

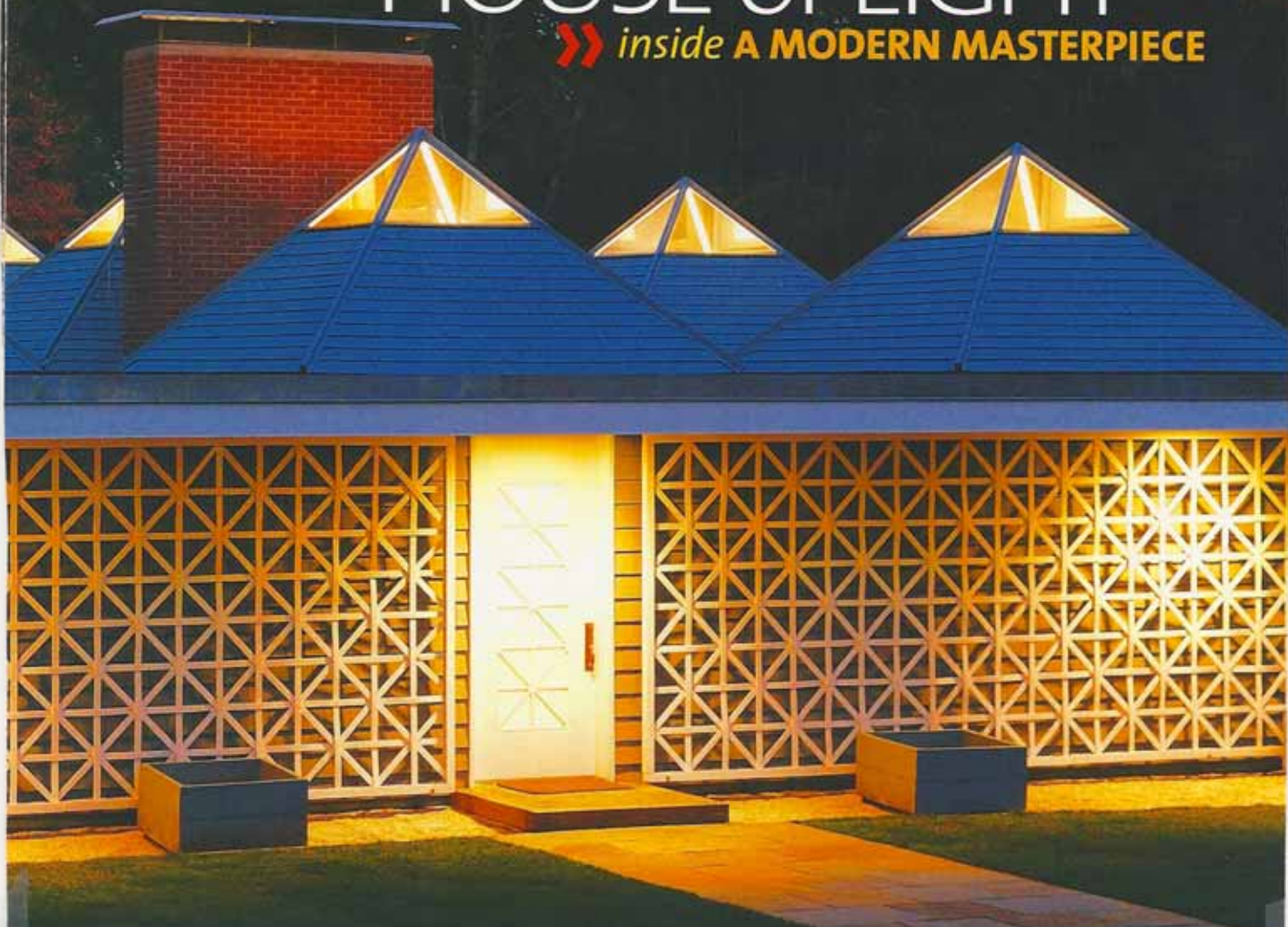
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# NEW CANAAN DARIEN & ROWAYTON

April 2008 \$4.95

## HOUSE of LIGHT

» *inside* **A MODERN MASTERPIECE**



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# REAL ESTATE UPDATE



## » TACKLING ILLITERACY A VISION OF HOPE

When **JULIE COYNE** traveled to Guatemala in 1994, she intended to take a Spanish immersion/community service program and then return home to attend graduate school. Instead, despite the country's overwhelming poverty and a 65 percent illiteracy rate, she stayed. "I felt that somehow I could make a difference," says Julie.

After spending one year as a volunteer, Julie founded Education and Hope, a grassroots nonprofit foundation that helps children and young adults stay in school by providing scholarships and after-school tutoring. Based in the rural areas surrounding Quetzaltenango and operating

with minimal staff, over the years Education and Hope has helped hundreds of children and their families.

"We believe the way out of poverty is through education," Julie says. "We end up doing more than providing uniforms, school supplies and tuition [which may be as little as \$10 per month]. We tend to medical and emotional needs as well."

The group offers classrooms where students can do their homework, often with help from tutors. In addition, the youngsters are given a hot lunch and even running water for showers. In February the Norwalk-based Builders Beyond Borders sent a group of high school students to add more classrooms to the center.

Julie now splits her time between Guatemala and Darien. The trips home are primarily for fundraising. Most donations come from churches and small contributors. "This program is so grassroots that you literally can watch where every dollar is spent," says Karen Elders of Darien, a friend of Julie's since fifth grade and now president of E&H's twelve-member board. "It makes you feel very connected to the cause."

Visit [educationandhope.org](http://educationandhope.org) for more information. — Carolyn Ryzewicz



## a sound bet

Hockey player **JEFF DWYER** is experiencing the dream of so many athletes. The New Canaan native is playing professionally a few miles from where he grew up.

Dwyer is a new defenseman for the Bridgeport Sound Tigers of the American Hockey League, an affiliate of the NHL's New York Islanders. Now he skates, shoots and checks a stone's throw from where he played youth hockey at New Canaan's Winter Club. He also played two years at New Canaan High School before transferring to Choate.

Although Dwyer admits it is nice to play in front of family and friends, he's still striving to play on the other side of Long Island Sound with the Islanders. "That's the ultimate goal," he says. "But for now I'm focused on contributing to Bridgeport."

Dwyer took a circuitous route to the Sound Tigers. The Atlanta Thrashers drafted him in the sixth round in 2000. After spending four years at Yale, Dwyer played for the AHL's Chicago Wolves. A groin injury temporarily derailed his career; he returned, playing in lower-level minor leagues and in Italy before being signed by the Islanders last summer.

During his climb back up the ranks, Dwyer never lost his desire to play. He offers this advice to young players: "If this is what you want to do, you have to keep it fun. It's a lot of hard work, but it still has to be fun."

Dwyer and the Sound Tigers have home games at the Arena at Harbor Yard on April 4, 11 and 13. For more information call 334-4625 or visit [soundtigers.com](http://soundtigers.com). — Chris Boxak



The book is widely available in bookstores or online. Visit [hugyourpeople.com](http://hugyourpeople.com).

## LOVE IN THE WORKPLACE

We're talking about business savvy and heart, according to **JACK MITCHELL**, chairman and CEO of the highly successful family-owned retail stores Mitchells of Westport, Richards of Greenwich and Marshs on Long Island.

Mitchell, author of the acclaimed *Hug Your Customer*, has written a follow up, *Hug Your People: The Proven Way to Hire, Inspire and Recognize Your Employees and Achieve Remarkable Results* (Hyperion, 2008). "Motivating the workforce and employee retention are huge global challenges, no matter what business you're in," Mitchell says. "An engaged, enthusiastic workforce who work well together engages repeat customers."