



Contributed photo

A Norwalk company fabricated the wood for this island house designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Below, photos from the interior of the house.

Norwalk company plays role in Frank Lloyd Wright island house

By **CHRIS BOSAK**
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — An island house designed by the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright 56 years ago has finally been built and a Norwalk millwork company played a considerable role.

Kitchen & Bath by C.A.M., located on Testa Place in South Norwalk, manufactured and finished all of the millwork for the one-level 6,000 square foot home, including more than 80 doors and windows.

The home, built by current owner Joseph Massaro, sits on the shore of a 10-acre private island on Lake Mahopac in Putnam County in New York. As is common with Wright's designs, many natural features, such as the lake itself and huge boulders, were built into the design of the house.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work on a property like that," Chris Wilmot, manager of design at C.A.M., said. "We'll never see anything like that again. This was an original design by Frank Lloyd Wright. He actually went to visit the island before making designing the house."

Wilmot said Kitchen & Bath by C.A.M. got the opportunity to work on the project because, "a friend of the company owns the island and gave us a chance to bid."

In addition to the door and window frames, C.A.M. also manufactured built-in shelves, a built-in entertainment center, kitchen cabinets, furniture, wood ceilings, and other millwork. C.A.M. did not install the woodwork.

"Every stick of wood we fabricated for that house," Wilmot said. "There was a minimum of one tractor trailer load of mahogany."

Wright is known as one of the foremost architects in American history. He passed away in 1959 at the age of 91. Among his famous works is the Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

He drew up plans for the island house in 1951, but it wasn't until Massaro purchased the island in 1995 that the designs started to become a reality.

"The house is unbelievable and landscaping is incredible," Wilmot said. "Rocks that are part of the foundation are built right into the home."

Wilmot and other staff at Kitchen & Bath by C.A.M. were invited to a party at the house after the project was completed.

Kitchen & Bath by C.A.M. specializes in high-end kitchens and baths, libraries, wine cellars, entertainment centers and other millwork.

On the Web:

www.camillwork.com

