custom-home clients, the team at Fort

Hill Construction has seen a recent boom in upscale green building materials and methods. The firm employs LEED Gold-certified personnel, and continues to research products and work with local contractors who are also involved in green builds. From Caesar Stone surfaces and countertops to off-grid power sources and 100% irrigation, the company remains dedicated to incorporating environmentally friendly materials into its projects, always staying abreast of the latest technology.

In addition to building and remodeling projects, the professionals at Fort Hill Construction also offer a range of services including architectural drafting, project development and project management (within the United States and Mexico). The group handles select commercial projects, as well.

Despite the immense success of Fort Hill Construction,





the team maintains a friendly, family business atmosphere that caters to its clients' needs. Integrity and personal service are the firm's signature qualities, and will continue to drive its ongoing business. ■

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