

...publishers choice



In an area renowned for its unique and remarkable properties, WaterView ranks at the top. And within WaterView condominiums, this home is a wonder. Its corner penthouse location offers the finest possible view of the Delaware River, with New Hope's eclectic shops and restaurants visible less than a mile to the north, and wonderful open vistas downriver toward Yardley.

From the moment one leaves the private elevator, the ambiance is all Park Avenue with Parisian overtones. No wonder the owner has named it L'appartement!

The current owner purchased this 7,500 square-foot penthouse when it was still in the planning stages, offering her the opportunity to create a home beyond compare. For six months, she worked closely with designers and craftsmen to reach this goal. Even the furnishings were custom-created to meet her exacting standards, and no design element was too small to earn her close attention.

The home's grand entrance leads to a sumptuous living room overlooking the rushing river. Exotic tiger wood floors from South America add a deep patina of luxury to this room, and indeed, to the entire home. (The kitchen, foyer, and two of the bathrooms, which are finished in radiant-heated limestone, imported tile, and marble, are the exceptions.) French doors lead to a patio balcony, which runs the length of the home and offers spectacular views. A gas fireplace is the room's focal point. It was set into an 1880s antique Cypress wood mantle and surround. A triptych of mirrors lines the mantle.

The dining room is a masterpiece of detailing: its ceiling is triple-layered, with plastered-in-place molding with a handpainted, recessed central area for the medallion. The wall coverings are imported French silk, in a basket-weave design, mounted on batting and then adhered to the wall, adding an element of plush luxury. The gleaming mahogany dining table and buffet include gold inlays and were handcrafted specifically for this room. The wool and silk Portuguese carpet was dyed to match the wall fabric. Even the doors are of handcrafted mahogany to match the furnishings.

Other dining room touches include a small outer vestibule with built-in mahogany cabinets designed to hold the linens and silver for dinner parties. The beveled glass in the entry doors and the corner mirrors within the room reflect the soft candlelight of the chandelier, creating an enchanting atmosphere for fine dining.

Unique touches of class

Wrought iron stair railings from the first to second levels were forged in Ecuador. This intricate design—all swirls and whorls and capped by a brass rail—carries over to an interior Juliet balcony overlooking the foyer and to double doors separating the foyer from the living quarters.

The owner is an art aficionado with eclectic tastes, who has built a collection of paintings by international and local artists. Working with a lighting designer ensured that each painting would be properly and professionally lit; one switch controls all the artwork lights. Painstaking attention to the home's lighting ensured that soft area and recessed low-voltage halogen lighting throughout creates exactly the right mood at the right time.

Moving from the formality of the dining and living rooms, a spectacular hall opens to a comfortable family room, office, and fully outfitted wet bar area. The curve of the barrel ceiling in the hall mimics the mahogany inlay in the floor.

Each room exudes a distinct personality, created in part by the specially designed, intricate wainscoting and crown moldings handcrafted in several layers. The color palette ranges from soft and creamy earth tones to subtle splashes of color and eye-catching, distinctive accents.

Incomparable living spaces

Inviting yet professional, the office contains a built-in desk, shelving, and cabinetry of tiger maple that shines with a golden hue. This unusual wood continues around the room, used for insets and panels and as a frame for a stamped leather ceiling inlay. A gas fireplace with flat-screen plasma television and triple-set windows with transoms to maximize the gorgeous view create a relaxing family room.

Each of the home's five and half bathrooms and four bedrooms has different styling, yet all have the same eye to detail. In the master suite, for example, the dressing room contains mahogany cabinetry and built-in dressers in a central area, which is adjacent to a horseshoe-shaped walk-in closet. Step up to a soaking Jacuzzi in a special niche lined with windows overlooking the river. The tub's surround is made of yellow onyx, which is clearer than marble, and better able to reflect either daylight or candlelight. The extra-large, adjacent shower contains multiple sprays and a rain shower head, providing the perfect escape at the end of a busy day.

The master bedroom has a barreled, coffered ceiling to match the exterior roofline. With a fireplace and television, dramatic views of the river and a large seating area, the entire effect is breathtaking.

A kitchen to die for

The kitchen and morning room are arguably the most inviting of the entire residence. Set in an L, the two rooms run together, joined by walls of windows and French doors accessing the patio. The effect is a circular flow between these two rooms and the dining room, located just opposite, across the hall.

As with the rest of this home, the kitchen was painstakingly designed and built by master craftsmen. The result is a grand space that beckons the gourmet cook. An eight-burner Thermador commercial range with double oven is only the beginning. A Sub-Zero refrigerator is camouflaged by a cabinet front. A recessed mahogany baking center contains a marble surface for creating the perfect pastries. The multi-surface island and countertops with solid granite slabs and the hand-crafted cabinets provide more than ample workspace and storage.

Tastefully designed – with no detail overlooked – this home is serious, yet whimsical. Its collection of fine, handcrafted furnishings and artwork complement the architectural amenities, and create an elegant home in a peaceful, natural setting with cosmopolitan touches of Paris and New York.

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L'appartement

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- Park Avenue with Parisian Overtones

- Penthouse Living



- Master Craftsmanship Detail

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