

## cover story



Builder: R. H. Burpee Companies. Windows by Woodstone Co.

## R.H. Burpee Companies

## A Personal Commitment to Every Customer

By Judith Sereno

Robert Burpee of R.H. Burpee Companies is a builder who cares. Cares about the location and design of his homes. Cares about quality. Cares about the community. And, mostly, cares about his customers. His commitment to deliver a quality product and an enjoyable home building experience has made him one of the most sought-after builders in Greater Boston.

Ironically, the water led Burpee to the land. And now the land leads him back to the water. Burpee entered the building trade via connections he obtained while working in the boat business. Now, 29 years later, he's once again near the water—this time building upscale homes on the ocean shore.

"Building homes is a very emotional process," said Burpee. "As a build-er, you become a bit of a therapist while you help the customer to make all the choices that building a home requires. This is very emotional for people." Burpee understands his clients and approaches each project as an opportunity to build a relationship as well as a home. "We try our very best to make the home-building process as easy for the customer





Builder: R. H. Burpee Companies. Kitchen and appliances: South Shore Cabinet & Appliance Center, Inc.

as possible. My company's ability to do this has been a key factor to our success and reputation."

Enjoying the coveted status as one of Greater Boston's most respected builders, Burpee s homes quickly become a legend. "When my homes are listed for resale in other brokers' real estate ads, my company's name is also listed, he said. "This is unusual, but people pay attention to a Burpee home because they know that it's the best-quality home on the market. Having my company name in an advertisement is a real honor." Burpee's houses can be seen throughout the area, but he builds primarily in Duxbury. "Duxbury is unique because of the shore, he said. "The

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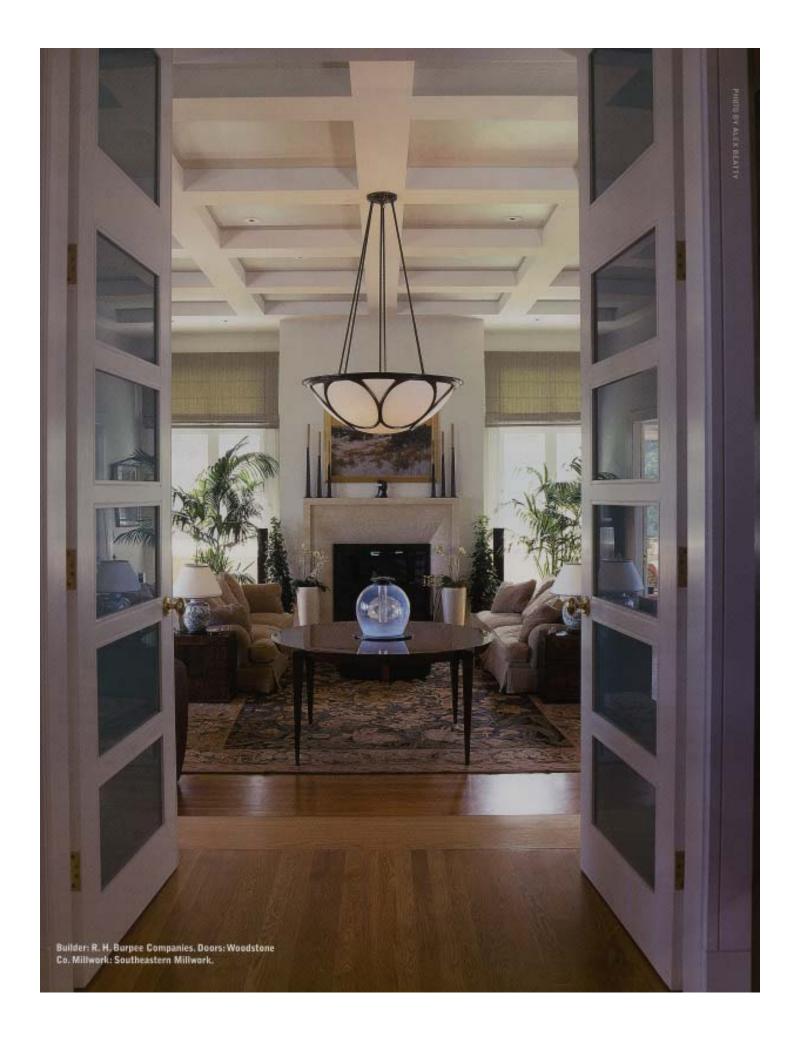
quality of life is very good .The beach, the water, the schools and the diversity of the architecture and people make this a wonderful place to work and live." Over the years he has expanded into Plymouth and Martha's Vineyards.

"Most of the houses I build in the Duxbury area are in the 3,000- to 5,000 square-foot range," Burpee said. "The homes in my new project in Plymouth are in the 2,000- to 3,800 square foot range. And the homes I build on Martha's Vineyard vary in size. Some are in the 2,000 to 4,000 square foot range, but we recently completed one that is 6,000 square feet." The company is proud of its diversified portfolio and ability to meet the needs of any home buyer.

Despite the many expert elements that Burpee integrates into his busi-ness, he's quick to say that his consistent use of the same skilled subcontractors and vendors is key to his ability to produce such outstanding houses. "Most of the subcontractors have been with me for 10 to 20 years, he said. "They're highly skilled and conscientious craftspeople who know what I expect. That tends to make the process go a little smoother because they know what kind of quality we're looking for. All the people who work for me have contributed to the success of the company."

One unique project is a house that Burpee constructed on the South Shore. Working with a design team from San Francisco, Burpee and his construction team orchestrated this exceptional home. They worked with landscape architects, construction engineers and a local architect to finalize the plans. The result is a delightful 11,000 square foot, shingle-style home on the waterfront. The house contains every amenity imaginable, including monitored heating and air conditioning systems, and in-home theater.

The circular entry of the home has the effect of a silo within the



house. "When you walk through the original entry area under a covered roof that is actually a library, you're in an open vestibule," Burpee said. "If you look up, it appears as if you're standing inside a silo. The amount of work involved in the construction of the silo was equal to die amount of work involved in building a 2,000 square foot cape. But it certainly shows very well and makes a dramatic impression when you first come into the house."

Another distinctive house done by R.H. Burpee Companies is located on Martha's Vineyard. This house was actually framed by another builder. "I was approached about taking over the job by the owner," said Burpee. "I was hesitant, but the owner hired a structural engineer and building inspector to compile a list of issues that needed to be taken care of before I assumed the project." The home, designed by CBT Architects in Boston, had a great deal of detail work, and proved to be a very pleasurable and memorable project working with the architects and the homeowner for Burpee.

## Dear Bob,

We wanted to publicly thank you for making the building of our home a pleasure. It takes a rare individual to keep the homeowner, the architect and your subcontractors all happy and moving forward.

Throughout the project, it was evident that you had the skill, knowledge, experience, communication and resources to handle the project in a timely, cost-effective and professional manner.

We, like your previous clients we spoke to before beginning the project, would be delighted to recommend you to anyone who wants the experience of building an island home to be predictable, enjoyable and reliable.

We are happy to call you a friend.

Sincerely,

Larry and Robin Gitlitz



Builder: R. H. Burpee Companies. Architect: CBT.





"Working with Bob Burpee on this project was a wonderful collaboration. He was as exact as I am with impeccable attention to all details as well as excellent communications throughout the construction. Bob and his team made my job so much easier to execute in all the various installations. It as a pleasure working the Bob."

-Laura Glen Design, Allied Member, ASID



Watercourse Place in Plymouth is an exceptional undertaking by R.H. Burpee Companies. This 178 acre development took two years working closely with the Plymouth planning board.

Burpee reduced the lot sizes and created a cluster-style neighbor-hood with 25 half-acre lots and 29 full-acre lots. This allowed him to have 118 acres of open space with proposed walking trails around the project, which captured the ambiance of the town.

"That land has a conservation restriction placed on it and will be deeded to the town to remain in its natural state forever," said Burpee. "My plan is to build about eight houses a year, so this is about a seven-year project. My goal is to create an upscale neighborhood that everyone can enjoy for years to come. These homes sell in die \$500,000 to 675,000 price range.

A member of the Greater Boston Builders Association, Burpee reflects happily on his work in the building industry. "I find it exhilarating to finish a home and know that the family who will live there will be happy for many years to come. That's the real joy of building - enhancing someone's life."

Builder / Architect is both pleased and proud to feature R. H. Burpee Companies as our Builder of the Month! Your homes have become legends that require a highly specialized orbit of design and construction.

For more information, contact R.H. Burpee Companies at 5 Aldrin Road, Plymouth, MA 02360. Phone: (508) 747-6900. Fax: (508-746-7393). Email: rhburpeeco@adelphia.net