

\$55 million waterfront mansion with rooftop pickleball court hits market in Fort Lauderdale

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The newly built, three-story waterfront mansion Ember House, located at 513 Middle River Drive near the Galleria. The home features a rooftop pickleball court and earned its name from the warm glow it emits at night. (Legendary Productions/Courtesy)

Ember House, a newly completed waterfront residence that comes with a rooftop pickleball court and a premium price tag, is quickly becoming the talk of the town.

The three-story waterfront mansion, one of Fort Lauderdale's priciest luxury homes to ever hit the market, has an asking price of \$55 million.

Offered fully furnished, the six-bedroom home includes 11 bathrooms and spans 15,000 square feet.

Key features include an air-conditioned, eight-car collector gallery garage, chef's kitchen, cozy theater room, music room and library filled with antique books published a century ago, full gym with custom-made weights, sauna with backlit Himalayan salt wall and outdoor cold plunge.

The primary suite, with a charming breakfast area, sprawling master bathroom and extensive terrace, occupies the entire third floor. Four private guest suites all have waterfront views and massive walk-in closets.

Those who prefer not to take the stairs can ride up or down in a commercial-grade elevator.

The soaring living room overlooks an 80-foot illuminated mosaic infinity pool and spa with dual waterfalls.

Backlit natural stone walls and columns are featured throughout the interior and exterior.

Located in Fort Lauderdale's gated Sunrise Intracoastal neighborhood at 513 Middle River Drive, Ember House sits just minutes from the beach and downtown.

Prestige Homes CEO Dov Stark, who lives two doors down, designed, built and furnished what he calls his maximalist mansion.

"Each house I try to do something different," Stark told the South Florida Sun Sentinel. "At night the house glows on the outside. We have a lot of backlit natural stone that gives it a really nice warm glow at night. That's where we got the name Ember House. It looks like embers in a fire."



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Stark said he designed and furnished the home with an eye for luxury and detail, with a focus on illuminated natural stone, exotic woods, specialty textiles and leather finishes.

“There’s not one single wall or ceiling that’s just painted,” he said. “Every single wall and ceiling has natural stone or marble tiles or leather paneling or some type of fabric or metal. Everywhere you look there is something really special.”

Brazilian quartzite crystal is the defining material throughout Ember House. Approximately 250 slabs, each weighing nearly 800 pounds, were individually selected and imported from Brazil — totaling 100 tons of natural stone.

The quartzite is backlit with soft white LED lighting, allowing its translucent crystal to emit a warm amber glow at night.

Nearly all lighting fixtures and furniture were custom designed specifically for the home.

The buyer will own everything inside, including the club room equipped with a poker table and stocked bar, Stark said.

“If they’re paying \$55 million, I think we can include the liquor,” Stark said with a laugh as he led a Sun Sentinel reporter on a tour of the home. “The house is sold completely furnished and decorated. The only thing we don’t sell with the house are the cars in the garage.”

On Monday, a sky blue Ferrari, white Rolls Royce and black Aston Martin were parked in the gallery garage. And there’s plenty of room for five more.

“Every house I build is better than the next one,” Stark said. “We have a library, a bar with a lounge, a gym, a massage room, the rooftop pickleball court. The house is one of the biggest in Fort Lauderdale. It feels almost like a resort.”

Ember House is emblematic of the fact that Fort Lauderdale is rapidly evolving into a global destination for the uber wealthy, Stark said.

That growth is fueled by luxury homes, upscale residential towers and a lifestyle centered on yachting, private aviation and high-end hospitality, he added.

“The luxury real estate market isn’t creating Fort Lauderdale’s growth — it’s responding to it,” Stark said. “Twenty years ago people chose Fort Lauderdale because it was more affordable than Miami. Today, many choose Fort Lauderdale because they believe it’s a better lifestyle. A lot of people like the excitement of Miami but they don’t want to live in the chaos of Miami.”