

Welcome to Pinewood Estate...

at Bok Tower Gardens

Edward Bok acquired the original land for the Gardens with the assistance of neighbors in the Mountain Lake community. Bok felt it was important to set the land aside for all to enjoy, therefore, he purchased the hilltop properties and the remainder of unsold residential sites in order to create this beautiful garden. The Olmsted Brothers firm was commissioned to design the landscape.

This unique home was built in 1929 and completed in 1932 by Charles Austin Buck who, at that time was Vice-President of Bethlehem Steel. Mr. Buck referred to his winter domicile as "El Retiro", (reh-teer-oh) Spanish for retreat. The residence, including servants' areas, is 12,900 square feet. The house had only three owners prior to 1970 when it was acquired by Bok Tower Gardens (then known as The American Foundation), the Bucks, the Kerrigans and the Keens.

1 Front Entrance & Entrance Hall

The front door does not directly face the main staircase. There is no grand entrance with a vista. Instead, a visitor is as likely to be drawn down into the courtyard for a walk around the garden as into the house.

The Cuban floor tiles are handmade. The doors are made of cypress with their moldings cut and pieced together which was a common practice in the 1920's and 1930's. Each set of doors throughout Pinewood features a different pattern.

Morning Room

Mr. Buck used this room to enjoy his morning coffee and read the newspaper while the servants prepared breakfast. Lucy Buck Fox's children worked on their lessons in this room while at "El Retiro". Their

2 Pantry & Kitchen

In the late 1920's, the concept of building cabinets for storage in the kitchen and adding counter space was quite unique. Prior to this, all storage and workspace was free standing – pie safes and tables. The elaborate Italian-made dishes are reproductions of the original dinnerware purchased by Mr. Buck. The double sink is made of monelle, a predecessor of stainless steel. The metal tubes are drain stoppers. Today the Kitchen has been modernized, but still houses the original layout and double sided refrigerator .

3 Dining Room & Foyer

During dinner, a leather folding screen was placed in front of the door leading to the pantry. The servants were able to deliver prepared dishes to the dining room while leaving the pantry door open. The screen is currently located in the Loggia. The fireplace is one of three in the house. It is made of cement and is polished to create the smooth texture. This is one of the few rooms at Pinewood that has a flat, not arched, ceiling. The foyer is a round room at the base of the West Tower.

4 Mr. Buck's Office

This room was used by Mr. Buck as a business office while he was in residence. When the estate was acquired by Bok Tower Gardens, much of the woodwork had been painted white. It has been returned to what is close to its original appearance.

5 Loggia

A loggia is an Italian architecture design in homes or public buildings. In this home, the context of the loggia is the internal leisure room or family room, as we would expect today, with an open air concept, hence the large symmetrical pocket doors. The glass pocket doors slide into the wall, and the screen doors allow for cross-ventilation. The walls are made of hollow tile comparable to those on the roof with stucco on the outer walls and plaster on the inside walls. They range in thickness from 18 to 24 inches. This keeps the home cool in the summer and warm in the winter. The medallion in the center of the floor of this room marks the long axis of the property from west to east. To the east, the view encompasses a secluded courtyard, grotto and paths with the great lawn to the west.

6 The Living Room

This room provides a sitting area and space for large gatherings. The floor in the large portion of the room is made of hickory. A wood floor is more practical for dancing than a tile floor and improves the acoustics when musical instruments are played. The ceiling beams are made of pine.

The spiral stairway provided Mr. Buck convenient access to his bedroom from this end of the home, while eliminating the need to use the main staircase when ascending to the second floor. Although the stairs are constructed of cement, they are designed to resemble travertine. Each stair was cast at a plant south of Lake Wales, Florida and brought to the site. Stone masons set them in place just as they would have with stone stairs.

7 Mr. Buck's Bedroom

This was Mr. Buck's bedroom. It is the only bedroom in the house with a balcony. The bathroom tiles represent Dutch occupations. This is the only bathroom on the second floor without a shower. The wardrobe area is in the hall. It can be closed off from the second floor hallway, making it useful as a dressing room.

8 Orange Bedroom

The next two guest rooms each have a walk-in closet and private bath with distinct tile patterns. The louvered bedroom doors can be closed for privacy while still allowing for the flow of air into the rooms.

9 Blue Bedroom

All the wood, hardware and lighting fixtures are original to the home. If a guest needed something during their stay, he or she could push the call button to ring for a servant.

10 Green Bedroom

The showerhead in the center of the bathroom ceiling is original, whereas, the one on the wall is an addition. All other plumbing fixtures are original.

11 Lucy's Bedroom

This was the bedroom used by Lucy Buck Fox. The elderberry tiles and porcelain fixtures in this bathroom are original to the house. This bedroom, unlike the others, has a panoramic view and a vaulted