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HOME OF THE WEEK



Timeless elegance, gorgeous craftsmanship

Custom Weston home on lush setting by premier architect has it all

By **Carole LaMond**
Daily News Correspondent

When the owners of the extraordinary shingle-style house at 215 Highland St. selected a lot neighboring town-owned land on this bucolic Weston road, they were leaving an oceanside home they loved for the beauty of its natural setting. They wanted to build a house that embraced the land in the same way, so that the outdoors became part of the interior design, but with vistas of lush green instead of blue water.

And, they wanted a house that looked and felt like a well-loved, well-lived-in family home.

The couple worked with Tom Catalano, an award-winning Boston architect known for the understated elegance and meticulous craftsmanship of his shingle-style homes, to design and build a 12-room house that is sophisticated, whimsical and warm.

This classic, timeless house continues to hold your interest, and even surprise you. The house blends Arts and Crafts style with contemporary flair so seamlessly that its artistry is both stunning and subtle. Walls and exquisite millwork feature curves, angles and decorative detail, magnificent windows flood the house with light, and the doorway of each room frames the next to create architectural interest.

Located on a designated scenic road, yet convenient to major commuter routes and schools, the six-bedroom house features magnificent space for formal entertaining as well as intimate family living.

Sheryl Simon of Benoit Mizner Simon has listed the 6,675-square-foot house on a 1.41-acre lot for \$3,225,000.

The first glimpse of the house is striking with its fanciful shingle dormers, shake shingle roof and sweeping double gables. Multiple

windows add architectural interest and range from four-pane accent windows to a magnificent two-story window and a large bay window with transoms.

The approach to the house is by a curved driveway bordered with paving stones reclaimed from New York City streets. The formal approach with its circular stone-medallion motor court befits the estate-like home, but there is a surprise as the drive sweeps to the side of the house. Here the impression is of a peaceful English country cottage with three quaint beadboard carriage-style garage bays with paving-stone thresholds and a rectangular peastone path which cuts through a swath of green lawn.

The grand two-story



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215 Highland Street, Weston

DETAILS

Home size: 6,675 square feet

Lot size: 1.41 acres

Rooms: 6 bedrooms, 5 full baths, 2 half baths

Year Built: 1993

Annual taxes: \$31,969 (2015)

Asking Price: \$3,225,000

This classic shingle-style house was custom-designed by the owners with one of Boston's most sought-after architects. The luxurious house has a grand foyer with a stunning floor-to-ceiling window on the magnificent staircase, formal living and dining rooms, a richly-paneled office and a family room open to a sleek European kitchen. Six bedrooms include a first-floor master bedroom with fabulous built-ins and a luxurious bath, and the second-floor family bedrooms include a turret room and a suite that could be used as an exercise room or playroom. The house is on a level wooded lot abutting town-owned land and conveniently located within minutes of commuting routes and schools.

Top to bottom: Kitchen; Foyer; Family room, dining area and kitchen; Exterior, 215 Highland St., Weston. COURTESY PHOTOS/ BENOIT MIZNER SIMON

HIGHLAND

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foyer opens to the living room to showcase lush garden views. The staircase is a work of art with a stunning floor-to-ceiling window, beautifully crafted twisted spindles and a mahogany railing which bows out at one side of the landing. The pleasing sweep of the railing also comes into play when viewed from the gallery of the bedroom wing.

There is a lighted alcove with a plush bench seat on the upper landing, which creates a prominent place for artwork and adds more elegance to the foyer.

The foyer, living and dining room have quarter-sawn red oak floors with a herringbone-pattern and an ebony inlay border. High paneled wainscoting extends along the staircase and there is beadboard detail in the panels at floor level, a preview of the beadboard that is used throughout the house and to great effect in the living room paneling and coffered family room ceiling.

Two columns define the entry to the living room which has an angled bay with three windows and clerestory windows and a double French door which opens to a peastone patio. There is a lighted glass display case in one corner and a gas fireplace.

The dining room has wide entries from both the foyer and to a central hallway that leads from the back of the foyer to the kitchen and family room. This formal room has octagonal walls with wainscoting and a bay window. Two lighted niches with a shell motif have cabinets below.

The office, through a transitional entry to the right of the foyer, is a room entirely paneled in cherry from floor to crown detail on the ceiling. Custom cabinetry and a curved wall are lovely details of the room, which also has a curved window seat with arched millwork.

The curved office wall becomes a reverse curve with built-in drawers and bookshelves in the adjacent master bedroom. The wood-paneled room has a tray ceiling with cove lighting, a gas fireplace with a marble surround and a bank of windows that overlook a serene garden with a stone accent wall. The bedroom has a door to the yard and a walk-in closet with maple cabinetry. The luxurious master bath features Carrera marble in vanity, wall and floor, a soaking tub, walk-in glass-front shower and a separate door to the toilet area. The shower seat and floor have radiant heat.

The hallway off the dining room and to the left of the foyer has a marble powder room, a closet and a paneled L-shaped walk-through butler's pantry that opens to the family room and includes a Sub-Zero fridge, wine chiller, sink and custom glass-front cabinetry.

The sleek European-style kitchen has Caesarstone counters and Poggenpohl cabinetry with textured glass detail and finely-engineered pull-out storage. An island has a prep sink and a four-burner-with-griddle Wolf cooktop/oven with a dramatic stainless steel hood. There is a second gas cooktop by Gaggenau with a striking stainless steel hood set against a wall with a counter-to-ceiling tile backsplash. Other appliances include double wall ovens by Miele and a Sub-Zero fridge.

The kitchen and family room combine trendy-chic and country home in one back-to-front room with a beadboard coffered ceiling. There are windows on three sides, double doors to the patio, a gas fireplace and a cozy bay window seat.

A deep transitional entry with shelves connects the family room to a mudroom room with a radiant-heat herringbone-pattern floor, exterior door, a door to the heated garage and a back staircase. There is a half-bath with onyx tile off the mudroom as well as a closet with built-in cubbies. Even this utilitarian space has lovely flair with harp-like millwork on the staircase, paneled wainscoting and a herringbone-pattern polished stone floor.

The second-floor gallery, between the two staircases, has coffered ceiling sections, beadboard wainscoting and built-in cabinetry.

Three family bedrooms are off this hall as well as a laundry room and several closets. Two bedrooms share a Jack-and-Jill bath while the third has access to a hall-bath. The fourth bedroom, at the top of the back stairs, is a large room with a private bath that provides flexible space for an in-law suite, playroom or gym.

A delightful turret bedroom off the main landing is like a deluxe treehouse with angled walls and a bay of double windows. The room has a built-in desk, private bath and a walk-in closet.

The lower level could be finished to add a game room, home theater and a wine cellar.

The house has gas heat, central air, central vacuum, a Lutron system and a generator. The professionally landscaped yard could accommodate a pool (the current owners have drawings for an infinity pool), and has lighting and a sprinkler system.

—For more information on 215 Highland St., Weston, contact Sheryl Simon of Benoit Mizner Simon at 781-910-3405 direct or sheryl@benoit-miznersimon.com. This house is shown by appointment.



Top to bottom:
Dining room;
Family room;
Landing; Master
bedroom; Office.

COURTESY PHOTOS/
BENOIT MIZNER SIMON