

WUE

L U X U R Y D E F I N E D .

SUMMER 2018

YACHTING THE
JERSEY COAST

EXPLORING
ESPAÑA

WITH
OD HOTELS

SUMMER *CHIC*

THE SEASON'S HOTTEST SWIMWEAR

THE GEORGE

A Boutique Hotel by
Bobbi Brown

Inside
the World of
FREEDIVING

with Julia Wheeler

WINE DOWN

Pairing Tips and Secrets
from NJ Sommeliers

Plus
How to Date
#**IRL**



HILLTOP RESORT LIVING

IN FRANKLIN LAKES, NJ

21 SHINNECOCK TRAIL

—A look inside this secluded Franklin Lakes sanctuary and its inception. **BY LOANNIE DAO**

When two New Jersey residents decided they wanted to find a place to escape to, they went from living in a modest home situated in a small town to building their own oasis on one of the highest points of Franklin Lakes, New Jersey. The homebuyers, a CEO and President of a large national book distribution company, and an assistant editor of a Jewish newspaper, both craved an elevated lifestyle. To match this lifestyle, they built a home just 30 miles outside of New York City, a scenic retreat adjacent to numerous great restaurants, riding trails, fishing venues, lakes, golf clubs and most importantly, a town that lends itself to a life of leisure.

The five-bedroom/eight-bath house sits above the main road near the Indian Trail Club, where an 800-foot driveway stretches along a wooded path that winds around to its entrance. The property—sitting at slightly over 3.5 acres—evokes a connection to the natural world as it was

built on completely untouched territory. But before it became the charming sanctuary it is today, 21 Shinnecock's inception was an involved endeavor, one which began with blasting and transporting nearly 300 truckloads of stone off the property and a process these homeowners stuck out from concept to completion.

The owners went through a lengthy process to hire an architect who understood their vision. They did not want the typical, colonial-style McMansion that already decorated the community and together, they interviewed 18 architects before they met John Stonehill. Stonehill asked the owners to send him photos of things that appealed to them. After they spent the following weeks tearing pictures out of magazines, they compiled a catalogue of images. Within these findings, Stonehill noticed a common thread—elements of water and sky.









“When he pointed that out to us, we realized that it was not just the appearance of water and sky, but it was the feeling of them that was alluring to us. It is soothing and calming. This sets the scene for the house.

Everything is done with quiet neutral colors and textured materials,” the homeowners explained. Although the designers added a lot of landscaping features, many of the surrounding trees are original and untouched. Overall, there is a blurred line between the elements of the house and the natural landscape.

“There are views for different seasons and from different rooms. We located the master bedroom on the second floor because we wanted views stretching out into the distance facing both north and south. You can look over miles and miles of mountains,” they said.

The horizontal roof lines lend themselves to the ground and ultimately help the space flow together. Part of this flow translates to a sense of calmness that overcomes those who visit. Simple architectural choices such as the aforementioned horizontal lines inspire the home’s soothing atmosphere. Because the homeowners are heavily involved in philanthropy, the house was also designed with entertaining in mind for charity events. On any given Sunday, there could be hundreds of people in the house, but the space manages to transition from one room to another so that it could be comfortable with just two or 200 people.

After joining the design team, Stonehill spent several weeks analyzing the property before he even made a single drawing. The final master plan took two years of design work and resulted in 72 pages of schematic drawings and 500 pages of construction plans. The owners wanted more space but did not want 20 different rooms in the house. Although the house is beyond modest, it does not feel disconnected because all of the rooms are proportional and the house is compartmentalized into different quarters: the library, the guest room, the living room, the dining area, the indoor pool and the courtyard— all of which exhibit an indoor vs. outdoor experience.

Stonehill wanted visitors to enter into the house, not just through a door, but to go through a pergola and be transported to another place. Once someone goes through the front door, they enter into the tallest part of the house—a circular foyer. The owners describe the space as dreamy, “...the shadow of the sun crawls along the interior wall like a sundial as the day sluggishly passes.” It is from this space that visitors can choose



“THE FEELING OF THE HOUSE WAS NOT TO BE A BOX. IT WAS TO HAVE AN OPEN FEELING WHERE YOU WERE PART OF THE LAND.”



to enter three distinct areas: the swimming pool room, the gallery leading to the guest bedroom and library, or the living/dining room and kitchen. Views are shared from every room in the house. "The house is not a straight line so when you are in the sun room, you can see other rooms. The pool opens on to the same grass terrace as the living room. Similarly, the dining room and the gallery opens onto the same courtyard as the guest bedroom."

As visitors approach, a canopy of trees overhead reveals the first sighting of the house – the Hearst Castle-inspired indoor pool. The pool's cascading waterfall runs down from the hot tub, complementing the sweeping scale of the pool itself. "Going in the pool room in the dead of winter was like going on vacation," the owners said. Although the limestone material starts on the exterior of the house, it frames its way through the interior of the house and onto the entire floor of the pool room. The pool room is equipped with a full kitchenette, exercise room and showers. Essentially, the homeowners wanted to capture the essence of summertime in the winter and year-round. Accented with potted plants and trees, this room also connects to the nearby courtyard which emulates vibes reminiscent of a Mediterranean holiday.

Because the house is so open, the owners intentionally designed the library to be the most private part of the house. They explained, "The library is more of a private place than an entertainment room, so it is on the north side of the house. We envisioned it more as a nighttime room than a daytime room." Due to the husband's background in publishing, the library is walled with bookshelves that hold 8,000 volumes. Outfitted with a wet bar and fireplace, the library is also eloquently covered in cherry wood. Similar to the other spaces in the house, the library opens onto an outdoor terrace at the back of the house.

From the drapes to the furniture, everything in the house was custom-made. The owners hired David Walker, an interior designer based in New York, to bring their house to life. "Walker really understood the feel we wanted. The house is timeless because of this," they said. Their intention was to connect the human experience to the materials presented in the house. "The feeling of the house was not to be a box. It was to have an open feeling where you were part of the land. Everywhere you looked throughout the house you can see land, sky, mountains, courtyards and fountains. The house is a living and breathing environment."

After creating years of memories at 21 Shinnecock Trail, the home is currently for sale. Interested parties please contact Christine Frosini of Special Properties at 201-934-8100.

The Perfect Gift

A GIFT CERTIFICATE TO

The Fountain SPA

*Engagements... Anniversaries...
Graduations... Bridal Showers...
New and Expecting Moms...
and for all those other special occasions*



thefountainspa.com | 201.327.5155

Rt. 17 N., Ramsey & The Shops at Riverside, Hackensack