

house for sale



# A Jewel on a Hill

WITH SPOUTING CORINTHIAN COLUMNS, CONTEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION AND GLEAMING GLASSWORK, THIS HOUSE SHINES IN ITS HILLTOP SETTING

This hasn't been the "country" for about 50 years now—but it still feels like it. And talk about "good neighbors": Westwood Country Club surrounds this 1-acre property on three sides, providing residents with a stunning view in every season. As the home's owner, photographer Steven Straub, wistfully notes, this is a "special house for a special person"—preferably a special person with hundreds of friends, larger-than-life confidence and a taste for golf.

Guests enter directly into the great room, which Mr. Straub calls the "kaleidoscope"; mirrored display shelves reinforce the comparison, and walnut window moldings heighten the feeling of stepping into a grand leaded-glass jewel box. The great room's soft white arch reflects clear light throughout—during the day, this home scarcely needs lighting at all.

Originally built in 1994 for Don Serot and Geri Rothman-Serot (the former St. Louis County councilwoman who took on U.S. Senator Kit Bond in the 1992 senatorial race), this house is a beacon on a hill, an elegant shell that reflects and spotlights (literally!) both its residents and its contents. (Mrs. Rothman-Serot is a daughter of the Jaffe family—Jaffe as in Jaffe Lighting—and their touch is evident everywhere, from the motion-sensitive under-cabinet lights in the master bath to the recessed spot lighting throughout the house.)

As one might gather, this is not a home for the unambitious or the shy. The only windows with shades are in the nook near the kitchen. This home is perhaps best suited to the power broker or public-office-holder, open to the world and sizable enough

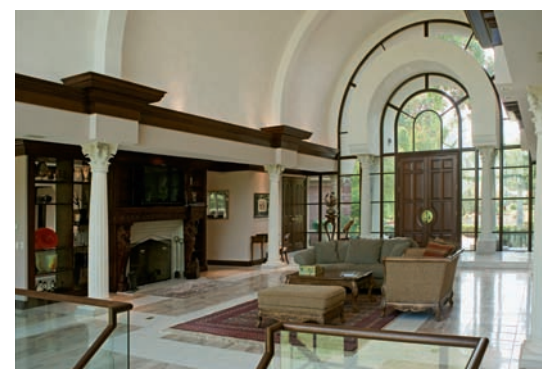
to host the right kinds of parties—and located just outside one of the city's most venerable country clubs, 15 minutes from downtown Clayton.

But that's not to say one can't lead a private life here: Additional home-office areas and guest bedrooms hide away on the lower level, and the master bedroom, though situated directly off the great room, can only be reached through a cloister-like alcove. This bedroom, in particular, has the aura of a sanctuary, with a high peaked ceiling, windows partially concealed by branches outside, and dark hardwood flooring—a warm contrast to the austere marble found elsewhere. His-and-hers walk-in closets provide space to organize an immense wardrobe, and the master bath, entirely tiled in gray swirling marble, feels like an enclosed grotto.

The kitchen and dining areas, while very much part of the home's public space, nonetheless provide a place to eat and strategize in comfort. Black lacquer cabinets and polished granite countertops contrast with two brushed-steel Sub-Zero dishwashers, a matching Sub-Zero refrigerator and a Thermador oven. A niche reserved for a formidable TV makes this the ideal command center for a campaign.

Double doors lead to an attached pavilion, where visitors can enjoy a view of the greens, their rolling hills stretching to the horizon. Westwood's pastoral tranquility is lulling; one can easily forget that the next street over is I-64/40. With every amenity so close at hand, this home is ideal for someone connected to the fast-paced web of St. Louis life.

—Margaret Bauer



## address

11629 Conway, Westwood

## asking price

\$2.3 million

## seller

Steven Straub  
314-994-9343

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT HUGHES