

Builder Vincent LaBarbiera adheres to a higher standard

Michael Lamendola, For Special Properties Real Estate Services Published 10:56 a.m. ET May 15, 2017



Many of the most magnificent homes and estates in Bergen County can be found within the wooded landscapes of Mahwah, Saddle River and Upper Saddle River, and along the tree-lined roads of Wyckoff and Ho-Ho-Kus. Each inspiring and unique in their grandeur, what many of these homes have in common though is the builder — Vincent LaBarbiera.

An Upper Saddle River resident himself, LaBarbiera learned his trade from his father then embarked on his own homebuilding career in 1990 — humbly as it was at the time.

(Photo: Evan Joseph Images)

"My business began with doing home improvements," he says. "I wanted to build new homes, but it would be difficult to get a client to allow me to build a new home when I had never done it on my own before."

Not to be deterred, LaBarbiera put all of his assets on the line in 1992 and took a gamble, purchasing land in Mahwah's Rio Vista development to build his first home on "spec."

"The home on James Brite Circle sold in a reasonable amount of time," he recalls. "My theory had proven correct. I went on to build 40 substantial homes in that development and 83 homes overall."



LaBarbiera's reputation as a proven and prominent homebuilder in Bergen County has served him well throughout his career, allowing him to broaden the scope of his business by making a natural progression into the real estate industry. Today, the builder is also a Realtor Associate with Special Properties Real Estate Services in Mahwah and Franklin Lakes, which has an exclusive affiliation with Christie's International Real Estate.

"I'm very fortunate to have my relationship with Special Properties and Christie's International," says LaBarbiera. "It allows my company access to a broader client base, including the international market, and exposes my properties to a wider spectrum of buyers. Also, a Christie's sign adds significant value because of their renowned higher standard of quality."

Homebuilder Vincent LaBarbiera (Photo: Evan Joseph Images)

Such a higher standard translates well and is evident in the homebuilding and renovation projects LaBarbiera's company takes on, particularly historical renovations like the Darlington Schoolhouse and the extraordinary Darlington Mansion, both located in Mahwah and projects he is most proud of.

Built in 1891, the stately stone and shingle Darlington Schoolhouse was restored and expanded by LaBarbiera, and now serves at the headquarters of the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. On a much grander scale, the 52,000-square-foot Darlington Mansion was an entirely different challenge.

Originally the home of developer George Crocker and known as the Crocker Mansion, the 75-room Jacobean-style estate sits impressively atop 12 acres of manicured grounds and features some of the most intricate interior wood details found in any U.S. home. LaBarbiera was charged with refurbishing the mansion while maintaining its historic integrity — converting rooms throughout for its new owner, upgrading hundreds of windows and refinishing the expansive woodwork that winds its way up a three-story staircase and throughout the halls of the magnificent home.



One of builder Vincent LaBarbiera's grandest homes, this uniquely designed estate incorporates European influences and a sizeable surrounding landscape to complement and accommodate its scale. (Photo: Evan Joseph Images)

"The team I work with has been with me for most of my career," LaBarbiera says. "This allows for a synergy that is seldom achieved. All the members know what is expected of them by their colleagues and our clients."

Each project LaBarbiera's company completes has its own personality, achieved with unique flair like the intricate stained wood library and billiard room in a 17,000-square-foot Mahwah residence, and the grand ballroom in a French-style manor constructed in Saddle River.

"One of the more exciting homes was on Farmstead Road in Mahwah," says LaBarbiera. "One challenge we faced was having marble and onyx slabs cut to certain specifications to form floor designs in both the lower level and main floor areas. It took many painstaking hours of hard work, but proved to be very rewarding."

LaBarbiera is currently constructing three mansions in Alpine, but the range of his building projects includes single-family homes and commercial projects, as well, including Liberty Hyundai and Subaru, Arrow Staples Warehouse, and The Medicines Company.

Regardless of the type of construction, though, the higher standard LaBarbiera employs and shares with Special Properties and Christie's International is an affirmation of the quality and pride he puts into all of his signature projects.

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