

# *Under the Twin Cities Sun*

Luxury Villa brings  
Umbrian countryside  
home to Edina.

WHEN VISITORS TURN DOWN the quiet, tree-lined street in the Rolling Green neighborhood of Edina and first look at the gleaming, white home by John Kraemer & Sons, they are likely to experience more than a bit of geographic disorientation.

**“I** *t really is a gorgeous combination of that classic villa style and modern luxury.”*

For there, on a lush, green space in this quiet Twin Cities residential neighborhood, is surely a villa transported from the hills of Umbria. The white stucco home is topped by a roof of classic red clay tiles. A stunning front terrace almost whispers *buon giorno* as you approach the massive double entry doors. A backyard loggia insists you sit and sip from a glass of Chianti as the sun sets.

How else to describe a home so idyllic in its design, so timeless in its aesthetic, but to conjure up thoughts of centuries-old Italian luxury? Yet, while the home’s exterior reflects the rich tradition of Italian and Spanish villa architecture, John Kraemer of John Kraemer & Sons said the interior features a thoroughly modern design and contemporary amenities within that classic overall style.

“It really is a gorgeous combination of that classic villa style and modern luxury,” Kraemer said. “We are very proud of it.”

An element of that modern design is the home’s interior color scheme: black and white. Most of the interior walls are white; the floor in the entry and in a breathtaking main floor gallery is tiled in black and white. The effect is dramatic, as light seems to dance through the five sets of French doors that give the effect of an updated cloister walk from some convent in Assisi.

To the right of the front door is a formal dining room featuring an impressive crystal chandelier and, beyond that, the kitchen. Finished in mahogany, stainless steel and granite — and illuminated by a massive black chandelier featuring black glass beads — the kitchen opens on a dramatic family room with a whitewashed brick wall surrounding a fireplace and big-screen television. A breakfast nook bathed in sunlight pulls you in.

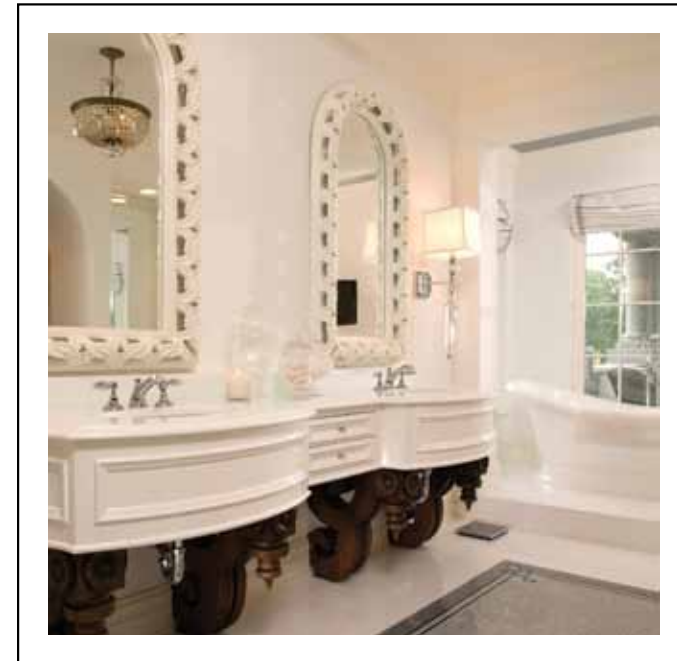
A cool touch: Three small beverage refrigerators in the kitchen make it easy for Mom, Dad or the kids to quickly grab a soda or bottled water.



**RIGHT:** The view as you walk to the home’s entrance evokes images of a classic Italian villa.

**BELOW:** Filled with gorgeous contrasts, the home’s modern kitchen sits off an old-world gallery to the right in dramatic black and white.





*E*verywhere,  
there are signs of pains-  
taking craftsmanship.

To the left of the main entry, at the opposite end of that long, light gallery, is a step-down sitting room featuring a hand-carved limestone fireplace and mantel. A home office sits to the front of the house, walls painted black. Even the crown molding is black. Throughout the home, upstairs and down, the cove ceilings are wallpapered — another thoroughly modern design feature, Kraemer said.

It would be inaccurate to label the homeowners' second-floor hideaway as a "master suite." Master quarters is a more appropriate description, as the bedroom, bath, closets and dressing area take up a healthy swath of space. "It's much bigger than a suite," said Kraemer.

Another nice touch: John Kraemer & Sons — the Builders Association of the Twin Cities' 2009 Builder of the Year — incorporated antique posts into the custom design of the dual vanities in the master bath. In fact, antique furniture was used in several of the

home's bathrooms, as well as in the kitchen office. The bathroom floor is tiled in white, with a beautiful mosaic inlaid section finishing the look in gray and black. A large, white soaking tub provides a place to lounge, as does a sitting area off the master bedroom. Again, the walls on the second floor are white. The exceptions: the daughter's bedroom, with splashes of red, gold and gray; and the boy's bedroom, with black and cream striped wallpaper. An antique desk on wheels allows the son to study in bed.

The home's lower level features a yoga room with a cork floor, an in-home theater with a 120-inch projection television and a bar with a mini-kitchen. The floors are concrete, painted charcoal to look like tile. A modern finish, again, on a classic look. Everywhere, there are signs of painstaking craftsmanship.

"It's really what we are known for," Kraemer said. LD

ABOVE: John Kraemer & Sons incorporated old-world style in dramatic ways, such as the antique legs under the double vanity in the master bath.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The family room features a modern, whitewashed brick wall while giving guests a glimpse through French doors to a classic loggia at the rear of the house.