

Hockessin mansion on 5 acres

News Journal Homescape

February 25, 2007

By Mary Konwinski

The open spaces offered by Hockessin have long been an enticing destination for those seeking just a little more space and a lot more house. Today's featured property puts that little aphorism to rest, for it is so special, so awe-strikingly stunning, even the most jaded real estate professionals will drop their jaws. Sitting majestically on a 5 acre wooded lot, this home, with 24 massive rooms, covering 12,000 square feet, easily qualifies as a mansion and private estate. There are literally too many amenities and special features to list in this woefully limited collection of words.



This three-story custom colonial would easily command upwards of double the asking pricing if it were in a certain bedroom community near Wilmington; easily triple on the Main Line. The fact that it has been lovingly renovated over the last three years makes it all the more desirable.



The outside landscaping is beautifully showcased by an idyllic and tranquil outdoor pool and a calming pond which attracts geese, deer, and other wildlife. Adding to the allure of this setting is decking which meanders from the pool area around the pond. Decking, in fact, is de rigueur—a three-level system frames the rear, providing form in its beauty and function in its design, with all rooms with southern exposure having doors leading to a deck.

While the home's grandeur is at once spellbinding and almost overwhelming in its expansiveness, evocative of the old mansions from another era, because it is just 14 years old, every imaginable convenience and amenity has been addressed. And its open floor plan offers an upscale "to the manor born" lifestyle.

Gleaming oak hardwood floors, stunning beveled crystal chandeliers and an array of other imaginative and artistically inspired architectural statements abound. Start with the

custom woodwork, millwork and decorative trim in rich cherry, which set the tone for this home's splendor. Four fireplaces reflect the owners' artistry and imagination, while hand-carved columns, hand-painted sinks, and a plethora of other detailed elements offer just a glimpse into their sense of style.

The square footage is actually daunting, causing the casual visitor to lose his way, what for the sheer number of rooms. On the main level, the state of the art gourmet kitchen features the finest appliances, stunning cherry cabinets with intricately fashioned hardware and two massive islands on ceramic floor. The new owners will take notice and be thrilled with a large custom-made table in the breakfast room, with the same top as the islands and counters.

From the kitchen step down to a sunken living room with recessed lighting and a massive wood and marble fireplace. A nearby library offers a chance for solitude while the colossal sunroom (31x15) with wet bar is framed in bead board on the ceiling and sleek ceramic tile for the flooring. The sunroom opens to the outside as well as to a room that has been called the ballroom (and what mansion doesn't have a ballroom?) but could easily be another gathering area for large parties. The elegant and stately formal dining room demands two intricately crafted crystal chandeliers and a fully equipped butler's pantry.



Five spacious bedrooms on the second floor include two rooms perfect for the younger set. Designed in mirror image, the rooms share a Jack and Jill bathroom as well as a loft and adjacent room designed just for the kids. The owner's suite is replete with impressive appointments and a surfeit of extras. A cathedral ceiling lends additional drama as do the doors leading to a stone balcony overlooking the pond. The private master bathroom is simply dazzling with gleaming cabinetry, decorative fixtures, and relaxing whirlpool tub. His and her walk-in closets provide the ultimate storage solution for even the most extensive wardrobe. Also on this floor is an impressive library, part of which overlooks the first floor via a dramatic and ornate balcony. A laundry room and a dumb waiter show the foresight of the home's builder. In fact, there is a laundry on each level of this home.



The lower level offers so many possibilities for entertainment even the most hard-to-please curmudgeon would be hard-pressed to be without options for fun. A full kitchen, changing rooms with baths, a sauna and additional guest room and bath are exceptional. Another pool in a cedar-lined retreat, a marvelous billiards room and a state-of-the art home theater complete the package.

For an appointment to see this outstanding property, call Christian LaPense, Prudential Fox & Roach; (302) 235-6467 or (302) 239-2343.

THE HOME

Location: 38 Lakewood Circle, Lakewood Farm, Hockessin, DE 19711

Type of Home: Three-story custom colonial, stone and stucco; 6 bedrooms; 7 full; two half baths

Price: \$2,475,000

School district: Christina

Shopping: Pike Creek Shopping Center, Shoppes at Limestone, Shoppes at Lantana Square, Christiana Mall

Recreation: White Clay Creek State Park, Carousel Park, Hartefeld