

Westchester Magazine's Dream Home

PENTHOUSE EDITION



Q & A WITH OUR INTERIOR DESIGNER

BARBARA BELL, THE DREAM HOME'S LEAD INTERIOR DESIGNER, SHARES HER EXPERIENCE IN HER UNIQUE ROLE FOR THE PROJECT.

Q. What is your role as the Dream Home's interior designer?

A. MY ROLE IS QUITE DIVERSE. I'm part creative director and part project manager charged with achieving the design requirements of the project, while supporting the sponsors involved in each of the Dream Home spaces. I'm responsible for helping develop an overall design theme for the Dream Home, then interfacing with each sponsor to support their maximum creativity while coordinating the colors, materials, and design aesthetic of the entire penthouse.

Q. How would you describe your vision for the look and feel of the Dream Home: Penthouse Edition?

A. THIS UNIQUE, ONE-OF-A-KIND property offers unbelievable views, glorious light, high ceilings, and huge volumes of space. It's in the suburbs, but very urban—a modern, livable interior with luxurious materials and furnishings representing the best in contemporary design. Whether you're a baby boomer moving to apartment living for the first time in many years or a young, professional family choosing an expansive space with the services and amenities of hotel living, this home provides a clean, modern, dramatic environment with easy living and function.

Q. What has been the most challenging part of the project?

A. AS WITH MOST DESIGN projects, the most challenging part has been meeting the time requirements while selecting the best possible design elements and making sure that everyone involved meets their deadlines and submits their designs in a timely fashion. While all of the participants have worked incredibly well together, it's been necessary to make adjustments along the way. Pulling it all together, selecting substitutes, making sure specific elements aren't repeated from one room to the next, and that all the sponsors are able to incorporate their most creative and unique abilities has been a formidable task.

Q. How is this project different from your other interior design projects?

A. MODERN, DRAMATIC, luxurious, functional—this seems to be the design mantra of many clients today. Great art, good lighting, space for guests, a fabulous kitchen, and a spa bath combined with spaces for state-of-the-art media and automated features are all part of the work I've been doing for several years. I believe a Westchester property with this kind of design style is going to be very appealing to many people who, until recently, weren't sure where or how to find it. The resources and design ideas expressed here are the wave of the future in Westchester.

Q. What aspects of the interior do you think will most impress visitors to the Dream Home?

A. I THINK THE FINISHED DREAM Home will astound visitors at every turn. From the state-of-the-art kitchen and incredible bathrooms to the detailing of fabrics, furnishings, luxurious materials, dramatic lighting, tile, hardwood flooring, and art—it's all been an exciting journey to something very unique. What has impressed me the most has been the wealth of materials and resources that were available right here in Westchester, which we will now see showcased in one home.

Q. What will happen to the Dream Home after the tours end?

A. WHILE THE DREAM HOME is in some ways a showhouse, unlike many showhouses, it will also become someone's actual home after the project is completed. As a result, there must be a relationship between all rooms and a flow to the overall design. My job is to create that flow by communicating with all the participating sponsors and keeping the design on track, making sure budgets are met, the proper paperwork is generated and received, schedules are communicated, and problems solved as they arise. It's a challenging, but unbelievably exciting and interesting job.

Visit our website to see more Dream Home photos including the den (top and right) and kitchen (center).

