

THE GLORIOUS HAMPTONS

An outstanding team goes one better



It's a grand new old house - only three years old in the shingle style tradition of McKim, Mead and White and bound to be an inspiration for generations of architects and builders to come.

"It's one of the nicest projects of my career and the most fun. Also, a huge effort," states Bob Ortmann of Zwirko and Ortmann Architects P.C. in East Hampton.

All well worth it. This 10,000 square foot masterpiece set on over two acres in an estate section of the Hamptons is a showpiece for superb workmanship as well as design.

"Everything is custom made. There were no short cuts," reflects builder Roy Dalene, vice president of Telemark Construction Inc. of Bridgehampton. "However, this incredibly intricate project took only 15 months, from design phase to completion. Much of this was because the owner sped things a long, by traveling east every Saturday to meet with us and making complex decisions on the spot. Indeed, we were hired because he was impressed with our then advanced use of computer technology which was an important element in every

Rear exterior: A rooftop deck to view the ocean nearby, as well as a large wrap around porch and each of the family bedrooms with it's own unique balcony facing a spacious lawn make the outdoors especially enjoyable.

Architect: Zwirko and Ortmann Architects
Builder: Telemark Construction
Story by Joan Tyor Carlson
Photography by Mario Novak



Above: Porte cocheres are once again in favor, this one leads to the five car garage housing specimen cars, note the eyebrow soffit mimicking the opening below.

Below: A spectacular stairway with wrap around windows, each of the tapered balusters is hand crafted.



design and construction phase."

Shingle roofs undulate from the main house's hip roof with a kick to the dormers and turrets of the covered porte cochere and five-car garage with living quarters above it. The scale of the house can be more easily understood by the size of the copper finial, which tops one turreted roof. The finial is four feet tall yet looks half the size when viewed from the driveway.

The covered porch, which wraps around three sides of the house, rests on some fifteen columns. Great care was taken so that the rooms adjoining the porch have adequate light

from transoms.

From the entry with the bulls eye glass lights and enormous door and the foyer's ornate recessed panels painted white, the team's efforts are on display: There's a row of ornamental beams under the second floor stairway balcony. A mahogany railing outlines the curve of the stair which reflects itself with decorative curved strips of stained oak flooring seen on every landing.

The thick arched doorways that lead into the public rooms provide dramatic entries. In the living room, an enormous hand carved limestone fireplace



Above: Mahogany raised paneling is used throughout the library. Hide-a-way doors conceal the recessed plasma television which can move and swivel at will.

Below: The study's beige on beige striped wallpaper and matching patterned carpet invite quite reflection.

is one of four in the house. Coffered ceilings and padded fabric walls add to the ambiance of prime country house furnishings in the English style.

Pocket doors close off the dining room from the foyer. A corner fireplace with a limestone mantle features a herringbone pattern brick fire back. Computer technology was invaluable in fitting the pocket door in the library, which follows the arch of the vaulted ceiling.

The kitchen is large but the size is understandable as the apartment over the garage is reserved for the chef - which implies major cookery. The

pantry contains a wine cooler next to built in refrigerators and freezers. There are two separate islands, one a workstation and the other for casual dining.

The breakfast room boasts an outrageously comfortable seating unit under a large bay window. A long mahogany table and Victorian chairs set the scene along with Majolica scallop shell plates on display on a dresser.

Every room has a ceiling treatment unique to its situation, size and shape. Coffered ceilings are arranged so as to reflect the plan of the rooms. Interior doors are paneled while exterior doors





Above: The medallions on the carpet echo the web patterns on the dining room chairs. It all adds a combination of formality and gaiety to frequent entertaining.

Below: The four-poster bed in the master suite is curtained with a divine culmination of a fabric rosette overhead. A pair of identical chaise lounges means no sharing necessary.



get special treatment. For example, in the master bedroom suite, because the French doors are larger than standard ones with more glass area, the wooden frames are extra thick to give needed strength while the glass panes are smaller than usual with narrow muntins. One bravura installation took place when walls of whole slabs of Carrera marble were installed in the shower in the master suite.

"In this project, we let the exterior forms read on the interior which created unusually interesting ceiling lines," men-



Using a unique, almost forgotten technique, the steel hood over the kitchen stove is blackened steel which was then lacquered.

tions Mr. Ortmann. "Everywhere you turn the detail is evident, from the custom curved windows in the Master Bedroom sitting area dormer, and the round turret housing the main stair, to the eyebrow roof over the porte cochere; I could go on and on, what a challenge and pleasure it all was."

"For a project like this, there has to be quality time from every individual. Here, owner, architect, and contractor became an exceptional team," adds Mr. Dalene. "We are very proud of our contributions." ■

