

MODERN LUXURY



WATCH

Enthusiasts

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PAUL PASTORE

The luxury custom homebuilder and founder of Waterside Properties and Kennington Premier likens the creation of a quality timepiece to crafting a fine home.

What are your earliest memories of timepieces?

My grandfather had a really cool gold pocket watch. He always had it in his pocket and took it out to tell time. That's my earliest, most vivid memory of what ignited my passion for watches. My very first watch came in high school – I bought a watch with a timer and I was really excited about it. I always saw coaches with stopwatches in their hands, and now I had one on my wrist. I loved it.

When did you first invest in a high-end watch?

In 2009, after we completed a luxury home build here in Dallas, my wife bought me a Rolex Explorer II with a white face. We picked it out together, and it meant a great deal to me, not only because it was a quality timepiece I would have forever, but also because it symbolized the achievement of a large project.

I'm sure you could easily compare the crafting of a fine watch to building a high-end home.

Definitely. The mystique around a fine watch is that it has so many elements packaged in such a small space. There's history, craftsmanship, knowledge, expertise, technology, design and functionality. Some can have more than a thousand pieces in them – they require so much precision and thought. It's similar to building homes – we have a much larger canvas to work with, but it's the same thought and process. Many fine watches are timeless, and that's what I strive for with my homes. I want the design and quality to last forever. I'm sort of obsessed with watching a home come to life, and that's why I highly respect watchmakers. They obviously have to have patience and a pure obsession for it.

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I know you travel frequently to look for handcrafted elements for your homes.

Do you find watches while out and about?

I make a point to stop by unique watch shops. It's a treasure hunt, because there's a story behind almost every timepiece. I particularly love scouring watch shops in Italy. Once, a driver in Florence took us to his friend's watch shop, filled with antique watches and it was fascinating. I love vintage pieces. I have an antique Heuer, which was created in the 1940s before TAG acquired the Swiss brand. I follow some guys in Germany who buy watches, refurbish and clean them. They did a really good job with my Heuer.

What are some of the other pieces in your collection?

I have about 14 watches in my collection – not all are high-end. But I love pieces with history and good design. I have a Longines, a simple dress watch, an Ernst Benz, and a Breitling, which I purchased two years ago. It can do so many things, and it's heavy. I call it my workout watch.



THE
TIMEPIECE
BOOK

 **NORTHPARK**
THE ART OF SHOPPING

WATCH WEEK
NOVEMBER 16-20, 2016

DID YOU KNOW?

A compendium of useful timepiece terminology, from materials to features to complications.

WATCH MATERIALS

Anti-reflection: A film covering the sapphire crystal to eliminate light reflection, improving legibility. Anti-reflection functions best when applied to both sides of the crystal, but because it scratches, some manufacturers prefer it only on the crystal's interior.

Carbon fiber: A composite material made with carbon filament threads a mere one to two millimeters in diameter. The filament itself comprises several thousand seven-micron carbon fibers held together by resin.

Ceramic: A nonmetallic high-tech material that is practically unscratchable. It is generally used for cases and bezels and now comes in many colors.

Decoration/Finishing: The traditional polishes and embellishments added to movement parts. The better finished a movement is, the more expensive it will be.

Jewel: To minimize friction in the movement, the hardened steel tips of a movement's rotating gears are lodged in synthetic rubies fashioned as polished stones with holes and lubricated with a very thin layer of special oil.

Luminous substance: Tritium is a slightly radioactive material used to coat hands, numerals, and hour markers on watch dials in order to make reading the time in the dark possible. Tritium has now for the most part been replaced by nonradioactive materials such as Super-LumiNova due to medical misgivings and expected governmental regulation of its use.

Quartz: Timekeeping's technical revolution found its way to the world's wrists in the late 1960s. The first working quartz wristwatches were manufactured by an early joint venture within the Swiss watch industry, but Japanese firms—primarily Seiko—came to dominate the market with the new technology. The quartz movement uses the vibration frequency of a quartz crystal subjected to electronic tension (usually 32,768 Hz) as its norm.

Sapphire crystal: Synthetic sapphire crystal has become the material of choice to protect the dials of modern wristwatches. It is virtually scratchproof as only a diamond is harder.

Silicium/Silicon: Silicon, the most common element on earth after oxygen, is an element that is relatively new to the watchmaking industry and is thus often described as a "new material." Many companies prefer to call it by its Latin name, *silicium*. It is now used in the manufacture of some escapements and other precision parts, replacing traditional materials.

MOVEMENTS & COMPLICATIONS

Automatic winding: The rotor, a rotating weight on the movement, is set into motion by moving the wrist, winding the mechanical watch movement. As long as the watch is moved, the kinetic energy will keep it wound indefinitely. Without a rotor, a mechanical movement must be wound by turning the crown.

Chronograph: From the Greek *chronos* (time) and *graphein* (to write), this term is used for watches that show not only the time of day, but also time intervals like a stopwatch.

Chronometer: As the term is used today, a chronometer denotes an especially accurate watch. Chronometers are usually supplied with an official certificate from an independent testing office like the C.O.S.C. (see below).

Minute repeater: A striking mechanism with hammers and gongs for acoustically signaling the hours, quarter hours, and minutes elapsed since noon or midnight. Normally a repeater uses two different gongs to signal hours (low tone), quarter hours (high and low tones in succession), and minutes (high tone).

Moon phases: Usually found in a little cutaway on a watch dial, this indication provides information about the current status of the moon by use of a graphic representation of the earth's satellite, like a golden disk.

Perpetual calendar: This type of calendar display automatically makes allowances for the different lengths of each month as well as leap years until the next secular year (in 2100). A perpetual calendar usually displays the date, month, and four-year cycle, and may show the day of the week and moon phase as well.

Power reserve display: A mechanical watch's energy is provided by winding (manual winding) or rotor (automatic). The power reserve display keeps the wearer informed about how much energy his or her watch still has in reserve, a function that is especially practical on manually wound watches with several days of possible reserve.

Tourbillon: Patented by Abraham-Louis Breguet in 1801, it compensates for the influence of gravity on the escapement. From the French word for "whirlwind," the entire escapement is mounted on an epicyclic train in a "cage" and rotated completely on its axis over regular periods of time, usually once a minute.

Water resistance: Water resistance is an important feature of any timepiece and is usually measured in increments of one atmosphere (atm or bar, equal to 10 meters of water pressure) or meters and is often noted on the dial or case back.

ORGANIZATIONS & APPELLATIONS

C.O.S.C.: *Contrôle Officiel Suisse de Chronométrage*, the official Swiss testing office for chronometers. For a fee, the C.O.S.C., the world's largest issuer of chronometer certificates, tests and certifies the rates of movements.

Manufacture: Modern definitions of this word are not clear-cut, but most experts agree that the term should be used for a company that manufactures at least one caliber on premises. Derived from Latin it means "made by hand."