
Fairfield County Rising



Connecticut's southwestern-most county offers a surprising mix of appealing options, from estates hidden in the more rural backcountry to the north to the better-known, highly sought-after waterfront communities situated directly on Long Island Sound.

As Fairfield County's most well-known residential community along the Sound, Greenwich continues to command premium prices that luxury home buyers are lining up to spend. Designed by the late Jim Thompson, the home at 311 Shore Road was built 10 years ago by a premium builder in the area, who besides Greenwich has also built estate homes in Aspen and St. Barts. The builder found the custom-built home above Greenwich Harbor too good to pass up, and has been living there ever since.

The five-bedroom, 7,288-square-foot shorefront home, on the market for the recently reduced price of \$5,975,000, overlooks the Indian Harbor Yacht Club, a marina and the Long Island Sound beyond. An infinity

pool is built into the stone terrace, with expansive entertaining space and a covered porch.

The home comes with a finished basement, with wine cellar and exercise room, and room for an elevator. One of the bedrooms was turned into a wood-paneled home office with water views. "When he [the current owner] first saw the property, there was a small house there, and he and Jim Thompson created an amazing house, angled in such a way that your views go right up the Sound, with lapping waves, egrets and herons," said BK Bates, sales agent with Houlihan Lawrence. "When you are in the kitchen, you look out over the terrace to the water, and when you lie in bed in the master bedroom, you have sunrises all the way up the Sound. You couldn't come close to



recreating a home like this, within walking distance of downtown, for under \$6 million today, and this one is in turnkey condition."

Just over the Greenwich border in the coveted Westover district of Stamford, 764 Westover Road is a 6,954-square-foot, five-bedroom colonial, built by its owner in 2008 in the middle of a flat, level acre. With an entry flanked by stone pillars, a broad circular drive, landscaped grounds with large front and back lawns, two portico entries and a finished lower level of more than 1,000 square feet, the home is 10 minutes from the Stamford train station, which offers the area's most frequent express trains to and from Manhattan.

The asking price of \$2,195,000 for the property, about 10 minutes from both downtown Greenwich and Stamford, is a much lower price than the property would have brought just across the border. "All the elements are there: nine-foot coffered and tray ceilings, two-story entrance foyer, built-out closets, beautiful built-in cabinetry, French doors, front and back stairs, family room adjacent to the kitchen, master suite with a sitting room and fireplace, finished lower level, a walk-up attic and a full-house generator," said Elayne Jassey, associate broker with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. "The home is stunning by any measure, and would cost at least twice this much if it were on the Greenwich side of the border."

Known internationally for its mid-century modern homes, the Silvermine Guild of Artists area of Wilton and New Canaan was the area chosen in 1953 by Lars-Eric Lindblad, founder of Lindblad Travel, for his dream home. Lindblad and the director of the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx designed the grounds, and, in the modernist tradition, made sure the home took advantage of the rural setting with a windowed double-height living room. The main house is approximately 5,500 square feet, with an additional unattached winterized guesthouse above a three-car garage. There is also a two-car heated garage in the main house.

With a high-end Boffi kitchen, the Asian-inspired home, renovated in 2000 and again in 2005, is situ-



OPPOSITE PAGE: The home at 311 Shore Road in Greenwich overlooks the Indian Harbor Yacht Club, a marina and the Long Island Sound beyond
Photo: Dan Milstein

TOP: The five-bedroom colonial at 764 Westover Road in Stamford features an entry flanked by stone pillars, a broad circular drive and landscaped grounds.

ABOVE, MIDDLE: Located at 97 Old Boston Road in Wilton, this mid-century modern home takes advantage of its setting with double-height windows. Photo: Steve Rossi.

ated on five acres, which includes a 2.11-acre parcel that can be sold, or built on, separately. The house overlooks 17 acres of conservation land (the former Wilton reservoir), and features river views.

Located at 97 Old Boston Road in Wilton, the home



is on the market for \$3.75 million. "There is a renewed appetite for mid-century moderns in this market today, and this home makes an excellent full-time or part-time retreat for the growing segment of buyers who want a modern-style home," said Inger Stringfellow, sales agent with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty. "The current owners were in the design business, and they had a very good eye, adding great art, artifacts and quality details over their 30 years, as well as a major renovation that added a second story. The kitchen now opens out to a beautiful dining room; the floors are end-cut Douglas fir, which is extremely durable; and the additional limestone floors have radiant heat. The property comes with a heated pool and a

garden, and there is a bedroom suite and entertainment room on the lower level."

Located in the estate section on one of the most revered roads on the east side of New Canaan, 279 Rosebrook Road abuts 10 acres of protected Audubon preserve surrounding the property. The home is protected by both deer and invisible fencing, and features a dog run as well as walking paths through the property. The current owners recently added a salt-water gunite pool, with a retractable cover, and a bluestone terrace with an outdoor stone gas grill barbecue. There are two indoor fireplaces and a wine cellar, and five bedrooms, each with its own bathroom. There is also a new full-house generator, new landscaping, a new gravel driveway and a wood roof.

The open and sunny home was built in 1988, and completely redone and expanded with a modern edge in 2000 with a dramatic two-story family room, a floor-to-ceiling limestone fireplace and very high windows that allow natural light to filter in. The asking price for the home, less than an hour from Manhattan, is \$3,295,000. "When you are in the house, or outside by the pool, you feel like you are sitting in your own private park," said Mary Higgins, sales agent with Halstead Property.

A renovated five-bedroom colonial at 799 Verna Hill Road, on 2.73 acres in Greenfield Hill, the estate section of Fairfield, features a country kitchen with its own fireplace, a large private patio terrace overlooking the lawn, and picture windows and French doors across the back of the house from all the principal rooms. With five bedrooms and three fireplaces in all, the second-floor master bedroom suite has tray ceilings and a luxury bathroom with a walk-in shower and a jet tub, as well as a home office, which could also serve well as an exercise room, with its own separate entrance.

The 5,695-square-foot home, on the market for a recently reduced price of \$2.25 million, was fully renovated in 2009, and also comes with a full-house gener-



ator. "Greenfield Hill has a church on the green, where the annual Fairfield annual dogwood festival is held every Mother's Day weekend," said Paul Triantafel, associate broker with Nicholas H. Fingelly Real Estate. "It is a classic New England way of life, about an hour from Manhattan."

A brick Tudor on Goodhill Road in Weston, on the market for \$4,999,000, was renovated and expanded by noted architect Jack Franzen to accommodate a mix of classic and modern details, creating both informal and formal spaces that are at once stylish and comfortable. The home, which still has its original leaded-glass windows, carved mantels and beams, is really a compound, with a glass-front pool house with French doors (formerly a carriage house), attached one-bedroom guest cottage, a heated party barn (formerly an onion barn from the 1700s), outdoor kitchen and a koi pond. Because it was once a working farm, the property still has the twin stone walls along its side that led cows to pasture.

The home was built in 1918 for the then mayor of Bridgeport, and was updated and expanded in the 1990s. "Lower Weston has some beautiful historic properties, but it is still rare to find a Tudor that has been well preserved, and at the same time expanded, in an authentic fashion," said Joni Usdan, sales agent with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "Most

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: This five-bedroom colonial at 799 Verna Hill Road in Fairfield was fully renovated in 2009, and also comes with a full-house generator.

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM: Located in the estate section of New Canaan, 279 Rosebrook Road abuts 10 acres of protected Audubon preserve surrounding the property.

ABOVE: Built in 1918, this brick Tudor on Goodhill Road in Weston was renovated and expanded to accommodate a mix of classic and modern details. Photo: Leonard Lampell

Tudors don't have a three-car garage attachment, a big country kitchen and a large media pavilion, but this one does. Here, they used an excellent architect to expand in a very low-key way, and you don't know where the old brick and the new brick are joined. They matched the leaded glass, even in the new addition, and the paneling was preserved as well. It is on five hidden away, gorgeously manicured acres, so when you see it, with all the outbuildings, you realize it is good value. This home is not for a McMansion buyer, but for someone who appreciates the history that still lives here." ■