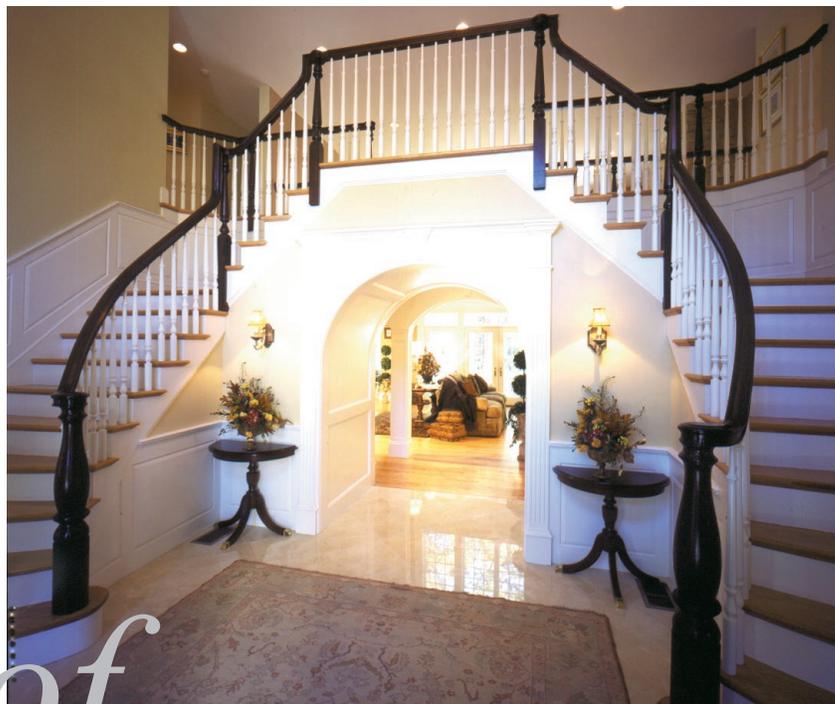


REAL ESTATE

YOUR HOME

Hopkinton
Dream Home
offers design
ideas, inspiration



House of Dreams

By Brooke Leister
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Hopkinton – When you dream of the perfect house what do you see? Granite counter-tops? Heated marble bathroom floors? A home theater and gym? Perhaps cherry cabinetry in the kitchen with decorative carvings?

Even if some of these features would not be a part of your fantasy home, plenty of inspiration can be found within the 8,500 square feet of Dream House 2002 built by Craig Meyer, president of Meyer Homes, Inc. of Hopkinton.

The state-of-the-art home, with five bedrooms and eight

bathrooms, incorporates opulent fabrics and designer furniture with the latest technology and amenities.

The home will be open for tours and scheduled events Oct. 16 through Nov. 3, 2002. Tickets cost \$25 at the door, and \$20 in advance. All of the proceeds benefit the Big Brothers of Massachusetts Bay and Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Middlesex County. Meyer, who has been a Big Brother since 1987, and his wife, Eleanor, are organizing all of the events.

When touring the home certain words spring to mind. Elegant. Opulent. Cozy.

Family-friendly. Livable.

But, make no mistake. The \$2.5 million brick home is big. The foyer and great room loom large with two-story ceilings and open-air feel. The basement is not a typical basement, rather, it is a separate living space unto itself complete with home gym and steam room, a billiards room, a wet bar and media room outfitted with an 8-foot movie screen.

But while the overall size of the Fawn Ridge Road home is big, the rooms flow seamlessly into one another creating balance and harmony.

Even with the dramatic front foyer with its large chandelier,

marble floor and curving staircases, the space manages to exude a sense of warmth and welcome. The curving mahogany stairway rails and mahogany front door contrast with the brightness of the marble floor. The white-painted curved archway leading to the great room softens the space, while the view of the trees in the back yard is an ideal way to bring a bit of the outdoors inside.

“In a house this size people expect a little drama. We have a dramatic foyer and a great room,” Meyer said.

The kitchen has its own sense of drama, although much

more understated. The cabinetry, by Milford Cabinetry, is all cherry with decorative carved moldings featuring oak leaves and acorns. Keeping with the theme, some of the doorknobs are metal oak leaves. The countertops both near the sink and on the island are black granite.

The adjoining maid's pantry features refrigerator drawers, a Subzero wine cooler and dishwasher. Adjoining the kitchen heading into the dining room is a handsome butler's station complete with cherry woodwork and the same black granite countertops.

"It's elegant, comfortable, very family-friendly and usable," said Nancy Singh, lead decorator of the home for Meyer Homes. "Craig had the vision of making a very elegant home but making it family-friendly."

Meyer added, "People live in their kitchens and family rooms these days, so we tried to bring that in here. It all flows." On the opposite end of the first floor, the living room provides a quiet and serene space well removed from the activity of the kitchen. While some people eschew living rooms for their formality, Meyer wanted to create a space people will feel comfortable using.

Trina Macchi and her partner Helen Sullivan, of HMS Design Associates in Southborough, achieved the cozy feel through their color choices. Reds, golds, tans and varying shades of green achieve the effect. The room also exudes a sense of worldliness with the fabric on the chair featuring monkeys and palm trees (still tasteful and subtle) as well as the small giraffe statues on the coffee table.

"We were going for a cozy, comfortable get-away, curl-up read a book (space)," Macchi said.

Meyer added, "The floor plan of the house goes well with that as well. This is really a retreat. If that room (the great room) feels too modular, they can come in here curl up with a book and light a fire."

Following the theme of creating a truly livable house, the library offers an inviting space without the formality and stodginess of traditional home libraries.

"We wanted to work with the library theme. We wanted to do something traditional with an upscale color scheme," said Barbara Larson, a Framingham interior designer who worked on the room with her partner Marlene Marsh.

Larson and Marsh, who work under the name Larson Marsh Design Group, first

chose a rug with purple, tans and mossy greens, and built from that.

"After we found the rug, we were excited because we knew that we had the right foundation," Larson said.

When strolling through the library, take special note of the painted walls and ceiling. Both are painted shades of gold and beige. The names of famous authors and sayings from classic novels are carefully spelled out all over the walls. The painted ceiling features light metallic gold decorative scrollwork, adding a surprising bit of whimsy to the room with built-in mahogany bookcases.

"It's a very elegant, traditional home," Marsh said. "You kind of want the room to feel like it's always been here."

Upstairs, guests may be drawn to the openness of the long hallway overlooking the great room and foyer areas. A woman's study with adjoining bathroom is at one end of the home, while the master suite and bathroom are at the other. Two children's bedrooms also occupy the floor – one is decorated in a pink ballerina theme for a little girl and the other is a nursery done in peach shades.

The highlight on the upstairs floor is the master bath.

"I love everything about it. It's a retreat to get away so you don't want to leave," Singh said.

The room features heated marble floors, a walk-in shower with two showerheads and body sprays, marble countertops, his and her sinks and cabinetry, and a traditional cast iron tub. Oh, don't forget to look up at the small crystal chandelier.

"A shower these days is what's used most in the master suite. A lot of people aren't doing Jacuzzi's, they're doing nice soaking tubs," Singh said.

Before leaving the master suite, step into the large his and hers closet outfitted with multiple drawers, shelving and hanging racks. Before the final touches were completed, the decorators discussed the artwork for the walls. Artwork on the walls of the closet!?

The home, which will be put up for sale after the tours are complete, was made possible through a host of local sponsors ranging from Wolfers Lighting

in Waltham to Pyne Sand & Stone in Hopkinton to A&C Masons in Medway and Horner Millwork in Southborough. About 13 companies participated in the project as sponsors.

Each of the rooms in the home were decorated by a different design company ranging from Ethan Allen to Cabot House and BB Kids, as well as a host of local designers. The furniture is also for sale.

The home sites on 2 1/2 acres and is surrounded by an additional 2 1/2 acres of conservation land. "It's extremely private," Meyer said. ■

The Essentials

Dream House 2002, located at 20 Fawn Ridge Road in Hopkinton, is open for tours Oct. 16 through Nov. 3. Tuesday through Friday. The home is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday evenings (except Halloween) the home is open from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. On Saturdays, the home is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday s from noon to 6:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 at the door and \$20 if purchased in advance.

Weekday shuttle parking is available at the First Congregational Church of Hopkinton, located on Rte. 135 in Hopkinton. Weekend shuttle parking is available from Weston Nurseries, also on Rte. 135 (except for Saturday, Oct. 19 when visitors should use the weekday schedule).

In addition to the daily tours, a number of special events are planned. An Opening Soiree is Saturday, Oct. 19, from 7:00 p.m. to midnight. The event costs \$150 per person and Jim Corsi former Boston Red Sox relief pitcher, will be master of ceremonies. The evening will feature music, fine dining, private tours and a live and silent auction. Guests will have the opportunity to bid on items such as a private training run with Boston Marathon great Bill Rodgers, and some of the furniture in the home.

All of the proceeds from the house tours and special events benefit Big Brothers of Massachusetts Bay and Big Brother Big Sisters of South Middlesex County.

For more information call 617-956-0204 or visit www.bbm.org.