

# AWAKENING THE SENSES AT WATER RUN

Story by ABBY LUBY



Long path is nod to ancient Rome with statues, two pavilions, mini amphitheater, stone grotto and water features.

## IN AN ARTIST'S WILDEST FANTASIES, SHE WOULD LIVE AT WATER RUN.

The aesthetically pleasing showplace and home appeals to everyone's inner artist seeking quiet contemplation that invites rich inspiration. The 15-plus acre Garrison property was conceived as an organic whole, seamlessly integrating a myriad of fanciful gardens outside to every space on the inside.

This bi-sectional 7,500 square-foot residence is steeped in architectural history. The older structure, built in 1975, is referred to as the white house and the newer structure, built in 1995, is

the red house. Both were built by renowned architect/designer, Paul Mayén (1916-2000) and his partner Edgar Kaufman Jr. (1910-1989).

Mayén is known for designing the visitor center pavilion at Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Waters, which Kaufman inherited from his parents before it was open to the public.

Water Run's meandering brooks, curling eddies, splashing waterfalls and fountains resonate in the rounded glass contours and surfaces bathed in translucent light. The white house was

designed expressly to showcase and celebrate art, envisioned as a multi three-dimensional canvas if you will, to highlight painting, sculpture, or other artifacts. A large rectangular central room anchors two, wide half-oval rooms: one side is purely an exhibit space, the other is less for display and more a library/study. The center living room has built-in couches; a small kitchen is separated by a partial wall and two small bedrooms shoulder each corner.

Subdued grays and off-whites are throughout.



Living room features walls of glass and Mayén's designed built-in furniture; floors are mid-century style, Carrara marble squares.



Water Run at dusk with pond in front.



Aerial view of 1995 guest house addition. Note cascading rooflines and unobscured courtyard.

Radiating tranquility are the soft, mildly reflective surfaces of lacquered tables, subliminal skylights, marble floors, glass doors and walls. Even the air seems lighter — one imagines floating effortlessly from inside to outside. There are no distractions in the living space; simple lines, unencumbered surfaces, walls without electric outlets — all create a lustrous, sleek harmony for a sense of balance and well-being.

Aqueous motion also guided Mayén when he later built the 83-foot glass walkway using stepped-down pointed archways that cascade between the white and red house. This seems a conceptual design shift for Mayén who again sought to simulate a moving rivulet redolent of Falling Waters. The brilliant crimson tiles regally leading one between the houses, extends into the red house living area, both over and inside the indoor pool and then outside to a small courtyard. Glass walls and doors draw the eye to the long dazzling passageway which mirrors the inlaid brick and stone pathways skirting the property's formal gardens.

Three gabled structures comprise the red house, an exterior configuration that seems a stark but stimulating contrast to the rounder white house. Inside, transparency continues with glass walls, windows and doors. Bedrooms upstairs are cozy with angled ceilings and large windows. Warmer hues in the kitchen and living space offer an easy, intimate comfort level.

That Water Run defines a multitude of life styles and appeals to all ages is an understatement. The enchanting grounds are a medley of walkways leading to stone pyramids, towers, sculptures, a water grotto, a waterfall — to name just a few destination points. One can imagine playing hide-and-seek behind stone walls, around the obelisk or inside one of the two classic Greco-Roman pavilions.

"For my very small grandchildren the gardens were a vast source of fantasy," says Water Run owner, Marilyn Dintenfass, an internationally known artist and gallery owner. "The children created games to hide under or around the pyramids and had many treasure hunts."

Dintenfass and her late husband and gallery owner John Driscoll purchased Water Run in 2003. "He had gardening in his heart at Water Run — the gardens gave him a lot of pleasure," Dintenfass says.

Water Run invites not only play and discovery but medita-



One of many stone planting walls and walking paths throughout the gardens; this one in the white oricka garden. Note bas relief sculpture.



Blue-spruce room features wall sculpture. Free standing circular lacquered tables that can be connected with leaf, a possible dining room or creative work space.



83 ft. free-form glass unclosed corridor connected original "racetrack" and new structure with guest house.

tion at such spots as the stairway to nowhere or the circular "blue-spruce room". Standing at the center of a circular stone wall you can hear your voice echoed or find a muse in the shadowy cave-like water grotto with boulders solidly balanced for eternity. Lending to the timeless quality are beautiful dry-laid stone walls of yesteryear, constructed without wet mortar, yielding the sinuous shapes and lines of nature.

Water Run undoubtedly can inspire those who crave inspiration for their own personal expression. For Dintenfass, her art was informed by how the house welcomed in nature. "In the most dramatic way, every place in the house connects to some beautiful aspect of the garden. It's very nourishing and very sustaining."

Water Run, 1 Webb Trail Garrison, NY \$3,745,000  
Listed with Ellis Sotheby's International Realty  
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www.ellissothebysrealty.com (and once there put Water Run into the quick search tab).

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