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HOUSE OF THE DAY

A Connecticut Estate Gets New Life

Dec. 6, 2018 10:00 a.m. ET

Location: Westport, CT

Price: \$9,950,000

The former country home of the late billionaire Edgar Bronfman Sr. was modernized by its current owners. It is asking \$9.95 million—Emily Nonko



Drew Aaron and his wife, Hana Soukupová, renovated several homes together and wanted to take on another project. They were drawn to the former Westport, Conn., country home of the late billionaire Edgar Bronfman Sr. 'The house sat empty for several years,' Mr. Aaron says. 'It needed to be brought back to life.'

The couple purchased the home in 2017 for \$7 million. Mr. Aaron, 41, is chief executive of mortgage-advisory company Lionsgate Capital. Ms. Soukupová, 32, has modeled with Gucci, Versace and other fashion houses. They hired interior designer Meg Sharpe to lead the renovation, which took just over a year and cost \$2.2 million.



The home was built in the late 1800s as a barn. Ms. Sharpe sanded down and lightened the wood flooring and beams, added windows and created a more open floor plan.



The stone fireplaces throughout the home were restored. In the dining room, Ms. Sharpe added floor-to-ceiling windows that look out to a sitting porch.



The couple restored the mantelpiece in the master bedroom.



The 11,482-square-foot home has six bedrooms, eight bathrooms and three half-bathrooms.



It has been listed for \$9.95 million by William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty agent Todd Gibbons.



There are two walk-in wine cellars, one for red wine and the other for white wine. They store up to 5,000 bottles.



The home's terraces are made of a light grey honed marble that was installed by the previous owner. There is a pool house with changing rooms, storage and showers.



Mr. Aaron and Ms. Soukupová occasionally stayed in the barn during the renovation. It is now a studio space and guesthouse. The entire property is 13 acres and includes 750 feet of frontage along the Aspetuck River.



Mr. Aaron and Ms. Soukupová also live in Spain where their children are studying. 'My kids and their friends loved spending time at the creek,' Mr. Aaron says. 'But the home is way too special to use only for a short period of the year.'