

New Canaan colonial renovated and expanded

By Meg Barone

No matter how beautiful a particular painting may be, no matter how well executed by the artist, it doesn't really look completely finished without the appropriate framing.

The colonial revival house at 648 South Ridge Road in New Canaan was originally built in 1915 and was meticulously renovated and expanded by the current owners. The upgrades were done with the expertise of the award-winning New Canaan architectural firm Brooks and Falatico and nationally award-winning builder Hobbs, Inc., with offices in New Canaan, Bridgehampton and New York City.

Their finishing touches make this a museum-quality, yet livable residence. The exterior windows are topped with keystones as are the arched doors of the interior entryways and the custom doors of the two-car heated garage. One of the covered entrances is marked by fluted ionic columns and deep dentil molding. Columns are repeated on one wall of the formal dining room, which also has a marble fireplace flanked by built-in decorative display cases.

Even the hardwood floors of the foyer and formal living and dining rooms have double borders of a darker mahogany inlaid wood to define the elegant spaces.

Throughout the house there is exquisite architectural detail, extensive custom millwork and elongated French doors. There are five wood-burning fireplaces including one in the master bedroom suite.

The approach to this home is dramatic and memorable with stone pillars that give way to a long, tree-lined drive. This 13-room, 7,900 square-foot house sits on 10 acres abutting Country Club of New Canaan property. It is one of the grand estates of South Ridge Road, and at 10 acres is one of the only remaining properties of this size in town, according to listing agent Anne H. Krueger of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty.

"This spectacular home is truly a New Canaan landmark, a Connecticut classic, thanks to its rich



The six-bedroom property at 648 South Ridge Road in New Canaan includes a swimming pool and cabana.

William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

architectural style and majestic presence on one of few remaining large private parcels in our area. A precious gem, to be treasured and appreciated," Krueger said.

What should also be appreciated is the artfully arranged marriage of old and new.

"This beautifully renovated home offers the perfect blend of its turn-of-the-century roots and today's lifestyle. The seamless addition and renovation was thoughtfully crafted by the talented team of designer Louise Brooks and Hobbs Construction," she said.

That blend of old and new extends to the lighting as well. The interior has museum quality recessed lighting for illuminations of fine art works while the exterior light fixtures were hand-crafted by Gates Moore, a lighting company in Norwalk that specializes in

Details

Address: 648 South Ridge Road, New Canaan

Price: \$6,600,000

Number of rooms: 13

Features: This six-bedroom house is located on 10 acres — one of the only remaining large parcels of land in New Canaan. There is a two-bedroom carriage house, and the home has a number of amenities, including museum quality recessed lighting for fine art works. The premium red cedar roof was installed in 2010, and the house comes equipped with a 25-kilowatt generator and 500-gallon underground propane tank. There is a six-car garage and two bays are heated. Also on the property are an in-ground swimming pool with cabana and a tennis court.

Schools: East Elementary, Saxe Middle, New Canaan High School

historically-accurate, hand-made tin punch reproduction New England lanterns, chandeliers, wall scones and other lighting fixtures.

It has a charming two-bedroom "turn of the century" carriage

house, and a porte-cochere that leads to the garage. The level property contains a sprawling lawn, formal gardens, stone terraces, mature plantings, specimen trees, fenced vegetable garden, and

greenhouse. There is also a heated swimming pool, pool house and tennis court.

Augmenting the generous amenities of this property is the village of New Canaan itself, which offers a vast choice of fine dining establishments, a long-established movie theater, antique shops and an historic inn. It is conveniently served by the Merritt Parkway and two Metro-North railroad stations, and is about an hour from Manhattan.

"New Canaan is one of the most beautiful and peaceful towns in Connecticut, offering the unique advantage of privacy, anonymity, the finest schools, restaurants and a direct train line to Manhattan," Krueger said.

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