

A Silicon Valley House With Old-World Charm

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Location: Atherton, CA **Price:** \$16,500,000

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Leela Ghaffari spent eight months looking for a house in Atherton, Calif., before finding this European-inspired home with modern touches. 'I had specific criteria. I wanted a very private home but outdoors-centered,' she says.

'I walked into this house on a Tuesday and we had a signed contract the next day,' says Dr. Ghaffari, a dentist and assistant professor of dentistry.

Dr. Ghaffari and her husband paid \$14 million for the home in 2014, according to public records. The kitchen with its coffered ceiling, limestone-and-hardwood floor and ample counter space is among her favorite rooms.

'It's such a combination of old and new. It has the charm and the stately quality of English homes,' says Dr. Ghaffari, adding that the house reminded her of Downton Abbey.

The house is made for entertaining, says Dr. Ghaffari. In addition to the formal dining room there is outdoor seating and an outdoor sound system.

The paneled office overlooks the front garden. Originally Dr. Ghaffari designed it to look like a cigar room. There is also a billiard room.

The wine tasting room has stone walls and a vaulted ceiling. The stones were imported from Jerusalem, says Dr. Ghaffari.

The wine cellar holds more than 2,000 bottles.

Dr. Ghaffari estimates that they have put more than \$500,000 into the home including updating the systems, painting and adding to the landscaping.

'When you close the gate it's totally hidden and understated from the street,' says Dr. Ghaffari.

The house sits on more than an acre and has a mature garden.

The home also has a four-car garage.

The couple are selling because they plan to downsize and spend more time in New York.

The home has 14,856 square feet spread out over the main house and the pool house. The master bedroom, shown here, has a fireplace.

There are seven bedrooms, nine full baths and two half baths. The master bath, shown here, overlooks the garden.

Dr. Ghaffari often used the saltwater pool and the Jacuzzi. She planted a vegetable garden with three kinds of basil, three kinds of mint, several kinds of peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers and tarragon. She lets some of the plants go to seed as it attracts the hummingbirds and bees. 'I always leave some fruits and vegetables for the natural environment,' she says, noting that she doesn't use pesticides.

The grounds include a waterfall and a lily pond with goldfish. She will miss the garden. 'The garden is in bloom year-round,' she says. She decorates a blue spruce tree in the garden for Christmas. 'I don't have the heart to cut a living tree,' she says.

The home has an asking price of \$16.5 million. Samira Amid-Hozour of Pacific Union International has the listing.