



*Unparalleled
Elegance
in
Oxford, Connecticut*

The Marble Villa



The Marble Villa is an architectural masterpiece built using superb, handpicked raw materials, employing master craftsmanship and maintaining an exquisite attention to detail throughout the two years it took to complete the project. Thirteen rooms open spaciouly into 12,000 square feet of old European elegance on a private 76-acre beautifully landscaped estate. Panoramic views of the vineyards and distant hills are framed by brilliant fall foliage in the surrounding old-growth white oak forest. Stepping into the grand two-story foyer through massive wood and wrought iron 180-year-old doors, imported from France, into an entrance framed by two curved and symmetrical marble staircases and a two-story waterfall, one looks up into a hand-painted dome where the four seasons and scenes of the New England countryside are depicted in eight commissioned stained glass windows by a renown international glass artist. This home is beyond breathtaking.

From start to finish, building the villa was a labor of love. The entrance was designed around the 180-year-old front doors, which the owner found in his travels on a business trip to France. He imported them to the United States, where they sat in storage for several years before foundation ground was ever broken at the villa. Approximately four weeks were devoted to building each of the 13 rooms in the house, and careful diagrams were drawn before a single cut of marble was taken.

More than 130 tons of imported European marble were used to build the villa, in addition to limestone, granite and other materials imported from 10 different countries. Due to the large quantities of marble and granite employed, very large slabs were used in order to keep the color variations consistent. The blocks ranged in size and were meticulously measured on 24" squares to specifically fit each room. A high degree of craftsmanship was exercised, witnessed in the contiguous



cuts made to each slab to fit each room, one after another, so the eye actually follows a continuous line through the marble.

Similarly, raw Brazilian cherry wood planks were shipped to the United States and milled stateside before being crafted into the cabinetry in the kitchen, formal dining room and library. All the floors, other than the marble used in formal rooms, are made of cork, which is a marvelously well-balanced material with a smooth adaptable surface that is cool in summer, warm in winter and features radiant heating throughout.

The house has five bedrooms, five full baths, three half-baths and a four-car garage with 2,000 square feet of unfinished rooms above the garage, which is in addition to the 12,000 square feet accounted for in the total living space of the house. The living room serves as an enclosed courtyard, bending a Mediterranean tradition to suit a New England climate. French doors open off the living area to limestone terraces, and balconies grace the five bedrooms.

Modern, functional low-watt lighting was designed for both day and night enhancement.

The heads of the fixtures rotate and tilt to create a bounce effect and soft fill lighting. Sensors in the floor, tuned to vibration, are located in eight pertinent locations throughout the house, so when night has fallen, approaching footsteps (for example walking from the garage into the house) automatically switch lights on placed for illumination. All lights are on a central remote system and can be orchestrated and adjusted to suit time of day and events.

The gourmand's kitchen is 800± square feet with professional Viking appliances including a five-foot range, double ovens and a three-quarter-



inch plate glass ventilation hood showing off the individually hand-painted tiles from Portugal on the wall behind the stove. It is a chef's consummate dream and a joy to either host a party for 50 or create an intimate dinner for two. The formal dining room has beautiful marble inlays and looks out through sparkling French glass windows to the manicured gardens.

An internationally renowned glass artist created all of the stained glass work in the villa, and it is a stunning visual display of the one-of-a-kind architectural singularities employed in the villa. The owner was introduced to the artist many years ago, the two became good friends and the commissioned windows eventually followed.

For all of its opulent beauty, form follows function in this house: from high-tech, low-watt accent lights to the hand-painted dome letting in the New England afternoon, and from the exquisite attention to detail to diagrammed photos taken of every interior wall of the house before being sealed and glazed. It is a fortunate opportunity to utilize the workmanship necessary to create a building of this quality and magnitude. The Marble Villa is a superior representation of modern craft and

transportation technology used to build an Old World Mediterranean-style estate suited to match the New England countryside.

Oxford, Connecticut is perfectly located one and a half hours from New York City, one hour from Hartford and between Routes 84 and 95 for convenient commuter access. It is a short 10-minute drive to the local Oxford Municipal Airport, which services private jets. Oxford is a small, rural town with a thriving community atmosphere and economic development on the rise. A smashing new restaurant recently opened at the airport, and a beautiful golf club at Oxford Greens is offset by a picturesque high street and shops.

The Marble Villa is a beautiful house in a quintessential location and one of the finest examples of architectural masterpiece on the market today. It is priced with two options: the entire property including house and 76 acres for \$5,400,000; or the house and only 50 acres for \$4,600,000. ❖

For more information on this listing, please contact Mary Kay Daughters with Hoffman International Properties at 203 325-1281 (phone), 203 829-8113 (mobile) or Hoffman2@Optonline.net.