

Iron Illustrated

Herndon & Merry, Inc.

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Saratoga Springs Showcase

Ron and Michele Riggi's 25,000-square-foot chateau in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is quite cozy for a family of 24: Ron, Michele and their 22 dogs.

Constructed about three years ago, the stunningly beautiful residence is a blend of French and Italian architectural styles. The extensive custom ironwork, found throughout the home on both the interior and exterior, was designed and produced by Herndon & Merry.

"I was looking through a magazine and saw Herndon & Merry's ad," says Michele. "I contacted them, and that was the start of a wonderful relationship. The Merry family has been delightful to work with. The initial design work was handled by Bill Merry, Sr. He would send me sketches by e-mail or fax, and then we would discuss how they needed to be tweaked to arrive at the final design. Using the computer, fax and phone, he and I worked out all the details."

Senior Designer Bill Merry, Sr. made an initial consultation visit, as is customary with all new Herndon & Merry customers, then the design process began.

Hand-forged, wrought-iron scrollwork and 23-carat hand-applied gold leaf create visual interest at every turn. Ironwork highlights include the unique fruit panels in the kitchen stair railing, the stately double stairway in the main entrance and the dogs' room with its "balconettes" and other puppy-friendly amenities.

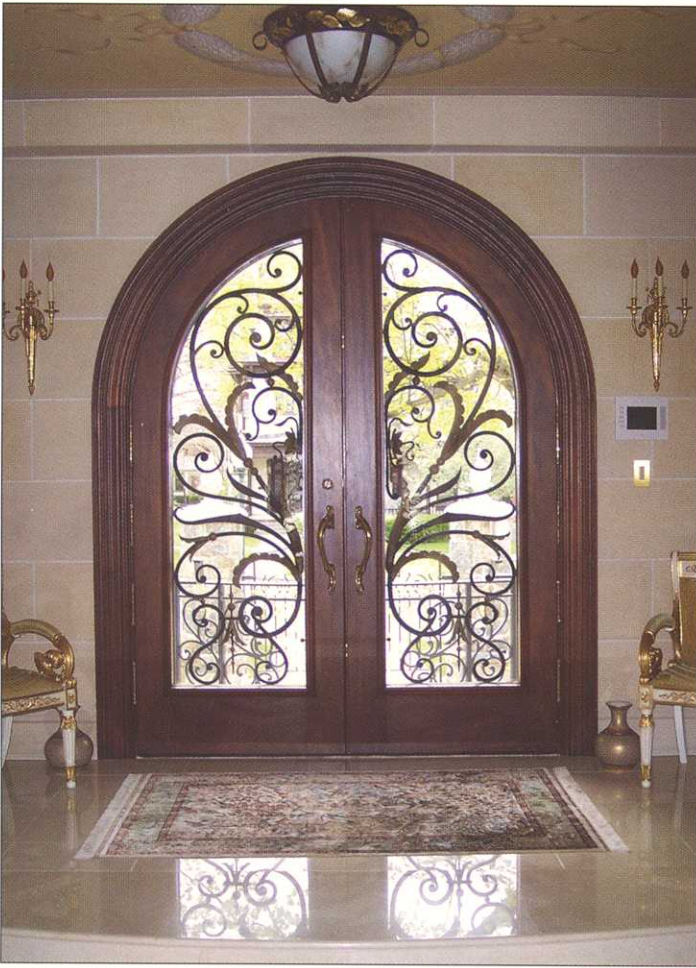
But, Michele says, she can't pick a favorite feature. "I love everything they've done," she says. "The ironwork makes each part of the house something special."



Truly one of the architectural jewels of upstate New York is the Riggi residence, the grandeur of which is complemented by extensive custom ironwork designed and handcrafted by Herndon & Merry.

Herndon & Merry, Inc., founded in 1959, is a designer of residential entrances and a designer and fabricator of custom architectural metalwork, including entrance gates, garden gates, stairways and railings. The company, winner of 34 national design awards, serves both residential and commercial customers, and is located at 7121 Cockrill Bend Blvd. in Nashville. **Garden Park Antiques**, a separate division at the same address, deals in decorative antique architectural elements, antique iron garden ornamentation, and original-design furniture crafted from salvaged ornamental ironwork and other architectural elements. It was established in 1987 by Keith Merry, son of Herndon & Merry co-founder Bill Merry, Sr.

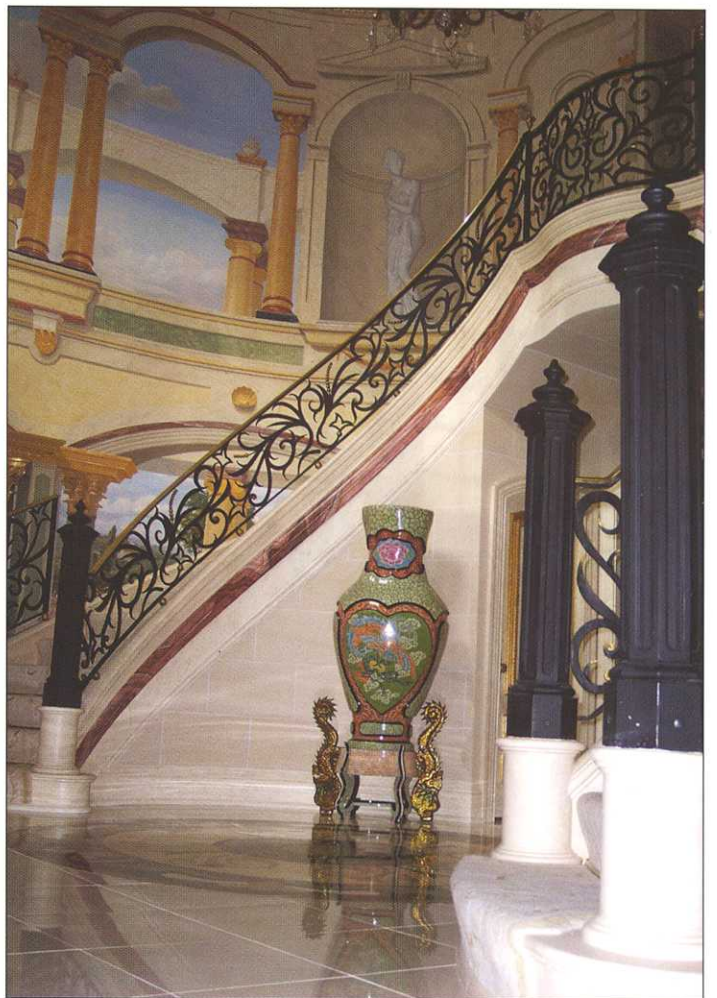
Inside and out...



The elaborate ironwork in the front door can be enjoyed from both sides, but is on the outside of the glass.



The motor courtyard gate makes its own welcoming statement with 23-carat gold leaf accents.

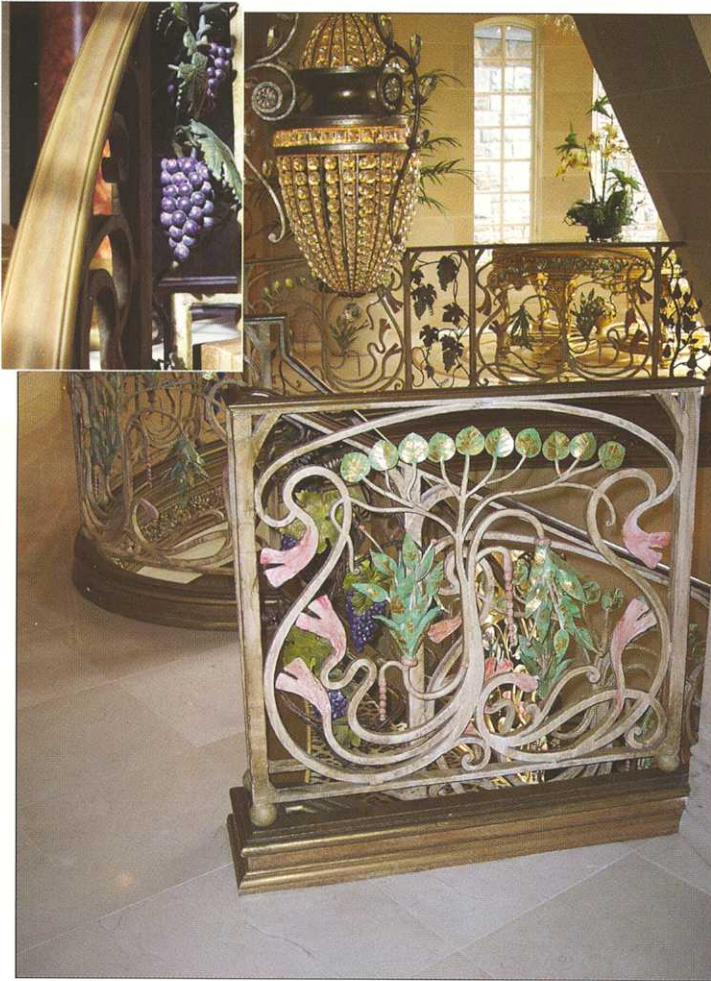


Grand entranceways don't get any grander than this; shown here is a portion of the sweeping double stairway, the railing of which Herndon & Merry topped with a polished, solid-bronze cap.



The property is surrounded by more than 600 feet of custom fencing from H&M, providing privacy while staying true architecturally to the period of the neighborhood.

...a classic example...

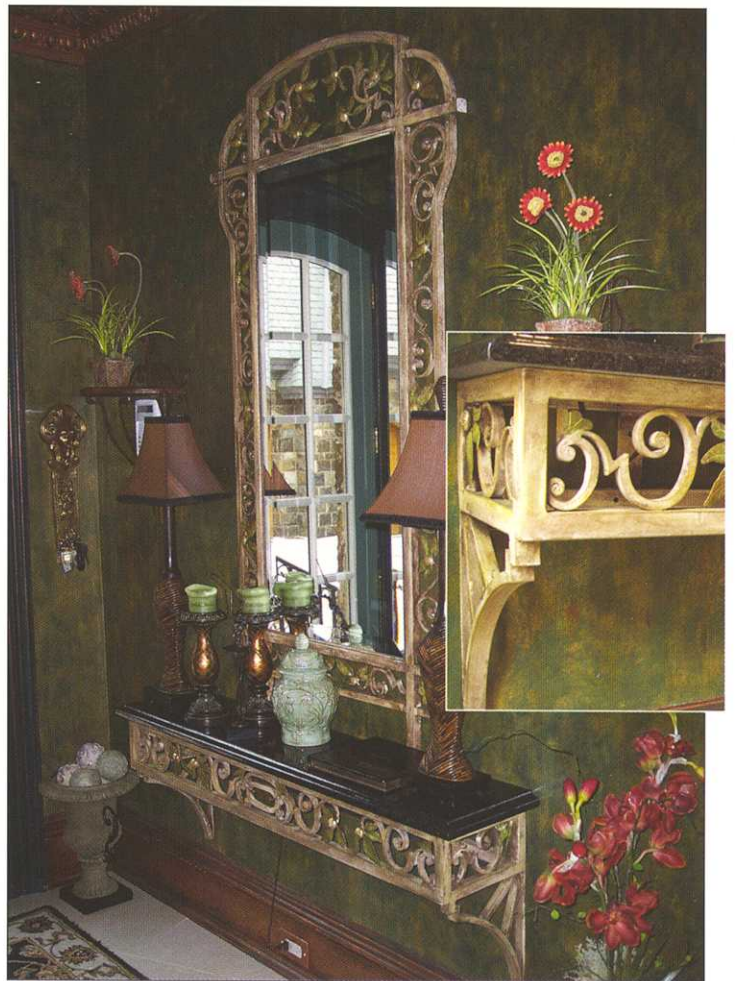


When the Riggis' daughter visits, she can step outside her bedroom onto this magnificent balcony; Bill Merry, Jr. calls it "one of the best Herndon & Merry has ever forged."

Seen here from the topmost vantage point, this unique wrought-iron kitchen stairway railing, designed, hand-forged and hand-painted by Herndon & Merry, combines repeating panels with one-of-a-kind panels that feature various types of fruit (the inset photo shows the detail of the grapes panel).



Michele Riggi, seen here with just a few of her pampered pooches, has no trouble remembering the names of all 22, including Chihuahuas Kablua, Bandito, Tequila, Paco, Sombrero, Zorro, Margarita, Diego, Ricco, Chulla Veeta, Chiquita, Jack, Valentina, Rambo and Vicente Fox; Papillons Pierre, Jete and Philippe; Yorkshire Terriers Hairy Winston and Itsy Bitsy; Japanese Chin Yoshi; and Brussels Griffon Julliard.



Hand-forged, wrought-iron flowers with intricate leaves help elevate this framed mirror and console from the utilitarian to the realm of art; detail of the console support can be seen in the smaller photo.

...of timeless elegance.



Designed by Bill Merry, Sr., the stylized letter "R," for Riggi, is rendered here in wrought iron covered in gold leaf, set into a cut-granite wall; the Riggis also use the letter in this style as their family monogram. On all exterior ironwork, Herndon & Merry worked closely with Rich Morris of Toadflax Nursery, South Glen Falls, N.Y., and also wishes to thank general contractor Witt Construction, of Saratoga Springs, for their outstanding cooperation in helping achieve the end result.