



AS SEEN IN GREEN HOME 2010,
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GREEN PIECES THE SCOOP ON SUSTAINABILITY 2010



be structurally sound, be safe, and cause no ill health effects. Materials should be from sustainable sources, and the house must not cost significantly more than a typically built similar house. And the energy requirements for comfortable occupancy should be minimized.

For Lyons and Higgins, being a green contractor means, above all, building durably and being energy efficient. That means choosing the right building material, the right insulation, and the right heating/ventilation/air conditioning system, and making sure it's all air-sealed properly.

Coastal Point tries to steer

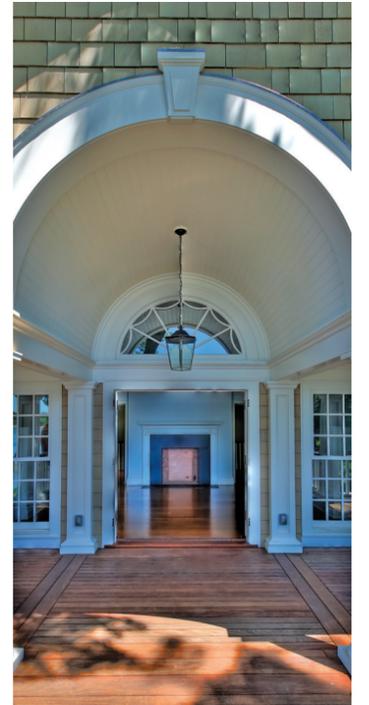
every project toward the standards set by programs such as Energy Star, LEED, and Architecture 2030. "But unless we're helping our clients save energy and reduce their utility bills, we have a hard time claiming that we've 'greened' their homes," Lyons says.

Usually Coastal Point is brought into a project after an architect and designer have started working on it, so Lyons and Higgins see their task as helping clients decide on the best materials, methods, and systems for their specific needs. "People expect us to understand what high quality is, and they want us

to apply our experience and lead them to where their expectations are," Lyons says. "I think that's where our service is best used."

Lyons and Higgins have learned that the more they are able to bring reliable information to their clients, the more it tends to move a project away from being a green status symbol and toward being a better-built green home.

"Not everyone agrees on social statements but everyone wants a great home," Lyons says. And a great, green home is good for the client, good for the environment and good for Coastal Point Construction. ✿



The Good House

BY TERRENCE CROWLEY

Coastal Point avoids green-washing in favor of simply building better

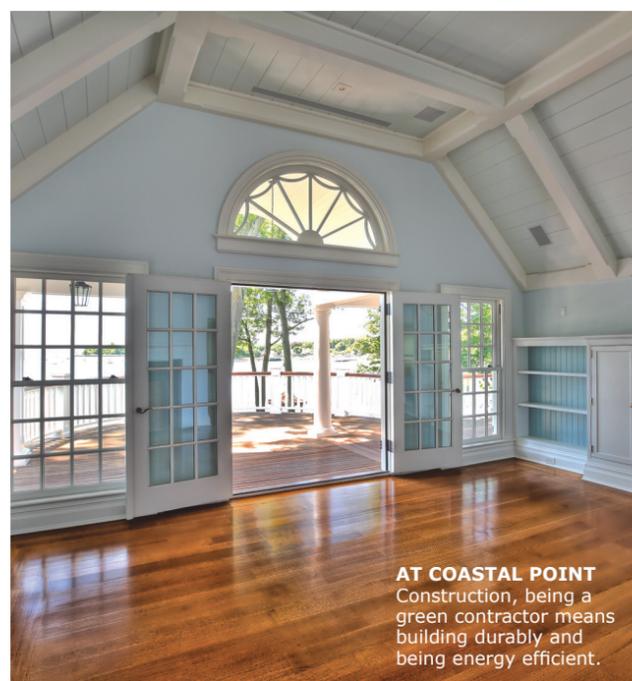
It's not that the guys at Coastal Point Construction don't want to be known as a "green" company, or that they're not proud that they bring a consciousness of energy conservation to all their projects. It's just that having been green contractors since before green became the rage, they don't feel the need to brag about it.

"It's in everything we do," says Foster Lyons, who with Jim Higgins owns Coastal Point. "That's the whole idea of trying to help clients out and serve them—we've always tried to do things that are now called 'green.'"

Based in Cos Cob, the seven-person firm builds three or four major projects a year, mainly in Fairfield and Westchester Counties. Lyons has a master's degree in engineering, and Higgins a master's in historic preservation. With that expertise, and a combined three decades of experience, Coastal Point doesn't just build green houses. It builds good houses that also are green.

What makes a good house?

Coastal Point's guiding principles are that a house must be comfortable and aesthetically pleasing. It must meet the building code,



AT COASTAL POINT
Construction, being a green contractor means building durably and being energy efficient.

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