

# MAKING AN ENTRANCE

Nothing beats a great first impression, as **lyna Bort Caruso** discovers.

Fine design is about the creation of memorable spaces, and a home's entrance represents the one shot architects have to make the right impression. "An entrance is the starting point from which everything begins to unfold," says Chris Whitehead, managing director of Gulf Sotheby's International Realty in Dubai. "It dictates the way the property talks to visitors," he adds. "The feeling generated in the entrance echoes throughout the house."

To visitors, entrance halls are where a home's character is first encountered. They can exude boldness, calm, a regard for history, a concern for warm hospitality or a penchant for drama – among other things. Their mood-altering capacity creates a sense of anticipation about the entire property. "When someone walks into an entry space that is inspirational, [that] has great proportion and incorporates beautiful materials, those are the elements you savour," says Nancy Ruddy, cofounder and managing principal of the architectural firm CetraRuddy in New York, a 2015 inductee into the Interior Design Hall of Fame.

Today's entrances differ from the soaring ceilings, expensive consoles and large flower arrangements of old. Contemporary foyers are warmer and more nurturing, with a greater interplay of natural materials like stone and wood. Art is more prominent, too. The entrance to one of Whitehead's listings, for instance, features sculptures set in an infinity reflecting pool. For her part, Ruddy frequently incorporates her clients' artworks into their entryways, which provide the ideal environment for showcasing art collections and the owners' tastes. Homewners appreciate this approach: "As one client told us, 'I never tire of coming into my home. There's something amazing when you open the door.'" Now, that's an inspirational entrance.

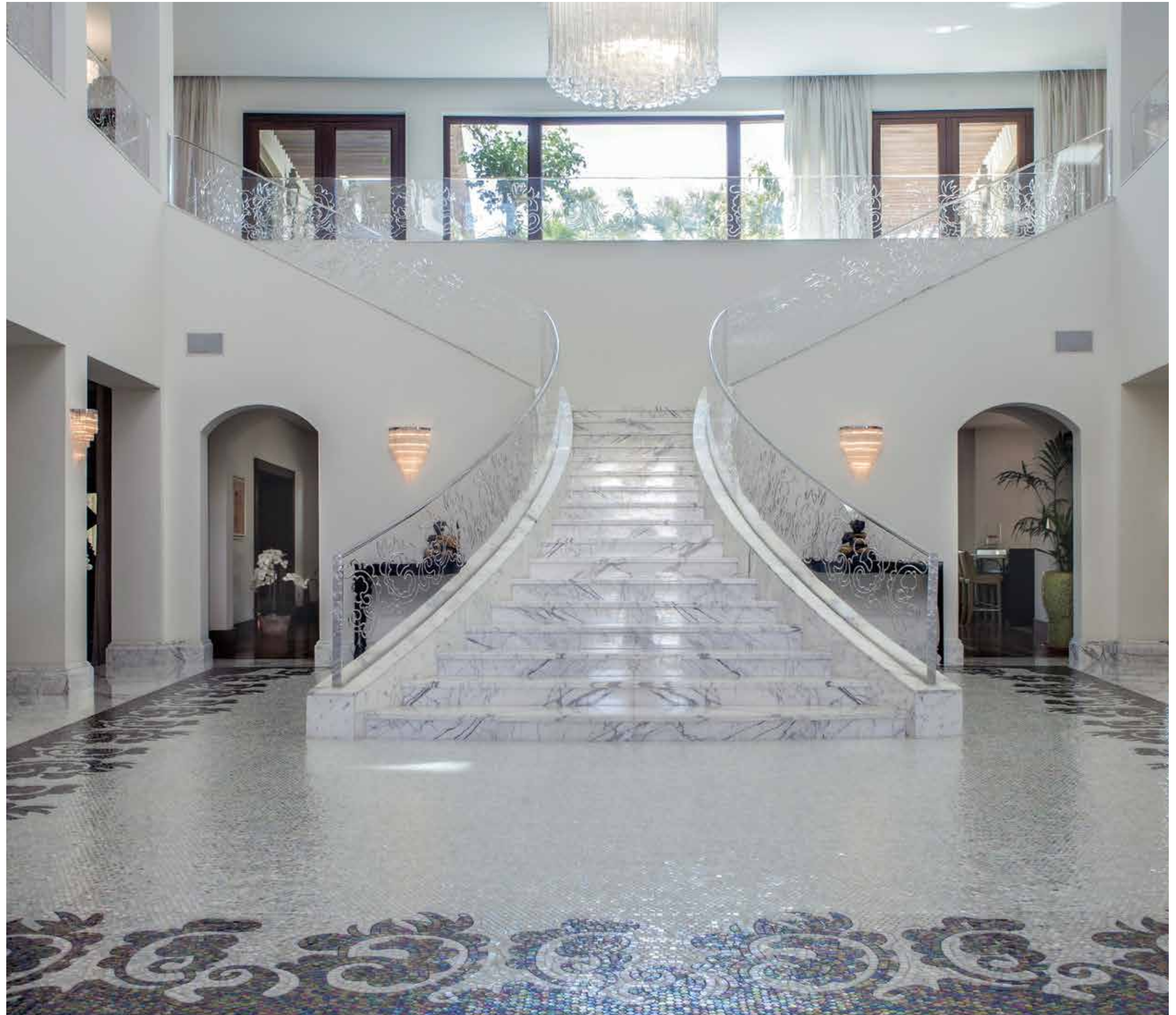
New York-based writer lyna Bort Caruso has contributed to *The New York Times* and *Newsday*, among others.

## EMIRATES HILLS

DUBAI

The airy, symmetrical entrance hall to London Huis, an exquisite home facing a golf course in this prestigious community, features a cathedral ceiling and hand-cut mosaic floor made in Italy. So great were the attention to every detail and quality of the materials used in this house that the completion of its design and construction took five years.

**\$40,000,000** Property ID: **TKTK** | sothebysrealty.com  
Gulf Sotheby's International Realty  
Leigh Williamson +971 50 957 2575







## SOUTHAMPTON

NEW YORK

A cathedral entryway filled with natural light leads the way into this 15,000-square-foot house, where refined luxury reigns. Modern appointments and state-of-the-art amenities are to be found in the estate's every corner.

**\$39,500,000** Property ID: TQGCYN | sothebysrealty.com  
Sotheby's International Realty – South Hampton Brokerage  
Harald Grant +1 631 227 4913

## MONETA

VIRGINIA

Few properties possess as enchanting a waterfront as this luxurious estate on a peninsula in Smith Mountain Lake. Ornate yet light in feeling, this Mediterranean-style manor's circular entrance hall sets the tone for the home, which was built in 1968 and completely renovated in 1998, when the finest of materials were used throughout.

**\$5,950,000** Property ID: WBZTNY | sothebysrealty.com  
Frank Hardy Sotheby's International Realty  
Christian Vermast, Fran Bennett, Paul Maranger  
+1 877 960 9995



## WEST HARRISON

NEW YORK

This stunning Colonial-style residence underwent a custom redesign that fused its traditional architecture with renewed, sophisticated interiors. A formal chandelier and sleek finishes adorn the dramatic entrance, where the central staircase divides into two, making a wonderfully modernised classic statement.

**\$3,500,000** Property ID: GCXES9 | sothebysrealty.com  
Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty  
Michael Holmes +1 914 497 5997

## SEDALIA

COLORADO

Surrounded by 4,000 acres of open space, this impressive grand estate on picturesque green pastures offers panoramic views of the Rocky Mountain and Pikes Peak. Its grand foyer features towering stone walls, marble floors, stained-glass windows, cathedral ceilings and a double staircase.

**\$8,999,000** Property ID: 3ZZ7KM | sothebysrealty.com  
LIV Sotheby's International Realty  
Deborah Syke +1 303 324 1967

