

ALFREDO GRUMSER FILHO

My wife and I live in an enchanting French Norman home, which one encounters only in France, surrounded by wonderful French gardens. No one believes that our home is just a few years old. The design, combined with sensitive and yet practical selection of materials, give it a timeless look. We adore our home and gardens. A hundred years from now it will retain its charm, just as the homes we visit in France.

Our home is perfectly wedded to our land. The house was designed with a series of gated courtyards and raised terraces, as a deer fence would have obstructed our views of the polo field, which borders our property. The main courtyard sets the stage for a great entrance. The gates keep the deer away and lend credence to the design of our home. Inside this sequestered area, we have beautiful gardens with abundant flowers and fruit trees, safe from the deer. Outside the courtyards and terraces lie the apple orchard and the great lawn with unobstructed views of the polo fields. The apple trees, over twenty five feet tall convey the feeling that they grew up around our home. In fact, it was the careful placement of the house and its terrace at the edge of these old trees which gives it the feeling of an old meticulously maintained home. There could not be a more ideal setting for our beautiful home.

One of Dinyar's many skills is seamlessly combining creative design with practical cost effective selection of materials and finishes. One such example is our assuming that we would use French limestone on the exterior of our home. To our surprise we were offered an option of using an ochre stone for about half the cost. On examining the two sample field panels, of limestone and the ochre stone, we could not tell the difference and so agreed to use the ochre stone. Not only is the cost of the stone appealing, the look is just as appealing, with the added bonus of it being more frost resistant than the limestone. Our house is beautiful to look at and is as solid and sturdy as any old home built during the early eighteen hundreds.

He was there every step of the way, listening closely to our ideas and dreams and making them take form. He was completely focused on our project and involved us with the design of the house, its cost and its completion. I always felt that I was in control of all three. His interest in providing us a beautiful home went far beyond a business arrangement. His work is his passion - and it shows. He interfaced with the engineers and all consultants, which saved me a great deal of time and cost. Just as important, is his being available to answer questions about routine maintenance, years after the work has been completed.

I feel a certain pride of ownership to live in this beautiful home. If we were ever to consider another home we would, without the slightest hesitation, have it designed by Wadia Associates.

Sincerely,



Alfredo Grumser Filho