

ONE VIA VANDYKE

• MILL VALLEY •

Features, Appointments and Systems

ARCHITECTURE

One Via Vandyke is a Craftsman (Arts and Crafts) theme home with Asian influence. Impacted greatly by the later works of Frank Lloyd Wright and Green and Green, the architectural design is dramatic and elegant yet unpretentious, warm and comfortable. Typical of Craftsman period homes, One Via Vandyke has dozens of exposed rafter tails, each covered in a hand-made copper cap, dark shingled exterior walls trimmed with forest green paint and period lighting throughout. The ceiling in the living room is about 32 feet high. The roofs, gutters and downspouts on all three buildings are copper. Every room in the house offers a view, some among the best views in Marin County. Even the master suite shower includes double casement windows opening to the San Francisco skyline. The arts and crafts design theme is carried throughout every room and space, interior and exterior.

LOCATION

Via Vandyke is a private, gated roadway where four homes are built. One Via Vandyke is at the top of the roadway with an unobstructed view. The property sits alone at the top of the Blithedale Ridge, Mt. Tamalpais' only ridge directly facing San Francisco. The views range from the northern East Bay towns south through Berkeley (including the University of California campus), Emeryville, Oakland and south looking through the San Francisco – Oakland Bay Bridge. All of San Francisco is directly across the Bay, and Marin's Sausalito, Tiburon, Belvedere and Angel Island are all viewed from most rooms in the main house and cottage. On the 4th of July, fireworks shows are often viewed from 3 to 5 different city venues at once.

The entire property is fenced keeping the deer out of the flower gardens and pets in. There is a doghouse in the upstairs of the garage accessed from the rear sidewalk and lockable dog doors into the main house.

Mill Valley's village center is a four-minute drive – 20 minute walk – away. The rear of the house opens directly onto tens of thousands of acres of open space and hiking trails. Highway 101 is 10 minutes away. All three buildings face south and receive all-day sun.

The property overlooks the Mill Valley Golf Course in the valley below and is nearby the Mill Valley Tennis Club.

GATE AND PRIVATE ROADWAY

Via Vandyke is a privately owned roadway. The owner of One Via Vandyke is the majority owner. The section approaching One Via Vandyke is used exclusively by residents and guests of that home. Outside the gate is a telephone call box from which each of the four homes can be called by visitors. The gate is then opened by pushing a button on any telephone in the house. The gate is powered by the One Via Vandyke property and its generator, so that it and the driveway lights always operate, even when occasional power outages occur. The roadway lights are automatically activated when the gate is opened or when a car drives across a roadway section where sensors are installed under the asphalt. The four homes on Via Vandyke share equally in the cost of maintaining Via Vandyke and its gate. The maintenance consists of a seal coat every two or three years, periodic cleaning roadside drains of sticks and debris and the care for the gate and the telephone call box.

GUEST PARKING

The garage holds four cars, including one on a lift that rises above another car, particularly ideal for a sports car. Outside the garage is a cobblestone auto court, and beyond that is a parking area that will accommodate about 8 cars. Via Vandyke continues to the north end of the One Via Vandyke property, and a City of Mill Valley-owned mesa is located there that is routinely used for additional guest parking. As many as 40 to 50 cars have been parked there in the past for special parties, and valets operate from the garage next to the auto court. The house can easily accommodate parties with 100 or more guests with all parking on site.

WINDOWS AND DOORS

Exterior windows and doors: All exterior windows and doors are genuine Honduras mahogany built for the house by a Connecticut wood shop using European window designs. Operable windows are push-out casements, and double casement windows have no center posts in order to maximize views. The sashes are unusually thick and very heavy.

The locks are all German GU sliding cam hardware controlled by locking mechanisms at the vertical edge of each window. The handles are Italian Omni levers, and all hardware is finished in an oil rubbed bronze patina.

The house has 15 exterior doors (singles and doubles) to terraces, decks and the auto court. The formal dining room has a four-panel sliding door opening onto a terrace overlooking the view of the Bay and San Francisco skyline.

Interior windows and doors: The interior doors are also solid Honduras mahogany and were made by the Connecticut craftsmen shop. The flat panels on the doors in the third floor

master suite are built of Anegre, an African hardwood that is described elsewhere in this report. The Anegre matches the cabinet doors in this suite of rooms.

There are interior windows looking from the third floor sitting room to the living room below, two of which are operable casements. The master closets incorporate mahogany sliding doors with a “milk glass” to allow light to pass but obstruct views into the closets.

The master bath has four cabinets with flat and custom-made curved glass windows and silk screens inside. These were built for the house by the master cabinet maker who built all the property’s cabinets, trim, paneling and much of its free-standing furniture, Steinbach Cabinet Shop in San Rafael.

The guest cottage interior and exterior doors are Honduras mahogany matching the main house. Every interior door in both the main house and guest cottage are built in a matching Craftsman design.

HARDWOODS

Honduras mahogany: Genuine Honduras mahogany (“Swietenia macrophylla”) is used throughout the house. All paneling, windows, doors, trim, casing and cabinets are built from this same block of Honduras mahogany, the world’s highest and most costly grade. All was ordered from a grower in Brazil and delivered as rough timbers. Then it went to a San Francisco mill shop to be cut and finally to the cabinet maker.

Bubinga: Main panels of dining room table (“Guibourtia demeusei”). Chiefly from Cameroon and Gabon. The wood is medium red-brown with lighter red to purple veining. It is dense, hard and very heavy, taking a fine finish.

Wenge: Narrow dark band around formal and family dining tables (“Milletia laurentii”) Very hard wood. Called “Panga-Panga” in its native East Africa. Heartwood dark brown to almost black with alternate layers of light and dark forming a decorative figure.

Macassar: Used for knobs on the buffet and feet on the small table in the bay window. A variety of ebony. Macassar grows on the Celebes Islands. The heartwood is dark brown to black, streaked with bands of grayish- or yellow-brown. Very hard and durable.

Anegre: Used for inner panels in all third floor (master suite) cabinets and doors (“Aningeria superba” or “Aningeria Altissima”). A tall tree commonly found on the Ivory Coast and Ghana. Medium weight hardwood characterized by a creamy-tan coloring. An even textured wood, Anegre is especially known for its “iridescent” wavy grain.

Padauk (also Padouk): Used for legs and trim around edge of the small table in the bay window. A tropical tree (“Pterocarpus indicus”) native to Southeast Asia having reddish wood with a mottled black grain.

Maple burl: Main material used on the top of the small table in the bay window. The tree from which the veneer was cut is old and heavily discolored, which intensifies the color variation and often the beauty of the burl.

Brazilian cherry: Flooring on main level of house and the inserts on all stair treads.

Teak: Trim around all stair treads and the stair structure from entry foyer to second floor.

Birdseye maple: Main surface of the table in the family (informal) dining room plus the slats on chair backs. The dark wood on these chairs and the dining table is Honduras mahogany.

STONE

MARBLE:

Entry foyer: “Breccia Oniciata” from Italy. Cut from large, individual slabs. Center is “bookended” and polished both sides to create symmetric “marble eye” pattern.

Master bath: “Giallo Riale” from Italy. Shower and tub are made from full slabs. Floor is 12” square “tiles.” Even the shower ceiling is made from a slab.

Guest bathroom, second floor: “Giallo Riale” from Italy. Built of 12” square “tiles.” Vanity top, bath surround and dressing table top are cut from slab.

Guest bath, living room wet bar, fireplace: “Breche Vendom” from France. All cut from individual slabs.

GRANITE:

East bedrooms, first floor: Green variegated granite from New Zealand.

Kitchen: “Vihara” from India with mahogany colored veining.

SLATE:

All slate (indoor: cottage counter tops and floor; outdoors: terraces and decks) is “China Lotus.” All pieces are 18” X 18”.

ITALIAN PLASTER FINISHES

Third floor master suite and second floor guest bedroom: “Gracello”

Kitchen, pantry and breakfast room: “Rasatura” which consists of a “Marmarino” under coat and several upper coats of Gracello to smooth the finish.

Hallway and ceiling of formal dining room: Rasatura

Guest bath on second floor: Gracello

Guest bedroom / bath on second floor: Gracello

Cottage: Marmarino

ELEVATOR

The house is equipped with a three-story elevator. Its interior is trimmed in hardwoods and moss green ultra-suade with a Brazilian cherry floor. The elevator is controlled by equipment installed in a utility closet behind the laundry room. This is a hydraulic elevator with a long wall-mounted piston that pulls a steel cable that, in turn, lifts the elevator car. Call buttons are located at each floor and a telephone is installed inside. The ceiling of the elevator is glass, and the sky can be seen three stories up at the top of the elevator shaft.

WINE CELLAR

A wine cellar is located behind the Koi pond at the rear of the entry foyer. The room also provides access to the Koi pond pump room and the electronics for the home’s music system. The room currently houses about 150 bottles (laid down), but it could easily be modified to accommodate a much larger collection.

SWIMMING POOL AND SPA

Swimming Pool: The pool was built as a sport pool with its maximum depth at the center under the spa. It is equipped with an electric pool cover that is rolled into a below-deck housing when the pool is in use. The pool cover is opened using an electric switch located on the stone wall at the top of the stairs from the main house to the upper terrace.

Swimming pool controls and equipment: The pool and spa temperatures and the pool sweep can be programmed both for temperature and the times that they operate each day. The pool cover is very effective at heating the pool radiantly (the property gets all-day sun most days) and, for about four months of the year, the temperature stays in the mid-80s

without the use of the pool heater. The pool heater and filter equipment are located behind the cottage and are operated from controls in the wet bar area inside the double doors at the rear of the main house.

Pool Waterfall: The waterfall operates with its own piping system. Because it is located opposite the spa, it appears that water is draining from the spa into the waterfall. This would not be acceptable given that the spa operates with hot water, and recycling it with pool temperature water would promptly cool it. Underground pipes run from the waterfall, under the upper terrace, past the south side of the cottage to the pool pump equipment. Water is re-circulated from the pool to the waterfall where it spills back into the pool again.

The waterfall is controlled by a switch on the pool control pad located in the wet bar in the main house. All of the pool controls can be overridden at the electrical panel on the pool pump equipment on the east side of the cottage.

HIDDEN TELEVISIONS

Television sets are generally hidden at One Via Vandyke. They are located inside mahogany cabinets in: First-floor: recreation room; Second-floor: den and kitchen; Third-Floor: master suite's sitting room, bedroom and bathroom; Guest Cottage: bedroom.

LIGHTING

The interior lighting was designed to eliminate the need for lamps in all rooms other than bedside tables. Low-voltage lights are installed in most locations that provide plentiful light while protecting the extraordinary views at night. Low-voltage transformers are located throughout the main house and cottage.

The hanging and wall-mounted light fixtures are Arts and Crafts designs. The hanging lights on second floor are custom glass and sand-cast bronze fixtures made by artists in Humboldt County. Each delivers light both up to the plaster ceilings and down to the floor.

The auto court and main entrance to One Via Vandyke are surrounded by lighting that turns on automatically whenever a car exits the garage or drives into or out of the auto court area.

WATER SYSTEM

High Efficiency Water Heater: The unit is installed in the west furnace room accessed by a mahogany door at the far west end of the house near the garage.

Cottage water heater: A conventional tank water heater is located beneath the cottage and is accessed from the stairs on the north side of the cottage.

Delivery pumps: Two high-performance pumps are installed in a cabinet located outside of the gate at the bottom of Via Vandyke. These units pump water up to the water tank that is located on the hill above the main house.

Water tank: The 3,000 gallon water tank stores water that is pumped to it from outside of the driveway gate. Next to the water tank are two high-performance boost pumps that pump water back down to the house and the cottage as needed. Water for the landscaping system is also provided here.

Fire sprinkler system: The main house, guest cottage and garage (both levels) are all equipped with fire sprinklers. The sprinkler service pipes are accessed from the utility room near the generator at the east end of the first floor of the main house.

HEATING SYSTEMS

Furnaces: There are three forced-air gas furnaces in the main house and one in the guest cottage. The main house furnaces are:

East furnace room (two furnaces): The east furnace room is located at the northeast corner of the first floor and is accessed by a removable panel in the back of the hall closet next to the round (east) bedroom and from an access door in the wine cellar.

West furnace room (one furnace with split zone control): The west furnace room is located at the northwest side of the first floor behind the recreation room and laundry room. The room is accessed from an exterior door at the west end of the house.

Thermostats: Located in various locations throughout the main house. Because these are force air systems, air conditioning could be added if desired.

Cottage furnace: The furnace is located beneath the cottage in a room accessed through a door at the bottom of the exterior stairs at the north side of the cottage. The thermostat is located on the living room wall next to the door into the bedroom.

Master Bathroom Marble Floor Heating: The master bathroom is equipped with radiant heating coils under the marble. It is controlled by devices in the hall cabinet just outside the bathroom. The system is currently set to turn on every morning around 6:30 AM and off again at around 8:30 AM.

APPLIANCES

All appliances (except the cook top) are GE Monogram, General Electric's high end residential line.

Range / cook top: 2 total. Large Viking gas cook-top located in main house kitchen and small gas unit located in guest cottage.

Ovens: 2 total. Located in kitchen of main house.

Refrigerators: 5 total. Located in the main house kitchen (2 full-size), first floor recreation room, second floor wet bar and guest cottage.

Freezers: 2 located in kitchen of main house.

Ice Makers: 3 total. Located in the main house kitchen (1 in each freezer) and a large party ice-maker in guest cottage.

Microwave ovens: 4 total. Located in the main house kitchen (2), first floor recreation room and guest cottage.

Dishwashers: 3 total. Located in the main house kitchen (2) and guest cottage.

Garbage disposers: 3 total. Located in the main house kitchen (2) and guest cottage.

Trash compactor: 1 in kitchen of main house.

Washer / Fryer: 1 set located in laundry room of main house.

INSTANT HOT WATER DISPENSERS

Kitchen (main house): In the island

Third floor sitting room: At the "tea bar" on a cabinet in the sitting room.

Cottage: At the kitchen sink

INDOOR KOI POND

An indoor Koi pond is located in the entry foyer of the main house. It is presently home to seven large Japanese Koi fish. A marble water wall runs constantly behind the pond aerating the water and creating a very dramatic main entrance to the home.

Dimensions: 11'6" x 10' Average water depth: 17". Total volume: +/- 1,200 gallons. To calculate volume in gallons, multiply length x width x depth x 7.5.

Equipment: The filtration equipment closet for the Koi pond is located in the wine cellar behind the pond. The pump and filter run continuously. The filter should be "backwashed" periodically, typically once a month. This is done by turning off the pump, rotating two valves, letting the system drain for about five minutes, returning the valves to normal position and turning the pump back on again.

Water flow: Water (in user-controllable volumes) is pumped (1) to the stainless steel weir at the top of the marble wall where it is released and flows down the face of the wall and (2) across the bottom of the pond where an intake pipe collects the water for re-circulation. The water coming down the marble wall oxygenates the water for the fish, and the water moving across the bottom keeps the pond water clean. When the water level gets low, new water is easily added by opening a valve in the pump room (wine cellar) for several minutes.

Fish feeding: The Koi are fed every morning. They get one cup of dry food that is kept in the foyer closet. The fish require very little care, but experts are readily available if required.

ELECTRIC GENERATOR

The house is equipped with a 45 KW Generac electric power generator. Driven by a 6-cycliner automobile engine, it operates on the natural gas that is piped to the house for furnaces, water heaters and ovens. A transfer switch is installed in the utility room across from the generator, and it starts the generator within about 10 seconds after neighborhood power is lost. The main house and the cottage are operated by this generator. The ovens in the main house are excluded due to their large power consumption requirements.

MASTER STEAM SHOWER AND BATH SPA

The steam for the third floor shower is generated by a Rome' steam generator located in a cabinet in the nearby toilet room. The master bath spa tub (surrounded by Italian marble) is made by Ultra Plus.

LUCENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM

The house and cottage are equipped with a Lucent office telephone system. Extensions and outlets are located throughout the main house and in the cottage. The control panel for this equipment is in a cabinet in the laundry room. Additional phone sets, both wired and wireless, are available at Synectics in Sacramento.

DSL INTERNET

High-speed internet access is installed throughout the main house and cottage. Wireless systems are installed in the second floor guest room and another wireless router is installed under the guest cottage for use in the cottage and poolside.

LUTRON LIGHTING SYSTEM

The main house is equipped with a Lutron “HomeWorks” lighting system. The computer that controls the system is in the closet behind the laundry room next to the Internet and elevator gear. Lights in most areas can be (and have been) programmed to go on or off in groups and in varying brightness levels. The system has been programmed to turn on all exterior lighting on all sides of the property with a single switch.

STEREO MUSIC SYSTEM

A very sophisticated music system is installed in the property. Its amplifiers, pre-amplifiers, FM radio tuners and computer are all located in a wall cabinet in the wine cellar. The controlling equipment is located next to the wet bar on second floor along with 7 CD players and a television tuner.

The system is capable of concurrently playing seven or more discrete music sources simultaneously throughout the main house, the guest cottage, poolside and the exterior terraces. Most are controlled from wall panels located in rooms throughout the house and cottage. The den and the outdoor areas are controlled by wireless remote control devices.

The system also drives a large flat panel plasma television set that is installed above the fireplace mantle in the den on the east side of the second floor.

The music system is 12 years old and needs a thorough tune-up. As is typical of all electronics these days, newer designs are constantly being released and it may be time to consider upgrading some of the gear. The thousands of feet of Category 5 cabling that run throughout the main house can be used with other music systems.

MUSEUM RAIL

Several of the mahogany walls in the main house living room are equipped with museum rail that allows for paintings and other art to be hung without drilling holes or driving nails or screws in the mahogany paneling.

WALL SAFE

A fireproof safe is installed behind a hidden movable wall panel in one of the rooms. It uses an electrical access code that allows it to be opened in seconds.

ELECTRIC SCREENS

Hidden, electrically-driven screens are installed in the operable casement windows in the family dining room and in the kitchen.

An electrically operated roll-up sun screen is installed on the exterior of the south-facing desk in the sitting room of the third floor master suite. In the winter, the sun crosses lower on the horizon making this desk quite bright. This screen rolls up to allow a view over San Francisco Bay but blocks most of the sun's rays. The device is switched from below the desk.

EXTERIOR RAILINGS AND PAINT

All exterior railings are Honduras mahogany. They are finished with a German product called Sikkens Cetol Marine Gloss that has proved to be quite good for maintaining the appearance of the exterior rails, windows and doors.

The exterior shingles are stained with a Cabot Pro solid color acrylic stain, and the window trim is painted with a Benjamin Moore forest green exterior paint. Specs for all paints and stains are available.

ALARM SYSTEM

The house is equipped with interior motion detectors and window and door sensors in most locations. The guest cottage acts independently but uses the same master system. The alarm company is Mill Valley-based Redwood Security. The system is fully programmable to meet users' needs.

CONSTRUCTION PLANS

A complete set of construction plans is available for review.

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