

The House That Banks Built – 3030 Chain Bridge Rd., NW



3030 CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD, NW
WASHINGTON DC

THE BANKS DEVELOPMENT CO.
DAVID JONES ARCHITECTS



Kent Connection area director Sarah Taylor and builder Michael Banks at Preview Party.

home of the month

By Sarah Taylor

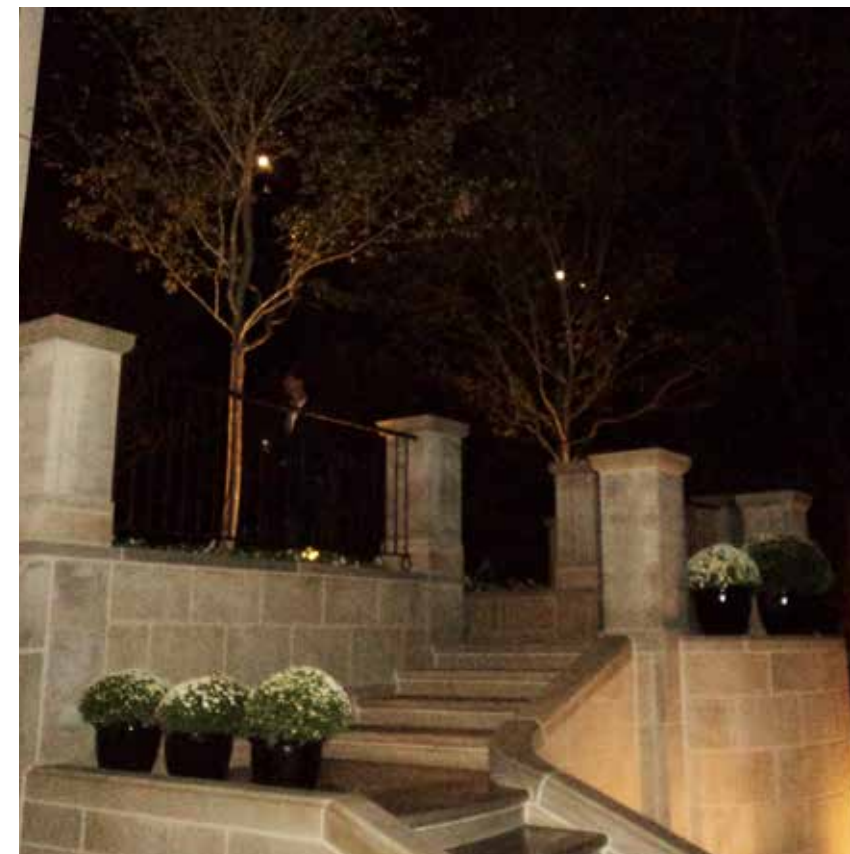
Many of you may remember 3030 Chain Bridge Rd. when it was the home of Peggy Cooper Cafritz before a fire destroyed it in 2009. As described by the *Washington Post*, “When fire gutted Cafritz’s house, it wasn’t just a woman losing her abode. A neighborhood lost its signature architectural landmark, styled like a summer manse with its gables, columns and big, welcoming porch.” Fortunately, a new “landmark house,” just recently completed by The Banks Development Co., now stands in its place.

This new house, designed by Wouter Boer of Jones Boer Architects, is in the Regency style and draws on early 18th century English precedents, such as the work of Sir John Nash. Its symmetrical stucco facades feature traditional mahogany windows by Trade-wood and finely detailed limestone porches, trim, and cornices. Landscaped gardens designed by Richard Arentz complement the classical proportions of the house. Interior rooms feature hand-carved stone mantels from England, custom wood millwork, antique wood floors and elegant details throughout.

Indeed this house was designed with an ambassador or statesman in mind, with generous entertaining spaces, a guest suite on the first floor for visiting dignitaries, a secure staff residence area on the lower level and a four-car garage. But what is truly amazing about this house is the incredible craftsmanship completed by old-world craftsmen who had never before worked together and most likely never will again. Two thousand pieces of structural limestone, which came from Indiana,



Kent residents Susan and Oak Strawbridge at Preview Party



Beautiful limestone



Exquisite brass railings



3030 Chain Bridge Rd. Preview Party



Exquisite brass hood over stove

were used – the same stone found in the Empire State Building and the Washington National Cathedral. Metal workers, who worked in the Cartier Mansion in Manhattan completed brass railings and other magnificent features, including the beautiful brass hood over the kitchen stove.

In late September, guests of the Fleisher Group and *Capitol File* magazine were treated to a sneak preview celebration of the house before it officially went on the market in October. Michael Banks, president of Banks Development Co. and third generation of Banks builders, was in attendance, proudly describing some of the house’s many attributes. Banks Development was formed with the goal of becoming one of the highest quality residential builders in the greater

Washington Metropolitan area, and 3030 Chain Bridge would certainly suggest that they have achieved this goal.

Built so solidly that it is sure to be here for the next 500 years, Banks Development Co. has created another “signature architectural landmark” within the neighborhood. And one that we can imagine, when our new Kent neighbors move in, will be as much of a “social salon” as the old Cafritz home once was.