

Premier Properties

BY MARIA LAPIANA



In-Town Charmer



Contemporary Comfort



Old-World Grandeur

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Noteworthy for its scale, pedigree, and old-world grandeur, the residence known as the Dark Harbor House in Islesboro, Maine, is an iconic example of Colonial Revival architecture—and some would say, a steal for \$4,275,000. The home was designed by Fred L. Savage of Bar Harbor, a leading architect in north-eastern Maine at the turn of the twentieth century, and completed in 1896. A two-story interpretation of an eighteenth-century Georgian mansion, it was commissioned by George Philler, a wealthy banker from Philadelphia. Over the years, the spacious home was used as both a private residence and an inn; it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. In 2011, the current owners undertook a complete restoration and renovation, which included a new foundation and

mechanical systems. The interior is impressive for its elegant millwork, sweeping double stairways, grand reception hall, and formal living room, dining room, and library (all with fireplaces). There are five guest bedrooms on the second floor, along with a stunning master suite (the master bath holds a marble bath with a mahogany-rimmed claw-foot tub). A private stairway to the third floor leads to three more bedrooms, a sitting room, and ample storage.

**ROOMS: 26
9 BEDROOMS
8 FULL BATHS
3 HALF BATHS
10,000 SQ. FT.
\$4,275,000**



| Continued on page 182

Premier Properties

Continued from page 174 |

Duly Noted: The Dark Harbor House had its fifteen minutes of fame while it was being used as an inn. Its old-world charm caught the attention of veteran journalist Charles Kuralt, who featured it on his “On the Road” segment, which he produced for the *CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite*.

Contact: Joseph and Terry Sortwell, LandVest, Camden, Maine, (207) 236-3543, landvest.com. Ref.#: ME1347

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This Nantucket property offers the best of both worlds—and then some. It’s in town (it sits up on a knoll steps away from Main Street) on a compact lot, but with a truly private backyard. It has all the charm of an antique home, but it’s a convincing reproduction with every modern amenity; it was built in 1996 and completely renovated by its second owners in 2008. The open plan is family-friendly, but there are also spaces to get away to, making the house both amenable to entertaining and intimate when the guests are gone. Sited eight feet above street level, with a pleasing symmetrical facade framed by lush landscaping, it has a grand appearance, with all the cachet of a whaling captain’s house. A roof walk above offers lovely harbor views. Four well-planned floors promise gracious living

at every turn. By the numbers, there are five bedrooms, four full and two half baths, five working fireplaces, and three off-street parking spaces. The formal entry opens onto two parlors, while the casual great room has double French doors leading to the patio, gardens, and

pool area. You’ll see double in the kitchen, which is fitted with an additional prep area and second sink, and a pantry with a second refrigerator. There’s also an en suite guest room on the first floor. A large family room with custom bookshelves and cabinetry takes center stage on the second floor, along with a master suite. On the top floor, a study with a fireplace offers spectacular harbor views; there’s also a bedroom with private bath—and a ship’s ladder to the roof walk. At present, the basement is essentially a large finished room with wood floors and

ROOMS: 11
5 BEDROOMS
4 FULL BATHS
2 HALF BATHS
7,286 SQ. FT.
\$7,850,000



mirrored walls (former owners used it as a dance studio), but it can be reconfigured into anything you like.

Duly Noted: It’s quite rare to have a private in-town pool in Nantucket because there is an ordinance against them. Listing agent Gary Winn explains, “This is a historic town and, historically, the people who lived here didn’t have them.” Luckily, the pool in this home’s lovely backyard was grandfathered in, so it can stay.

Contact: Gary Winn, Maury People Sotheby’s International Realty, Nantucket, Mass., (508) 228-1881, themaurypeople.com. Property ID: 82449

Contemporary Comfort

The clients wanted something inherently modern, yet warm. The site: a virgin parcel of forty-five-plus acres on a steep mountainside sheltered by Bull Mountain to the north, in Kent, Connecticut. The architects:

Tomas Rossant of Ennead Architects and John C. Allee of Allee Design—both known for sustainable and environmentally sensitive designs. The AIA award-winning home has been described as serene, sophisticated, laid-back, livable, and intimately connected to the outdoors. An L-shaped design creates a natural outdoor room with access from most of the first floor. Sliding glass window walls abound, maximizing natural

light. It’s a modern home that’s clean-lined in every way—but it’s not aloof. Natural materials, deep finishes, and wood details throughout make it warm and welcoming. It’s not vast; at 4,622 square feet, it has a sensible floor plan that allows for effortless traffic patterns and no wasted space. There are four bedrooms, five full baths and one half bath, a first floor master suite, a library/office with a private entrance, and a kitchen designed for serious cooking. A spacious screened porch opens onto a dining terrace.

Duly Noted: The exterior is western red cedar and teak, with a standing-seam copper roof. Interestingly, the home is built on a slate stone plinth just eight inches over grade. And while the roof matches that footprint, the house pulls back at various places to create covered porches.

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ROOMS: 8
4 BEDROOMS
5 FULL BATHS
1 HALF BATH
4,622 SQ. FT.
3,695,000