

## LUXURY LIVING

# Hardwood flooring is fundamental to design

Distinctive patterns or patina add to a room's presence and personality

By Gretchen A. Peck

To encapsulate a home's interior design requires a vocabulary to describe fixtures and finishes, millwork and moldings, color palettes, fabrics, wallcoverings, surfaces and more. Flooring, too, is both an architectural and design decision. Hand-crafted tile, stone or slate, or materials like sustainable bamboo contribute to a room's design aesthetic, and that's the case for hardwood flooring, too, especially when it's distinguished by age, character and pattern.

The Georgian colonial stone manor at 398 Stanwich Road in mid-country Greenwich has gleaming hardwood flooring throughout much of the nearly 9,000-square-foot interiors. The gated home debuted on the 2-acre lot in 2003, with a long list of exquisite design details—custom millwork, paneled walls, built-ins, coffered ceilings, and a heart-of-the-house kitchen designed by Christopher Peacock.

There is no mistaken the home's elegance; it's immediately apparent upon stepping into the double-height entry foyer, with radiant herringbone hardwoods.

"The intricate herringbone flooring at 398 Stanwich graciously welcomes guests into the expansive foyer and adds yet another elegant detail to the classic Georgian architecture," according to Jeff Marvin, a Realtor with Houlihan Lawrence who is representing the seller of the \$3.495 million property.

## Preserved historic hardwoods

Barbara Stephens, a Realtor with Sotheby's International Realty's Greenwich office is the



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**40 Buckfield Lane is a three-bedroom, 3,376-square-foot ranch, with a pool, spa and custom, heated, three-car garage — on 4.61 acres. The interiors are replete with architectural and design details, including wood-burning fireplaces, cathedral ceilings, contemporary chef's kitchen and parquet flooring in the entry foyer. The property is listed by Sotheby's International Realty for \$1.6 million.**

listing agent for 659 River Road, a farmhouse-style colonial she describes as "a chic marriage of modern and country." The 1.11-acre, \$2.395 million property is part of the River Road Association.

"The original house dates back to 1810, and these pine floors are original," Stephens explained, when asked about the character-rich wide-plank flooring found among the first-level floor plan.

The house has been expanded and renovated over the years. Today, it boasts 5,485 square feet of living space with indoor-to-outdoor entertaining spaces worthy of extra-special occasions. There are five bedrooms, including an in-law suite tucked away in a private

wing.

## French flourish endures

One of the first things you notice as you step into the foyer at 40 Buckfield Lane is the home's beautifully finished hardwood floors. A parquet pattern is laid out in the foyer itself—a design statement piece.

Parquet flooring first became vogue in 17<sup>th</sup> Century France. Artisans carved intricate designs into small pieces of wood, precisely placing them into patterns, creating stunning mosaics.

At 40 Buckfield Lane, the parquet foyer is a classic geometric pattern. Patte Nusbau— a Realtor with the Greenwich office of Sotheby's—is the listing agent for 40 Buckfield

Lane, listed for \$1.6 million.

"The house at 40 Buckfield Lane is a mid-century ranch that nestles into the 4.6 park-like acres, with a pool and spa," Nusbau explained. "The house offers breathtaking gardens, specimen trees, rolling lawns, and fine living inspired by sunny south-facing views."

The ranch debuted here in 1952, but it has been smartly updated in recent years. For example, the chef's kitchen is designed with sleek, contemporary style, with naturally-finished wood cabinetry with under-cabinet lighting, granite surfaces and high-end appliances, including two Sub-Zero refrigerators. The interiors afford 3,376 square feet of living space, with a spacious living

room—appended with a wood-burning fireplace and built-in bookcases—and a formal dining room. There's also a family room in the lower level; it, too, has a fireplace. The home has three bedrooms, including a master suite with an en-suite bath and two walk-in closets.

Nusbau describes the floor plan as "ideal for weekend entertaining."

"The entry hall, with parquet floor, welcomes you to a home that does not take itself seriously. The parquet pattern introduces you to the idea that this home is a mix of patterns and textures. Parquet, hardwood and brick flooring exist comfortably, lending itself to a casual feel to the house and its inhabitants," Nusbau said.