

Marienfeld Estate

Marienfeld (which means Marie's field or farm in German) is a European style residence screened from view by some 30 acres (more or less) of lush woods and pastures. It includes a detached four-car garage topped by a two-bedroom apartment, a 20 x 40 heated Roman pool with a large spa (by Blue Haven), a Medieval-style herb garden under the Grape Arbor, and low-maintenance perennial landscaping. The house is handicapped accessible throughout, with a wheelchair ramp integrated into the retaining wall by the library door. The elevator (by Thyssen-Krupp, with service available from Tyler or Dallas), will be disabled during showing, as will the security system and the controlled access to the main gate on County Road 4805 (the gate will be left in the open position for showing).

The main house, Die Pilgeruhe (which means the Pilgrim's Rest in German) is aligned with the compass so that the rear Observation Deck faces due South, taking full advantage of the location for an Astronomical Telescope. In addition, the roof is latitudinally pitched to maximize efficiency of the solar assisted radiant heat and hot water system (by Radiantech). The ^{twelve}~~ten~~ solar panels on the roof of the main house and two solar panels on the garage apartment not only provide year-round hot water and heat in the winter, they reduce the heat load on the structures in the summer, so that the summer electric bill for the two structures is between \$300-\$400/month for 1581 square feet in the detached garage combined with 6500-7000 square feet in the main house. There is plenty of room on the roof for the installation of additional Piezo-electric solar panels, in order to reduce the ecological footprint of the estate even further.

The square footage of the main house varies depending on the method of calculation because the third floor rooms are dormered. In addition, the second floor Den is open to the Living Room below on the south side, providing a lovely view through the Palladian-style windows. Antique stained glass panels from Indonesia and contemporary stained glass half-rounds grace many of the windows, lending the names to the various bedrooms. The pocket double doors, which allow the Living Room, Dining Room and Library to be opened into a single space for entertaining, are set with stained glass panels manufactured by a local artist to match the antique grapevine design on the Palladian window that is the focal point of the two-story Living Room.

There are wood-burning fireplaces in the Dining Room and Library, and gas-log fireplaces in the Master and Butterfly Bedrooms. The structure

is Oxford Red Brick, with Texas Limestone facing the stairway tower and the true quoin-work at the corners. Die Pilgeruhe is topped by a copper weather vane featuring a cat trying to catch mice, which occupy the cardinal points of the compass. The weather vane is linked to the lightning rod and copper grounding cable system, which has provided great peace of mind during the thunderstorms for which Texas is justly famous.

This brick residence was built by Sam Morris, with expert advice from his father, Huelan, who came out of retirement to work on the project. It was designed by John Fredrickson, of Midlothian, Virginia; to the specifications of the owner, Mrs. Walter Sanders. The structure includes many safety features, such as Hurricane clips reinforcing the roof, as well as luxury features such as a bidet and whirlpool tub in the Master Bath.