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The house at 19 Bailywick Road, near the Glenville town center in Greenwich, is decorated throughout with natural themes.

Not your average fixer-upper story

GREENWICH — The house at 19 Bailywick Road has been made great again.

Many people, when confronted with what Jeff Hall faced when he bought the place in 2009, would have taken the tear-down route so common in modern Greenwich. Hall chose to restore instead.

Problem was, the job was beyond his capabilities.

“I’m handy, but in this house I did none of the work myself,” Hall said this week. “What needed to happen in this house really required a high level of skill, and what I did was hire really skilled people to do it.”

When he bought the house, Hall

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HABITAT

The story behind the home



Peregrine Frissell

FROM THE FRONT PAGE



Contributed photos

The house at 19 Bailywick Road in Greenwich features pictures, blown glass, sculptures, paintings and wallpaper depicting various forms of tree frogs and limbs of different tree species.

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was commuting to his job in Greenwich from Fairfield, a daily time-devouring slog — Interstate 95 hours that turned beastly in the summer. So, he snatched up property closer to where he worked. It’s minutes from the Glenville Stop & Shop, the golf course and Westchester County Airport, all of which were important to him.

But the house was in seriously bad shape.

“When I bought it, I wouldn’t say it was unlivable, but no maintenance had been done, and it was in a lot of disrepair,” said Hall, who has since lived most of the year in Florida, where he manages real estate he bought during the depressed market. “None of the garage doors even worked. It was really in terrible condition.”

Still, Hall saw enough he liked to improve upon what was there; plus, the foundation was solid.

“The house was nice. It had good bones,” Hall said. He connected with Southbury-based craftsman Tom Adams through a referral. One of the main jobs Adams undertook was replacing the woodwork throughout the house.

“He created everything himself. He almost had to create a swatch every



The bathroom at the 19 Bailywick Road home.

time,” Hall said. “And the work that went in from start to finish, it was really quite a process.”

Outside, the landscaping was so poor and overgrown in the front that Hall didn’t even know there was a stone wall under all the shrubbery.

The shrubs have since been removed, and the wall rebuilt.

Afterward, Hall populated the home with pieces of art that relate to common themes he has seen in his travels. He said many cultures he has visited across the world consider frogs to be symbols of good luck. He found himself an artist, Tim “The Frog Man” Cottrell, and, over the years, purchased many of the glass frog statues. Now, the

colony populates the shelves and surfaces of the home near the golf course.

Wallpaper, photos, paintings and light fixtures throughout the house hint at another affinity: trees and the various ways artists portray their limbs stretching toward the sky.

Hall said it began when he saw and purchased a couple of pieces by the hyper-colorful nature photographer Peter Lik at a gallery in Key West, Fla.

“Really, as someone who travels a lot and is kind of an amateur photographer, I kind of fell in love with his work,” Hall said. “I have a lot of it in my place here and in Miami, as well.”

Since then, he has added to the collection with pieces he picked up in New

York City, and decorated the house to match.

“A lot of those colors are kind of echoed throughout the house,” Hall said.

The home is finished, but the space is too big and Hall is too busy in Florida to spend enough time there, so he has decided to sell. Every once in a while, though, he still tries to soak it up before it is too late.

“I finished the house about two years ago,” Hall said. “I enjoy the fruits of all the work that I’ve done.”

The home is listed for \$3,395,000 with Leslie McElwreath, of Sotheby’s International Realty.

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