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HOUSE OF THE DAY

A Connecticut Farmhouse That Draws on the Past



Location: New Canaan, CT **Price:** \$6,995,000

The owners of this New Canaan home were inspired by blueprints from a previous restoration—Sarah Tilton

When Michael and Fred Canoro decided to leave New York City for Connecticut they looked at 20 houses. They eventually found this New Canaan farmhouse and decided to make it their interim home while they built a new house next door. But then they changed their minds. 'I fell in love with the house, the land, the ground, the property—it speaks volumes to a life gone by,' says Michael Canoro. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



The original house was built in 1790 but burned down and was rebuilt in 1833, says Mr. Canoro. 'Our intent when we restored it was to bring it back to its original detailing. The previous owners had the blueprints from the 1922 and 1944 updates when they changed the footprint of the house. I took my lead from that,' he says. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



The couple paid \$2.65 million for the 6,671-square-foot house in January 2014 and then spent \$3.3 million updating and restoring it, says Mr. Canoro. 'We took everything down to the studs. We took a big chimney down to do an open-concept kitchen. It was critical to us—any modern family wants a big kitchen,' says Mr. Canoro. The couple have a 4-year-old daughter and 3-year-old twin sons. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



They painted the exterior, put on a new roof, replaced the windows and updated the systems including adding air-conditioning. They also redid the landscaping. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



The Dutch-door in the entry is original, says Mr. Canoro, age 49, an interior designer and residential developer. Fred Canoro, age 53, works in finance. The couple added the crown moldings and the panelling inspired by the blueprints. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



Mr. Canoro will miss the history of the house and the gardens. 'You can't find a lot of 400-year-old maples anymore,' he says, noting there are two on the property. The children like to play on the porch, shown here, that overlooks the brook running through the property. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



The couple built a new pool and pool house in the Colonial style. 'I love the pool house in the summer—it's a lot of fun and easy,' says Mr. Canoro. The pool house has a dishwasher, ice maker and pantry. There is also a full bath, dressing room and laundry room. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



Three fountains flow into the pool. The couple made the old pool house into a one-bedroom guest cottage. They restored the separate three-car garage which includes a workshop. In redoing the gardens they created a breakfast garden with a fountain and other areas for outdoor entertaining. 'I treat the rooms outside just like I treat the rooms inside,' says Mr. Canoro. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



The couple are selling as they would like a home with more land and room for horses, says Mr. Canoro. The house sits on 3.68 acres. 'It was really a labor of love,' says Mr. Canoro. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



In the living room, they chose an Art Deco aesthetic, says Mr. Canoro. 'It was a nod back to the '30s in between the two updates that were done in 1922 and 1944. The room is Colonial but the furnishings are Art Deco. There's lots of polished nickel and some brass accents all in keeping with that Art Deco feel,' he says. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



'When we purchased it, it was eight bedrooms and four baths. We made it five bedrooms, six full baths and two powder rooms,' says Mr. Canoro. In the process they created a central hallway upstairs and changed the proportions of the rooms to make the house more livable, he says. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



The master bath was once a small bedroom and bath. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



The wine room has refrigerated storage for 700 bottles. The panelling is painted navy. 'It's our getaway room,' says Mr. Canoro. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*



The home has an asking price of \$6.995 million. Kathy Tanner and Alison Manchuck of Houlihan Lawrence share the listing. *MICHAEL SMITH/THE IMAGESMITHS*