

Linden House is the realization of a long held dream for an Italian-style house in America, where friends could join to share music and laughter. It was constructed between 2003 and 2007. Linden House contains a large sala for concerts, a formal living room, dining room, outdoor terraces for entertaining and four guest bedrooms. A private suite of rooms provides a kitchen, informal living area, library, master bedroom suite and office. Also included are an indoor pool, garages and service spaces.

The owner's intention was to create a place evocative of the great European villas inspired by Palladio, where music and art, good conversation, eating and drinking could blend and become the background for enjoyment and the creation of memories.

The design and construction of Linden House posed several unusual problems. From the outset, it was understood that it was not to be an ordinary house. Early designers of the project, John Saladino, Vicente Wolf and others, set forward bold propositions, but failed to finish their work. Midway through construction a new design team consisting of Bunny Williams and David Ellison inherited a reinforced concrete foundation already in the ground and a set of structural steel shop drawings upon which to base their final design work. Ultimately the new design team and the architect of record, Paul Muller, realized the final project.

The owner's requirement that the building have a European appearance and feel required a change of approach for many of the workmen and designers involved. From the architect of record's point of view, it was challenging to be drawing and specifying something that would have a traditional appearance while using modern construction techniques and practices. Applying finished plaster and stucco coats that weren't smooth and flat, and which had their color already blended into them, building an elliptical staircase of solid stone treads, and placing a three-foot-deep limestone cornice above a thirty-foot-high wall, each posed unusual challenges for trades people who had infrequently, if ever, been asked to build using such ancient methods or proportions.

The stone staircase was ultimately built between its landings, where each tread transfers its load into the next stone down. Its iron handrail anchors into the landings and spans between, merely supported by the individual treads. Since the house is not built of load-bearing masonry, each piece of stone in the upper cornice is supported on back-to-back stainless steel angle-irons acting as shelves which are then hidden by corbelled stone modillions. At every turn, the owner required the appearance of simplicity and a lack of over-done decoration and detail.

Classical proportions and vocabulary form a coherent architectural language.

Whether in a palatial villa or in an outlying service garage, the same principles of order, usefulness and beauty apply.

Simplicity of resolution in the precise details and observation of historical precedent strengthen the architectural concept and effect.

## LINDEN HOUSE

Design architect of the finished project: David H. Ellison, AIA  
Architect of Record: Muller Architects, Inc.

Interior Design: Bunny Williams, Inc.  
Landscape Architect: Cummin Associates  
Primary Contractor: Charles C. Brandt Construction Co.  
Conceptual Design: Saladino Group

### **KEY PRODUCTS, MATERIALS AND SUPPLIERS**

- Roof tiles were made by Ludowici in New Lexington, Ohio.
- Exterior windows and doors were made and finished by Zeluck, Inc., of New York.
- All of the interior doors were made and finished by Atelier Thierry Goux/RINCK of Lyon, France.
- The Bischoff Hardware was provided by and custom-finished in an oxidized nickel finish by E. R. Butler Co. of New York, misc. hardware provided by Kraft, of New York.
- Reclaimed hardwood beams over the kitchen and living area were salvaged from barns dismantled in Indiana and Ohio and fabricated into the new ceiling by Indiana Logcrafters, of Knightstown, Indiana
- The wrought iron stair railings and other interior railings were provided by Wiemann Ironworks, of Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- The wrought iron and glass front door was manufactured by Bavarian Ironworks, of Lansdale, Pennsylvania.
- Metal gates and railings were fabricated by Spohn Associates and Capitol City Ironworks, of Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Ceramic tile and stone flooring was provided by Natural Stone Specialist, of Carmel, Indiana and Ann Sacks of New York.
- Cork and wood flooring was provided by Albert Griffith & Sons, of Indianapolis.
- Elevator was supplied by Amco Elevators, Inc., of Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Ornamental Plaster Elements by Fischer and Jirouch Co., of Cleveland, Ohio
- Skylights were made by Linel, Inc., of Mooresville, Indiana
- Structural steel supplied by Geiger and Peters and Sanjo Steel of Indianapolis, Indiana
- Sheet metal and HVAC registers fabricated by Bright Sheet Metal, Inc., of Indianapolis.
- Cut Indiana Limestone fabricated by Indiana Limestone Fabricators, of Spencer, Indiana
- Cut Texas Limestone fabricated by Texas Quarries of Cedar Park, Texas.
- Cut Portland Limestone fabricated by Geoff Westland, of London, England

## KEY CONTRACTORS, SUB-CONTRACTORS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE

## Centaur Consulting – beginning phase of construction coordination

Charles C. Brandt – primary contractor and final phase of construction coordination

- Site work – Tramco, Inc., Indianapolis.
- Pavement – Globe Asphalt Paving Co., Indianapolis.
- Tennis Court Finishing – Leslie Coatings, Inc., Indianapolis.
- Concrete – Charles C. Brandt, Indianapolis.
- Waterproofing – Western Waterproofing Co., Inc., Indianapolis.
- Masonry – J. S. Hein Masonry, Indianapolis.
- Wood framing – Charles C. Brandt, Indianapolis.
- Insulation – Wolff's Insulation Service, Indianapolis.
- HVAC – Frank E. Irish, Inc., Indianapolis.
- Electric – Long Electric, Inc., Indianapolis.
- Audio and Video Systems – Digitech Custom Audio and Video, of Carmel, Indiana.
- Telephone – Clawsons Communications, Indianapolis.
- Plumbing, Air Conditioning, Heating and Ventilation – Frank E. Irish, Inc.
- Fire protection – Dalmatian Fire, Inc., Indianapolis.
- Pool plastering – AC Group, Inc., Indianapolis.
- Pool Cover - Automatic Pool Covers, Inc., of Fishers, Indiana.
- Pool fountains – A Custom Fountain by Dan, LLC., of Indianapolis.
- Roofing – R. Adams Roofing Co., Indianapolis.
- Sauna – Indianapolis Winnelson, Indianapolis.
- Plastering – Circle B Construction Systems, Indianapolis.
- Painting – Indy Craft Painting Corp., Indianapolis.
- Decorative painting – Rebecca Garland of Indianapolis.
- Tile and stone setting by SantaRossa Mosaic and Tile Co., Inc., of Indianapolis.
- Carpeting - Blakley's, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Glass and Mirrors - Carmel Glass and Mirror, Inc., and Fox Studios, Indianapolis.
- Cabinetry provided by Jurgen Associates, of Indianapolis, Indiana and Conceptual Kitchens and Millwork, of Carmel, Indiana
- Custom Woodwork and Millwork – Antreasian Design, Inc., and Marc Woodworking, Inc., Indianapolis.
- Interior Shutters – Fringe Interiors, Indianapolis.
- Landscaping installation, maintenance and coordination by Cheryl Atchley
- Household management and coordination by Karen Newton

## DESIGN COMPANY PROFILE

Design Architect: The D. H. Ellison Co., Cleveland, Ohio  
project team: David Ellison, AIA  
Mark Jackson, David Burnham

The D. H. Ellison Co. was founded in 1998 and is structured as a sole proprietorship. David H. Ellison, AIA, the owner, received his formal architectural training from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City and has studied at the Institute of Classical Architecture there.

Mr. Ellison engages in a limited number of projects each year to which focused attention is given. They are designed by simultaneously conceiving the details, interior space, exterior form and relationship to the land. In the case of additions and renovations, the intent is always to conserve the best qualities of a structure or place while satisfying an owner's new objectives.

The firm is a small, full service architectural practice and also offers core consultation services on questions of design, detail, style, proportion and scale to owners and other design professionals. Frequently, The D. H. Ellison Co. engages in collaborative efforts where specialized expertise is required. Such collaborative efforts make up a large part of the firm's work. Projects range from small consulting projects to full-scale architectural services for new construction, from broad planning to intricate detailing. Budgets for these projects vary from hundreds of dollars in construction costs to tens of millions of dollars. Mr. Ellison welcomes inquiries from prospective clients who seek exceptional quality of design and craftsmanship.

Recent projects include:

- completion of a large home in the manner and style of Palladio in Indianapolis
- a barn and stable restoration/adaptive reuse project which was recognized with an award to the owner by the AIA Cleveland Historic Resources Committee, and which included serving as the architect of record for a new 10,000 sq. ft. residence on the property in Hunting Valley, Ohio,
- interior architectural detailing of a 22,000 sq. ft. residence in Cleveland
- a commercial storefront renovation project that was recognized with an award for community revitalization by the Cleveland Restoration Society
- a master plan for a multi-space performing arts center and nationally recognized theater company
- extensive renovations to several condominium apartments in high-rise buildings
- several transformative additions to large and small houses

### **KEY DESIGN PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED WITH LINDEN HOUSE**

Conceptual & Schematic Design: Saladino Group Design Services, New York, New York  
project team: John Saladino

Design Architect: The D. H. Ellison Co., Cleveland, Ohio  
project team: David Ellison, AIA  
Mark Jackson, David Burnham

Architect of Record: Muller Architects, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio  
project team: Paul Muller  
Jamie Accurso, Adam Luginbill, Evonne Morales, Heather Wehby

Interior Decoration: Bunny Williams, Inc., New York, New York  
project team: Bunny Williams  
Jonathan Preece, Elizabeth Orenstein, Nancy Boszhardt, Judi Flatt

Additional interior design consultation: Marika Designs, Greenwood, Indiana  
project team: Marika Klemm

Landscape Architect: Cummin Associates, Inc., Stonington, Connecticut  
project team: Peter Cummin

Lighting Design: Grenald-Waldron Associates, Narberth, Pennsylvania  
project team: Ray Grenald  
Courtney Sarge

Mechanical and Electrical Engineering: F & G Engineers, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana  
project team: Phil Gardner  
Steve Olinger  
Jon Eakes

Structural Engineering: CE Solutions, Inc., Carmel, Indiana  
project team: Steve Osborn  
Carrie Walden

Surveyor: Woolpert, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana  
Jim Miller

One approaches Linden House from the south along a broad allee.

The house reaches out in two curving arcades to embrace its guests.

Formal gardens surround the building in a combination of lawns, parterres, reflecting pools, a terrace and boatdock overlooking the lake, a bocce ball court, swimming pool and tennis court.

The roof of the pool house forms a balustraded lawn from above.

The overall composition of Linden House includes a central volume with portico and arcaded wings to either side.

The massing is inspired by several of Palladio's villas.

The second floor of Linden House includes four guest bedroom suites overlooking the Sala.

Two more intimate and private guestrooms flank the front motorcourt and are accessible by their own stairways.

Rooftop skylights admit light into the rooms below.

Linden House is arranged around the Sala, the central room designed for large gatherings and concerts.

To the east, the owner's suite includes a kitchen and informal living areas with a bedroom suite and office.

To the west, an indoor pool, and billiards room join a spa and service areas.

In December of 2003, the designers were introduced to the project with a foundation in the ground and a set of structural steel shop drawings awaiting approval.

Over the following weeks, a newly defined floor plan and elevations emerged.

In the fall of 2007, the lawn and allee had been established and the house glowed on a sunny morning.

By February of 2007, Linden House was complete with a fresh layer of snow.

The Sala is hung with tapestries and set with Italian sofas.

The six pairs of 5' x 10' doors are made of european walnut and set into limestone frames.

A special plaster lines the vaulted ceiling to reduce the acoustical brightness of the room during concerts and large gatherings.

Curving arcades surround the front motorcourt and are filled with sunlight throughout the day.

Italian terra cotta tiles laid in a herring bone pattern cover the floor.

Custom windows and doors gently follow the curves, as do the air registers on the floor below them.

A wrought iron grille covers a return-air inlet above.

A vaulted plaster ceiling is hung with antique chandeliers.

Solid stone treads form the construction of the elliptical staircase.

A plain wrought iron railing ascends the spiral detailed with gently tapering spindles.

A careful job of laminated stone and decorative painting technique disguises the reinforced concrete landings, while not hiding them completely.

The kitchen and informal living areas are sheltered by a ceiling made of reclaimed oak beams.

A fireplace mantel inspired by the kitchen hearth at Palladio's Villa Pisani in Bagnolo is cut from English Portland limestone.

The floor is laid in a grid of hickory with infilled cork.

The French-made walnut doors occur in both limestone frames from Texas and a special imitation stone with the same coloring and texture made by the local plastering contractor.

The formal dining room is lined with fabric.

The ceiling is laid in a hexagonal pattern reminiscent of the one at the Palazzo Vecchio at Florence.

A French Art Deco chandelier hangs above a custom table made for twelve.

At the west end of the indoor pool, a Serliana divides the pool from a sun-filled seating area.

French doors open from the indoor pool onto a terrace overlooking the lake.

Special plain Ionic column capitals, retrieved out of the ornamental plastering company's uncatalogued storage, and with honeysuckle blossoms carved by the design architect, were used throughout the house, again recalling Palladio's own work.

The pool loggia, four steps above the indoor pool, is skylit from above and forms the link between the Sala and the Billiards Room.

The design of the wrought iron railings was inspired by one seen on a trip through Padova.

Conceived as an area for use during large events that would be more intimate and informal than the Sala, the loggia serves as a monumental entrance to the regenerative Spa.

The indoor pool, as viewed from the formal dining room, creates a reflection of the Serliana at its end.

Arches between the pool and loggia spill light from the skylights into the pool, while north-facing arched windows and doors open onto the terraces overlooking the lake.

The pool is lined with iridescent blue and green glass mosaic tiles, including a roman wave pattern design at the water level. At night the illumination of the pool is magical in its effect.

A special plaster was used to form the sail vaults and diminishes the acoustical brightness of the indoor pool.