

MANSION

HOUSE TOUR

A HOME COMES INTO FOCUS

The Connecticut house of photographer Howard Schatz features an underwater photo studio and lots of indoor light



WHEN PHOTOGRAPHER Howard Schatz and his wife and business partner, Beverly Ornstein, decided to buy a weekend retreat, they took out a map and drew a circle with a 90-minute driving ra-

dius around their home in Manhattan's Soho neighborhood. Then, they embarked on an exhaustive search. They stopped looking when they found a Midcentury Modern home in Sherman,

Conn. "When we first saw the house, it was March. There was still snow on the ground and it was a blindingly clear day. I sat down in the living room and I had my sun-

glasses on and I said, "This is it," Ms. Ornstein recalls. "It was pouring light through the windows."

The couple paid \$1.3 million in 2001 for the 5,936-square-foot house with four

bedrooms and 4½ bathrooms. Over the years, they say they have put close to \$1 million into the 6.36-acre property. They added a screened-in porch, lightened the home's ash floors and renovated the kitchen.

They also added a pool, which Mr. Schatz, age 75, uses as an underwater photography studio. The pool has an underground room next to the deep end with eight portals in the side wall through which he can direct strobe lights to make photographs.

Mr. Schatz, a former ophthalmologist whose work has appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *Time* and *Vogue*, is known for his underwater images. He keeps the pool at 92 degrees so his models can stay in the water all day. He also removes the chlorine when he is shooting,

so no one has to squint.

The couple is selling as they plan to move back to the San Francisco Bay Area, where they met when Mr. Schatz was a practicing ophthalmologist and Ms. Ornstein, now 67, was the director of news and current affairs at TV station KQED.

The couple came to New York in 1995 on a one-year sabbatical so that Mr. Schatz could devote himself full time to photography, and ended up staying.

The property also includes a two-bedroom, two-bathroom guesthouse and a tennis court. The photographs are negotiable. The home has an asking price of \$2.25 million. Irit Granger of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty has the listing.

—Sarah Tilton



HOWARD SCHATZ (4)



PHOTOGRAPHER'S VISION A sampling of Howard Schatz's photographs of his home in Sherman, Conn. At left, 'Corps de Ballet (Underwater)' à photo created in his property's outdoor pool.