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Opposite: A more intimate sitting area features a delicate plasterwork ceiling and welcoming fireplace.



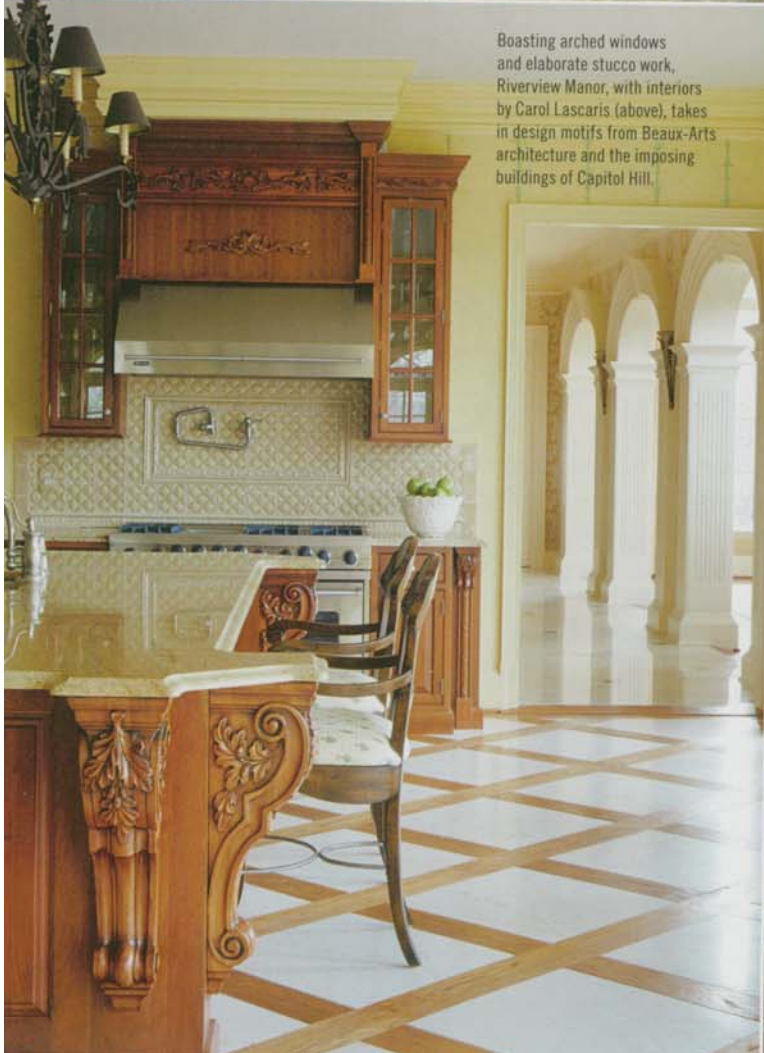
American • classic



With unrivaled views of the Potomac River and timeless interior design, this outstanding six-bedroom home, minutes away from Capitol Hill, is at once imposing and family friendly

WORDS ALISON TYLER

PHOTOGRAPHY NGOC MINH NGO



Boasting arched windows and elaborate stucco work, Riverview Manor, with interiors by Carol Lascaris (above), takes in design motifs from Beaux-Arts architecture and the imposing buildings of Capitol Hill.





DETAILS

PROPERTY Riverview Manor, McLean, Virginia, USA

OFFERED AT \$12,980,000

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finding inspiration for Riverview Manor was easy for Carol Lascaris. “We began with that view and location – perched on a point above the Potomac River and next to a nature reserve – and worked from there,” says the internationally acclaimed interior designer.

Lascaris was involved with the property from its inception a decade ago and developed the interior architecture of this Georgian-style, five-acre gated estate on the banks of the Potomac. The privacy and beauty of the location are unrivaled for a home that is just 10 miles from Museum Mile in Washington, DC, and less than 20 minutes’ drive to Dulles International Airport.

The impact of the location on the design of the house is striking. The front of the property is built from spectacular stone, chosen to reflect the color of the stones in the river, while vast windows frame expansive water views – an ever-changing backdrop from the moment you step inside.

The exceptional six-bedroom home includes elements of Beaux-Arts style with influences from as far away as France and England, and as nearby as the architecture of Capitol Hill. “The idea was to combine the elegance of Embassy Row with very comfortable and relaxed living – and to create a great space for entertaining,” explains Lascaris.

To complement the property’s enviable aspect, Lascaris kept the interior as classic as possible, with “every element of every room... the best; every inch of the house from top to bottom is bespoke.” The airy entrance hall comprises a highly polished marble floor with classic black diamond inserts, while the custom sweeping staircase features specially

created carpets and carved-wood moldings. “Nothing is overdone,” says Lascaris. “We wanted a very classical feel, and a sense of harmony and of place.”

The lofty ceilings of the foyer continue into the great room, with soaring, two-story arched windows. It is a fantastic space for parties and boasts incredible views. “In the great room we decided on a coved ceiling, with gold leaf inside the coving. It will never date, or age. It sounds ornate, but with such a high ceiling it really isn’t too much; the gold is very inviting.”

From the delicate plasterwork ceilings and the granite countertops in the state-of-the-art chef’s kitchen (where, Lascaris says, “There is every gadget and appliance that any gourmet could ever want.”) to the cherry-wood library, temperature-controlled wine cellar, and high-spec home theater, each detail is of the highest quality.

Wrapped around the waterfront, the house makes the most of its sensational aspect – even the pool house and guesthouse offer stunning views. Yet despite the classic, international feel of the grand property, it retains a sense of intimacy as a family home. “The colors are warm, with more contemporary furniture pieces in the casual areas.”

“Riverview Manor is a creation,” says Lascaris, who has worked on palaces around the world for royalty, as well as properties for celebrities, and corporate and private clients. “There are influences in every room, but there is nowhere else like it – Riverview Manor is dramatic, unique, and timeless.” ●

Riverview Manor is on the market with Christie’s International Real Estate and exclusive affiliate Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc. For inquiries, please see contact details above.