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PHOTOGRAPHS BY ABBINHEI HOUSING

Luxuriate in a house fit for a king



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PROPERTY WRITER

It's been said that this grand Toorak house is modelled on a house in Kensington Palace Gardens, the most exclusive residential address in London.

While we can't verify where the inspiration came from, we do know that some of Melbourne's finest Italian craftsmen worked on it.

The said craftsmen did all the hard plastering and pre-cast moulding around the windows. And the pillars at the portico are solid, not lightweight foam encased in a layer of cement. The reception hall features 20mm thick flat white marble with black marble inserts that were polished on site.

The house, built about 10 years ago by the Arno Corporation, is now on the market for a second time and expected to sell for more than \$7 million.

The last house sold in this millionaires' row fetched \$11.75 million, making this one of Toorak's most exclusive real estate strips.

The entry to this masterpiece is from imposing double wrought iron gates to a front garden and flight of

steps up to the portico and shiny black double doors.

The marble-floored reception hall has a dramatic wrought-iron staircase with solid timber handrail that sweeps up to the first floor. It is lit by a domed ceiling. An alternative is the lift that travels from the five-car basement garage to the ground and first floors.

The house, which is well placed on the block, has well proportioned rooms with high ceilings and detailed cornices and mouldings.

On one side of the reception hall is the study and the large marble powder room. On the other is the sitting room, which opens to the dining room. Both have elaborately moulded mantelpieces. The informal living room is lit by north-facing windows, with more windows facing east.

At the other end of the living room is the kitchen with black marble benchtops, splashback and full-height glossy white cabinets.

French doors from the informal living area open to the paved terrace. Steps go from this terrace down to the formal French-style garden rimmed by box hedges and a row of flowering pear trees.

Back inside, the staircase arrives at a very generous landing. The master bedroom suite takes up one half of the entire floor. The bedroom's accompanying dressing room, lined with built-in, full-height cabinets, is larger

than the rooms of many suburban houses. It leads to an ensuite with a marble bath tub. There are three more white marble ensuites, one for each of the three bedrooms on the first floor. Juliet balconies on all the upstairs rooms add to the sumptuous atmosphere.

Even the laundry – with marble finishes and full-height cabinets – has a glamorous look, and being upstairs near the bedrooms means residents can avoid the inconvenience of taking the washing downstairs. [www](#)

At a glance

4 Irving Road, Toorak
BEDROOMS Four
BATHROOMS Four ensuites
LIVING AREAS Formal and informal
THE REST Grand grand proportions, marble reception hall, marble powder room, light-filled interiors, fireplaces, study, lift to all floors, marble-finished kitchen, entertaining terrace, formal French-style garden, multi-car underground garage, temperature controlled cellar, secure storage, elite address close to schools, shops and transport
PRICE \$7 million plus
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Closing October 13 at 5pm
AGENT Abercrombys, call 9864 5300