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Design News

New collections, haute happenings and more

by LAUREN FETTERMAN and MALIA MCKINNON FRAME



This home is just one example of Cornerstone's impressive portfolio of work.

Building a Legacy

Cornerstone Contracting celebrates 25 years of success



George Pusser

Cornerstone Contracting is hitting a major milestone this fall—the Cos Cob-based company will be marking twenty-five years in business this November. It all began when owner and president George Pusser, who was a builder in Texas for eight years before moving to the Northeast, formed Cornerstone in 1992. In the two-plus decades since, the

award-winning firm has become known for constructing elegant and sophisticated custom homes and consistently exceeding client expectations by successfully adapting to the ever-changing building industry. Staying up-to-date with the latest home technology and building materials and promoting an environment of true collaboration have been keys to Cornerstone's success. "Our clients have the same goal

we do—to build a home that they will be living in, most of the time for many years, and raising a family in," Pusser says. "We like when clients are more involved instead of less. It makes the process better."

Having completed over ninety-three projects since its founding, Cornerstone takes on five to six projects at a time, and the work can range from commissions in the city to contemporary and traditional residences to office buildings to compounds with multiple structures. "Our projects have been every kind, shape and form, and designed by many different architects," Pusser says.

With more than forty employees and a team of fifteen managers, the firm offers pre-construction services, general contracting and construction management, and an inclusive

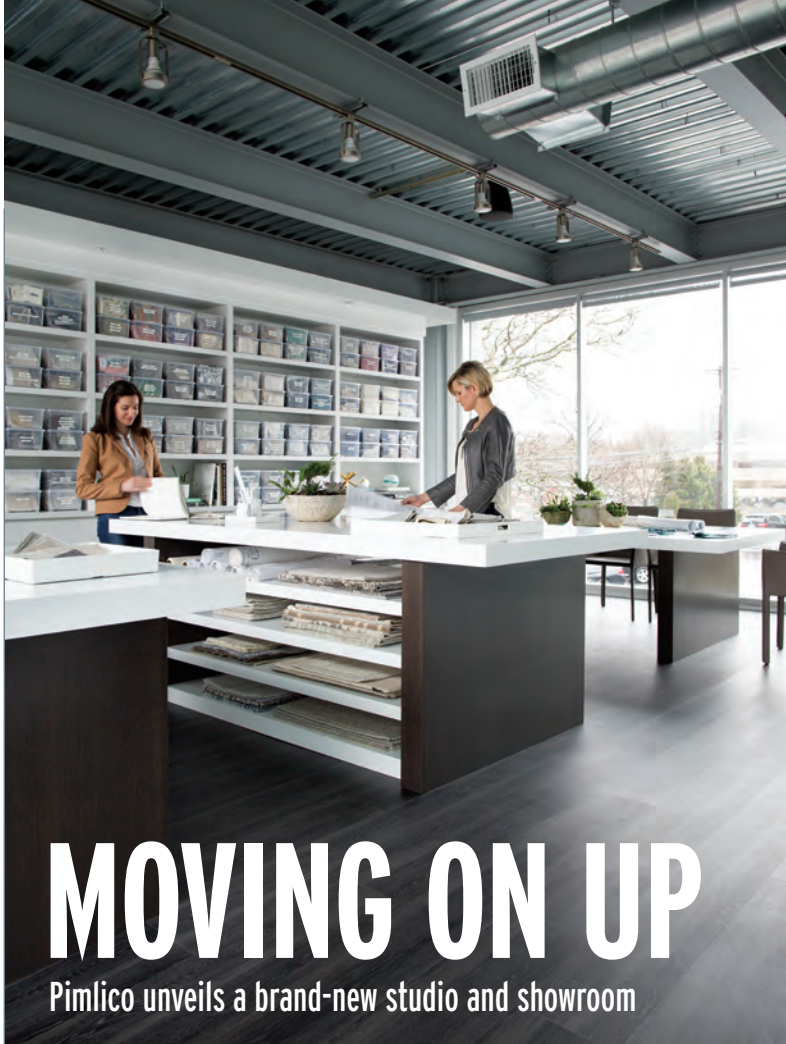


A Cornerstone-built pool house

team approach is essential, especially since most projects take multiple years to complete. “What sets us apart is the way we structure our projects,” Pusser says. “If the team members—the clients, architects, designers, engineers, Cornerstone—have the same goals and mindset, that’s the most advantageous for everyone involved.”

When reflecting back on the firm’s history, loyalty emerges as a common theme. “Our average employee has been with us for fifteen years, and I’ve worked with most of our clients throughout the twenty-five years,” Pusser says. “For projects I did in 1992, I’ve been back two or three times to renovate baths, kitchens, additions, landscaping and pools. We maintain properties in some capacity after they’re finished.”

Cornerstone’s longevity in an ever-evolving field is impressive. “Adapting to the different types of building and to technology that’s constantly changing have been real challenges, but very interesting ones.” 301 Valley Road, Cos Cob; 203-861-4200; cornerstone-builders.com —LF



MOVING ON UP

Pimlico unveils a brand-new studio and showroom

Pimlico’s current unofficial tagline, “Movin’ on up,” is very apropos in more ways than one. The New Canaan lifestyle boutique and full-service interior design firm relocated this spring to a larger space further up on Elm Street, and owners Melissa Lindsay and Jill Saunders couldn’t be happier.

Pimlico’s new digs, located on the



A sampling of fabric memos taken from the vast design library.

second floor above Walter Stewart’s Spirits, has room to host both the firm’s design studio and retail showroom, is still within walking distance to the heart of downtown and offers convenient parking nearby. “It’s a beautiful space, and we fell in love with the building—it’s brand new and essentially a big glass box,” says Lindsay. “It’s super-modern and dynamic and has a great feel inside with all the windows.”

Putting their touch on every surface, Lindsay and Saunders customized the space to fit their needs. A work pod in the center, defined by half-walls topped off with glass, serves as a private work area for the design team, and client meetings are held in a glass-walled design studio anchored by a custom conference table and a large wall of built-ins, both designed by Lindsay.

The retail showroom features two spaces for vignettes, directed out toward the windows, that showcase everything from furnishings to artwork, and jewelry and other personal accessories are on display

left: Saunders and Lindsay in the design studio, with custom work tables and cabinetry designed by Pimlico. below: Unique accessories, home décor and jewelry in the retail section.



as well. Pimlico also partnered with Elm Street neighbor Deane, Inc., on a new kitchen for the showroom. “I came up with the design concept for the kitchen and then collaborated with Deane to create it,” says Lindsay. “It’s gorgeous and really unique.”

This is the third time Pimlico has moved to a new space on Elm Street, and each move has been one for the better. “To have this space that really reflects our style, that we could really fit out the way we wanted, from both a functional and an aesthetic perspective, has really been exciting,” says Lindsay. “It’s a positive move all around and a great opportunity for us to do a lot more.” 215 Elm Street, 2nd Floor, New Canaan; 203-972-8166; pimlicointeriors.com —LF