

# *Serenity and Elegance*

DEVON, PENNSYLVANIA



*Capital Properties & Estates*



# At One with Nature

An exquisite custom masterpiece  
...with indoor and outdoor pools.

When award-winning architect Helena van Vliet turned her talents to the challenge of creating a private residence for a 2.4-acre site in the Main Line community of Devon, the outcome was this brilliant mix of formal elegance and gracious country living. Nestled amidst magnificent mature trees, sprawling lawns, and dazzling gardens, this is a masterpiece of understated sophistication in perfect balance with its natural setting.

This stunning residence was designed for highly discerning clients who wanted a home that would reflect their love of the arts and nature, while keeping all the main living spaces on one level. The design is somewhat passive solar in that Van Vliet planned this remarkable residence around the trajectory of the sun. Its warmth caresses the rooms one lives in as the day progresses, from morning coffee in the breakfast alcove to indulgent afternoons on the pergola terrace. Moreover, there is a very fluid indoor/outdoor connection, with tall windows looking out to spectacular views of the property and large French doors opening to trellised porches and pergola — all blurring the distinction between inside and outside. The result is a home filled with light, with unique “outdoor rooms,” and interesting spaces for the display of artwork.

Apart from three guest rooms and a media room/office on the second floor, the house has the feeling of a one-story residence, with an enhanced sense of privacy and security. Sitting low, with low roofs and stone walls, the house appears to focus inward. Entering the front porch from







through the dining room, one enters the informal, eating area, a multipurpose alcove with sunny views across the meadow gardens to the pavilion. The adjoining great room offers the comfort of a large fireplace and book niches, and both the great room and paneled library open via French doors to the pergola terrace with sweeping meadow vistas.

But these are only a few of countless pleasures. Here, too, are the delights of a sunny outdoor pool terrace with inground pool, beautiful flower gardens, and mowed lawn pathways through meadow for leisurely strolls.

An incomparable design in complete harmony with nature, this is a serene, soul-nourishing retreat. No matter where the day takes one, this elegant, yet comfortable custom home will be a cherished respite from the world.

the circular drive, the gallery is a breathtaking focal point. Skylit, with a vaulted ceiling, it serves as foyer, art display area, circulation spine, and axis of the house. A dramatic balcony bridge which crosses the gallery is the only evidence of the upstairs living quarters.

At the east end of this resplendent entryway, the indoor pool with underwater seats awaits for pleasant morning swims — or afternoon dips, for it is well protected from overheating from afternoon sun. Adjacent is the master suite complete with sitting room, romantic fireplace, dressing area, and skylit private bath.

At the other end of the gallery, the dining room provides an exceptional place for entertaining. Opening to both the gallery and living room, with an adjacent pantry perfect for setting up lavish buffets, it offers guests views of the courtyard with its exterior sculpture niche, illuminated at night. Moving on

