

REAL ESTATE

HOT PROPERTY

# Darien home echoes curvature of Guggenheim Museum

By Jennifer Bonnett

This Darien mid-century modern exudes an international style from the moment you drive up its driveway. Once inside, it's clear this property at 27 Tory Hole Road is special as the circular foyer guides your eyes upward through the spiral staircase to the living quarters.

The curvature is carried throughout the airy 4,025-square-foot, four-plus-bedroom house with its futuristic-looking curved walls. They add to the flow of the house and capture the property's exceptional natural light in which house plants thrive.

With its slate floors and unsurpassed style, the home was built in 1958 and is located in prestigious Detafield Island. It was designed by a collaborator of Frank Lloyd Wright and echoes elements of the Guggenheim Museum. It was described in a 1942 *Architectural Record* magazine article as a house with well-organized architectural space.

The architect, Arthur Holden, collaborated with Frank Lloyd Wright and was in fact the architect of record for the Guggenheim Museum in New York because Wright did not hold a NY license.

"There is an emphasis on a free and fluid space with no interruption between the indoors and outdoors," listing agent Inger Stringfellow said. "The house is beautifully sited on top of a ravine with southern exposure to take advantage of the light."

What is intriguing to Stringfellow is the house seems to lead you as you walk through the airy rooms from the elegant living room down a hallway to the dining room and kitchen and back around to the foyer. The foyer also features a curved staircase, which ascends to the private family quarters on the upper floor.

The large living room has cove lighting and a fireplace, while the large dining room not only echoes the curved walls, but has a curved wall of windows overlooking the property's woody 5.5



Above: The crisp exterior at 27 Tory Hole Road in Darien echoes the curvature of the Guggenheim Museum. Below: The living room has recessed lighting and a cozy fireplace.

**Details**

**Address:** 27 Tory Hole Road, Darien

**Rooms:** 9

**Features:** Designed by a collaborator of Frank Lloyd Wright, this four-plus-bedroom home echoes the elements of the Guggenheim Museum with its curved inside walls and curved terraces and low stone walls outside.

**Price:** \$2.75 million

**Schools:** Tokeneke School District

acres. The hallway connecting the two rooms also has a bank of windows. There is a separate family room at the back of the house.

Although recently remodeled, the eat-in kitchen still has a mid-century modern feel. There is an island and informal dining area with access to the deck.



The master bedroom has a fireplace, a dressing area and a separate sitting room, in addition to the en-suite bathroom and a private terrace.

The secondary bedrooms feature built-ins including a desk and cabinets. On the lower level, there is a 12-by-22-foot media

room that could be used as a private guestroom. There are four full-baths, and one half-bath.

It has a finished, partial basement with laundry facilities and a two-car garage located underneath the house.

Outside, there is a pond situated among the curved flagstone

terraces and landscaped patios overlooking the extensive gardens, lawns and mature trees. The property is convenient to trains, beaches and towns, yet still secluded atop a hill.

In the end, what Stringfellow loves about representing the buyers and sellers of these unique mid-century modern homes is not just the design elements, including the structure and the property, but also the history and stories they tell, she said. Most were designed by respected architects and often custom commissioned for a particular client who were typically well educated and successful in business and the arts — and it shows.

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