

ANNOTATED ROOM

A Staircase That Takes A Step Up

\$1 million project touts Jefferson Memorial marble

By KAREN BRUNO

A grand staircase in a 19th-century townhouse in Washington, D.C., was refurbished with a garden in mind—the one on the Georgetown property. The two-story stairway winds from a top-floor living room, to the garden floor, to a lower level. Baltimore-based interior designer Patrick Sutton brought the garden inside with wall textures and a mirrored ceiling that suggests a conservatory. The Federal-style brick house, once owned by a U.S. diplomat, is now occupied by a businessman. “This is a home where my client entertains international guests,” Mr. Sutton says, “so I wanted to create a stairway of substance, befitting the home’s location in our nation’s capitol and honoring the monuments of the city.” Total cost: \$994,770.

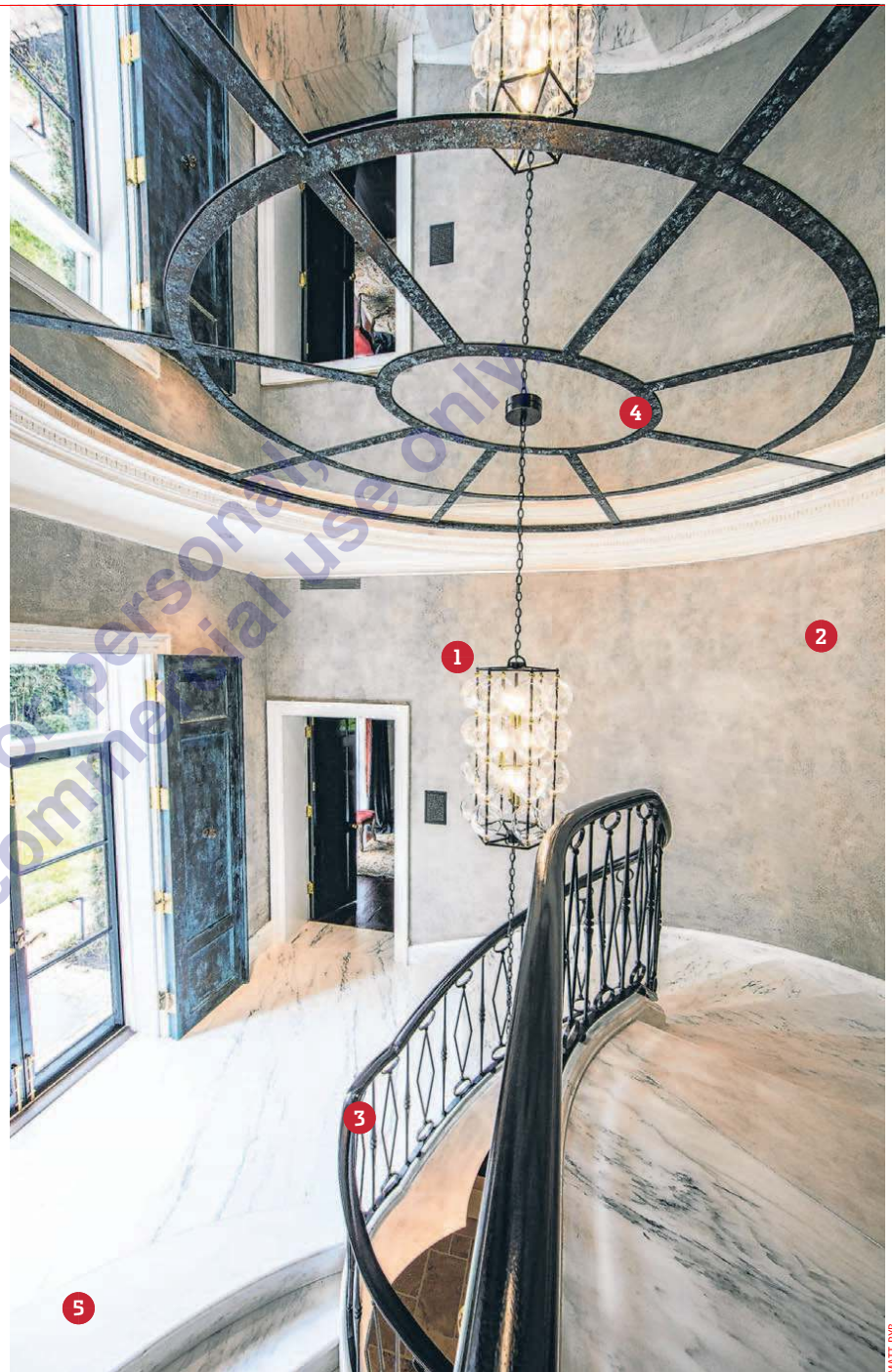
1. Two large chandeliers made of handblown glass globes and designed by Mr. Sutton are suspended vertically from the ceiling, illuminating the windowless space and providing focal points. The fixtures are Opera Prima chandeliers from the Los Angeles-based Bourgeoise Bohème Atelier. **Price:** \$9,000 each

2. The designer hinted at the garden by giving the surrounding walls a fresco-like treatment: three coats of gray plaster, topped with a layer of white wax. The treatment is by Artstar Custom Paintworks in Baltimore. **Price:** About \$22,770, including labor

3. A winding, hand-forged iron balustrade was custom-made and includes a diamond pattern designed by Mr. Sutton that recalls the owner’s horse-farm insignia. Mr. Sutton wanted the handrail to feel warm to the touch so he used stained walnut on top of the railing. The balustrade and handrail were made by Cardine Studios in Bealeton, Va. **Price:** \$136,000

4. The ceiling was relatively low so Mr. Sutton designed a mirrored, iron strapwork frame that was given a rustic, faux-bronze treatment—also by Cardine. “It gives the illusion that you are in a taller space,” he says. “And because you descend from a living room to the garden level, I wanted to allude to a conservatory.” **Price:** \$68,000, with installation by Pyramid Builders of Annapolis, Md.

5. The original wooden stairs were replaced by a reinforced steel structure and landings designed by Washington, D.C., architect Anthony Barnes. Each of the 27 stair treads and risers has slightly different dimensions. Each marble tread locks into the one below it for support, and the inside of the stair’s solid-marble stringer creates a self-supporting spiral arch braced at each end. Because the home is in the nation’s capital, Mr. Sutton and the owner chose Vermont Imperial Danby marble for the stairs. It is the same stone used for the exterior of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. **Price:** \$750,000, including structural work



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