



# GRAND MANOR

## EUROPEAN STYLE HOME FEATURES MODERN ELEGANCE

When Dominick Tringali, president of Dominick Tringali Architects in Bloomfield Hills, built a spec house that was nothing short of spectacular, he was confident the right buyer would come along. After all, it was only a matter of time before someone fell for the extravagant European style estate.

As the architect explains, this was anything but your average home, "It's really unique in the sense that it is European in style but with a modern floor plan. It captures everything in today's lifestyle, and it sits on a lake." In addition, the elaborate Bloomfield Hills dwelling is filled to the brim with custom features, like a two story library with a spiral staircase that is housed within a turret.

The limestone and brick exterior is low maintenance and built to

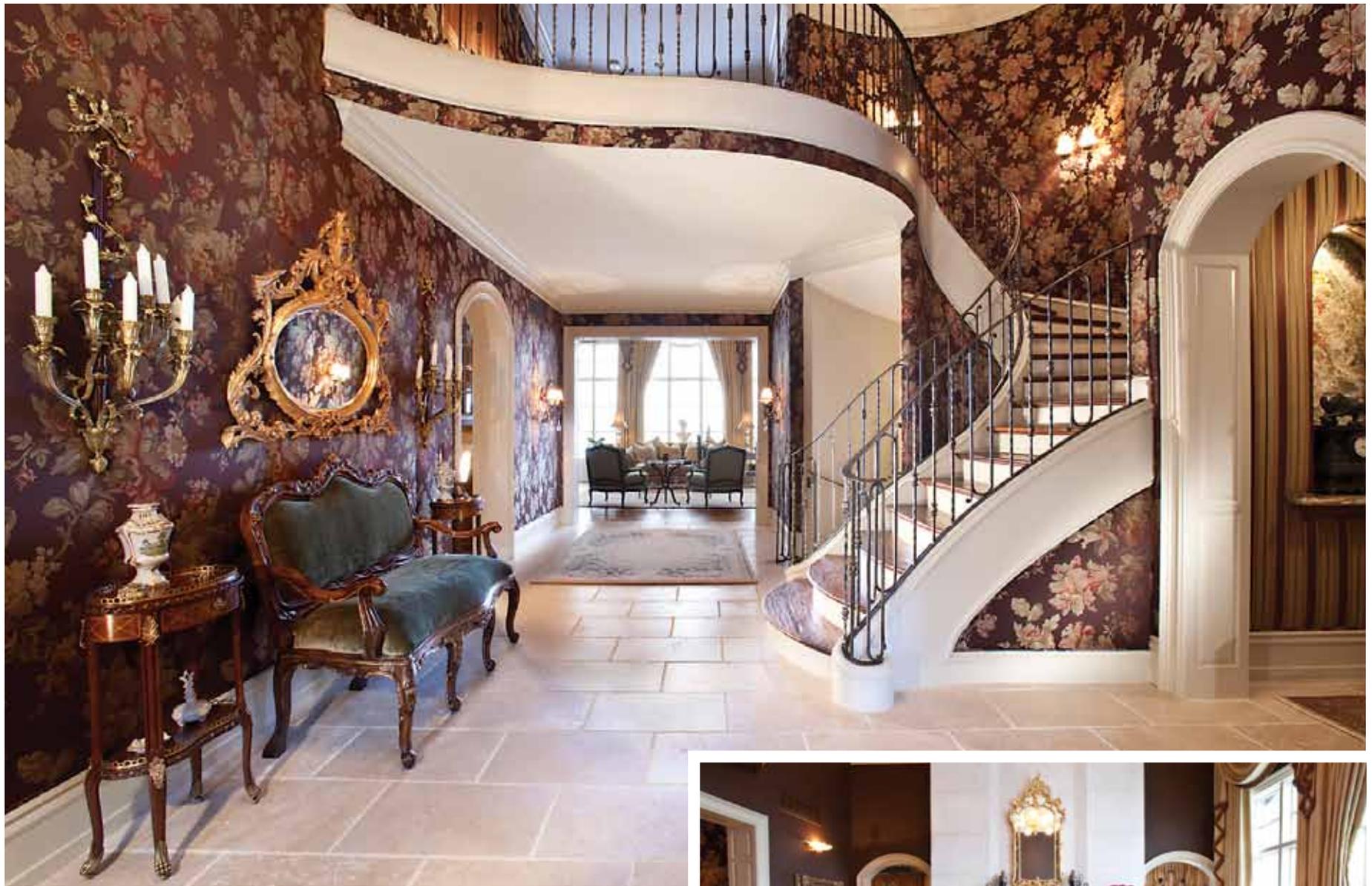


last, while a classic style courtyard continues the European look and feel of the home. The old-world façade blends seamlessly with the modern day floor plan that flows effortlessly from one room to the next. “There is a casual elegance on the inside,” Tringali says.

When the right homeowner did come along, he was drawn to the design and concept and the privacy appealed to him, too. “I liked the entryway, and the views are breathtaking,” he says. Still, he decided to renovate

the existing 8,500-square-foot structure and build an addition with Tringali that would bring the living space to more than 14,000 square feet. Today, the sprawling home boasts a pool and two guest cabanas, among other niceties.

An outdoor motor court adds a regal touch. “I was always into homes and cars,” says the homeowner, who has enough space to house at least eight vehicles, including his classic car collection. One of the climate-controlled garages is outfitted with a car wash.



The homeowner already had a great stepping stone on which to expand. Designer details were plentiful in the original spec home, such as a gourmet kitchen with a pair of windows that resemble portholes. Glass was incorporated into the cabinetry to let in the southern light. Hand-scraped walnut floors add warmth, and the kitchen island was designed to look like a freestanding piece of furniture. Granite countertops and stainless steel appliances are in keeping with the high end features and finishes that can be found throughout the home.

Today the house is so well equipped that the homeowner has everything at his fingertips. "It was designed so you don't have to leave," he says. A gym and a movie theater are among the unique spaces tailor-made for the residential setting. With so many rooms from which to choose, one might be hard pressed to pick a favorite. But the homeowner is partial to the movie theater and its fiber optic ceiling that displays a magical light show depicting the stars at night. Other amenities include surround sound and motion seats that vibrate in sync with cinematic explosions.

With six bedrooms and nine and a half bathrooms, each one is as luxurious as the next. The walls are predominantly covered in Venetian plaster or upholstery, which add a tremendous amount of texture to the rooms. When the homeowner first came upon upholstered walls in Europe, he called his crew back home to stop the presses. They were getting ready to hang wallpaper, but he had a change of heart after seeing the richness of the upholstery abroad. The hand stitched fabrics that now cover the foyer and other areas took many months to install.



A variety of soothing hues fills the home where the majority of furnishings and accessories are from Maitland-Smith and Theodore Alexander. Kristi Karimpour from Birmingham Design Studio is working on the finishing touches. The homeowner credits her with being a big help.

All of the contents were hand selected by the homeowner with one exception. His daughter was given carte blanche to design her own bedroom, which boasts a private rooftop terrace with unobstructed views.

An upstairs gathering room contains an 80 year old chandelier from Spain that hung in the homeowner's childhood home, while a piano room features a fireplace mantel that was made in England.

The focal point of the living room is a two sided limestone fireplace. A tray ceiling in the master bath brings depth and dimension to the ornate space where glazed cabinetry accentuates the old world feel. Though the prevailing European style may take on a more serious tone, the home-



owner is not without a sense of humor. His extensive selection of animal themed toilet tissue holders demonstrates that even fine design can have a funny side.

The abundant landscaping added by the homeowner consists of Russian sage, grapevines, climbing ivy and more. All the plants are on a self-watering system. Terracotta pots and other decorative objects of distinction are from Detroit Garden Works in Sylvan Lake.

The newly added swimming pool sits within a two-story exterior courtyard. An outdoor sitting area is defined by a pergola that faces an exquisite fireplace topped with a custom copper cover embellished with cherubs. The nearby pool area has a changing room complete with storage and a linen closet. An extra laundry room comes in handy for towels.

A large mosaic work from Lebanon, assembled onsite, features an underwater ocean theme. The lower gathering room that is filled with outdoor furniture, overlooks the pool, as do arched French doors with wrought iron Juliet style balconies. A sauna was incorporated into the plan. The pool kitchen was designed around a blue and white island so that coordinating accent pieces complement the space.

Though the list of trades is far too long to mention, Creative Copperworks in Clawson was responsible for all of the copper work. Gillette Brothers Pool & Spa in Troy handled the pool installation and Birmingham-based Mosher & Associates designed the pool and landscape architecture.

The ongoing projects for a property of this caliber are bound to continue for some time. Future plans include further enhancements to the already impeccable and mesmerizing site. Though the homeowner has been inspired by styles he has seen in Italy and France, he wouldn't trade places with anyone in the world. At the end of the day, he says, "There's no place like home." 👑 – Jeanine Matlow