



# CASTLE on the Hill

A celebrity home with mega-watt views.

By Carol K. Dumas

This estate boasts a Craftsman-style main house with window-laden living spaces oriented toward the Hudson Valley views.





One of Ward's styled seating areas in the light-filled great room.



DESIGNER LEIA WARD

When designer Leia Ward was hired to stage a celebrity's private home, she was mindful of not upstaging the main attraction: its panoramic views of the Hudson River Valley.

On the market currently, the secluded family estate consists of several buildings, including a five-bedroom main house, set on 22 acres. The property features, among countless amenities, a private gate, gym, wine cellar, tennis court, salt water swimming pool, vegetable garden, three guest houses, and garages.

"Our goal was to showcase all the amazing architectural details and features, especially the views," says Ward, founder and principal of LTW Design, a full-scale staging and design firm.

In this Craftsman-inspired residence, the builder incorporated Marvin Signature Collection windows and doors to bring in the stunning sights of the Hudson Highlands and Hudson River winding below the hilltop setting. This line is distinguished by its fine detailing, architectural precision, and number of possible configurations.

"We love using Marvin windows for our projects and coincidentally this project already had them," says Ward. "Panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows and French doors reveal the amazing setting and were instrumental in complementing our design."

LTW's signature style is characterized by clean lines and layered textures, an aesthetic that doesn't detract from the evolving aesthetics of changing seasons beyond the glazing. Foregoing treatments and leaving the Marvin French doors and windows unadorned, for example,

seamlessly melds the outdoor and interior spaces. Ward's neutral color palette complements the dark wood floors and beams throughout the home. Carefully selected accessories are kept to a minimum; sensuous textures liven up the serene shades of white, cream, and beige.

"We layered in lots and lots of textures such as linen, velvet, chunky wool rugs, and cashmere throws," Ward notes. "All of these layers create depth in a room and add to the buyers' experience as they walk through the interior."

The welcoming red front door opens into a grand two-story foyer that soars upwards to oak beams. Tall mirrors introduced by LTW accentuate the height. The foyer opens to an expansive great room described by Ward as an "entertainer's dream. It's perfect for large parties." Here, she created two sitting areas connected by a long, backless upholstered sofa. Light oak built-ins, sparsely accessorized, flank the fireplace. White linen sofas accented with cream, taupe and gray pillows, provide comfortable seating in both areas. A few contemporary style wood furniture pieces punch up the design. A wall of windows frames the dramatic view of rolling hills.

"Our team styled the pickled built-ins with black and white pieces that were strong enough to create stark contrast without stealing the show," Ward describes. "We kept the furniture low-profile so as not to distract from the views and created a clean and sophisticated aesthetic that was welcoming and inviting."

The formal dining room is casually furnished, with a modern grey oak table, white Belgian linen chairs, and custom built-in cabinets. A large vertical painting of a white horse pays homage to the property's location in scenic riding country.



Marvin windows line the distinctive tower room.



“In this project in particular, the windows were stunning, taking full advantage of the million-dollar views.”



**Opposite and Left:**  
Opting for neutrals and lots of texture in her furnishings, Ward let the natural setting (below) take center stage.

In the kitchen, Shaker-style cherry cabinets, a huge center island, and a charming stone fireplace invite not just cooking but lingering. More expansive floor-to-ceiling windows let in the light and the capture the wooded hills beyond.

While the five spacious bedrooms have grand views of the valley, the circular tower room accessed by a private staircase offers 360-degree views.

“Windows are key,” asserts Ward. “They play a huge role in design because they let in the light! Natural light is top on the list for buyers, so we always let in that light by removing window treatments. In this project in particular, the windows were stunning, taking full advantage of the million-dollar views,” notes the staging expert. “The scenery is gorgeous from every single room so we treated the landscape beyond as the focal point and everything else was secondary.” **NEL**

