

# Premier Properties

BY MARIA LAPIANA



Bellevue Avenue Beauty



Barn Baby, Barn

## Barn Baby, Barn

**Kathryn Clair, the listing agent for this property in Roxbury, Connecticut, calls it “quintessentially New England.”** That can mean a lot of things—from cozy Colonial to sprawling farmhouse to brick Cape—but in this case, Clair is referencing its bucolic setting, plethora of stone walls, and spectacular views. The barn-style home is set on an idyllic country road and overlooks the Litchfield Hills, open pastures, and distant woods. The professionally landscaped parcel on four acres is private, with a gated entry and a courtyard of crushed gravel bordered by low stone walls. There are sheltering walkways and wide decks, and a pool and spa surrounded by manicured lawns. The 5,400-square-foot house was built in 1997 in the style of a modern, open-plan barn, with weathered gray siding and a shake roof. The current owners completed a thorough renovation



Splendor in the Glass

several years ago, which included the addition of a master bedroom and bath, gym, sauna, and art gallery space. Living areas gently flow into one another on the main level. The mood throughout is tranquil, with rich architectural detail, exposed beams and wide-board floors,

and unobtrusive, high-end finishes suitable for a wide array of furnishing styles. This is a house designed for entertaining; the kitchen features a spacious center island, commercial-grade range, and Sub-Zero refrigerator. The master suite is on the main floor, with four bedrooms on the second level and a lower level with the gym and sauna and space for a workshop/studio. The living room opens onto a large deck, while a roomy porch overlooks those extraordinary views of gorgeous gardens, the

ROOMS: 14  
5 BEDROOMS  
5 FULL BATHS  
1 HALF BATH  
5,400 SQ. FT.  
\$2,795,000



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pool, the pasture, and the hills.

**Duly Noted:** Roxbury is a small town (population 2,300) with a reputation for attracting artists of every stripe; over the years it's become known as something of a magnet for the rich and famous. Many A-list celebrities have called the picturesque town home, including composer Stephen Sondheim, journalist Gay Talese, actors Daniel Day-Lewis and Denis Leary, writer Frank McCourt, novelist William Styron, sculptor Alexander Calder, and playwright Arthur Miller, who lived there from 1956 to 1961 with his wife, Marilyn Monroe.

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## Bellevue Avenue Beauty

If “grand” is the first word that comes to mind when you set eyes on this home, then “tasteful” is the first thing you think of when you step inside. It has all the hallmarks of a Newport mansion—impossibly spacious rooms with vaulted ceilings, outstanding architectural millwork, and inlaid floors. Located on Newport's famed Bellevue Avenue, Rockry Hall was designed in 1890 by renowned architect Seth Bradford. The iconic Gothic Revival has been redone, remodeled, and completely refreshed over the last decade. So while

period details abound, the residence has been comfortably ushered into the twenty-first century. The home is clearly historically significant, says listing agent Paul Leys, but what's more remarkable is how immensely livable it feels. Light and bright, open and contemporary

with crisp finishes, it's anything but stuffy. At more than 10,000 square feet with seven bedrooms, this is a large home, but its spaces are well-defined so it doesn't feel vast. The first floor is suitable for both entertaining on a grand scale

and family living. The bedrooms are configured for a large family (the current owners have five children), and there is ample space for family members of all ages to get together—or get away from it all. The Christopher Peacock-designed kitchen is a stunner with its marble floor, island that seats seven, and icebox-inspired cabinetry. It's a good bet that any prospective owner will want to make this place his or her own, but for the record, we'd be in favor of leaving the gorgeous color palette—from dove gray and champagne to shades of sand and seaglass—exactly as is.

ROOMS: 12  
7 BEDROOMS  
6 FULL BATHS  
2 HALF BATHS  
10,217 SQ. FT.  
\$6,250,000



**Duly Noted:** A fire ravaged the Bradford-designed estate soon after it was completed. During its reconstruction, a neighboring Queen Anne was moved and attached to the original structure, making for an odd mix of periods. But when the residence was later restored, architects leaned toward its Gothic Revival roots. They reconstructed the porte cochere, among other features—and earned the home the Newport Historical Society Preservation Award.

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## Splendor in the Glass

Two separate structures combine to create this striking glass-walled home in Arrowsic, Maine, “a singularly beautiful spot that makes you feel as though you're miles away from the world,” according to listing agent Kim Latour. In fact, the home is just minutes from Bath, the biggest city in the area outside of Portland. The home was designed by a German art dealer to display his extensive art collection. Built on a five-acre lot and deliberately sited directly on 475 feet of water frontage, it puts

nature on display as well, offering stunning views across the landscape and the water. The home was featured in the German edition of *Architectural Digest*.

The main house and guest house are connected visually by their nearly identical exteriors and minimalist interiors. They're also connected literally, by a series of decks, wide expanses that blur the lines between built environment and great outdoors. The main house has an open living area defined by half-walls. The kitchen is a minimalist's dream—simple but functional. The master suite is a private sanctuary and an artful retreat with its own living room/gallery. The guest house features a sitting area, a charming bunkroom plus two additional bedrooms, a full bath, and laundry room. The home is ideally crafted for one or two people who enjoy company, and yet a family could live there easily, maintaining privacy with plenty of common space.

**Duly Noted:** The city of Bath is thirty-four miles northeast of Portland. Named one of America's Best Small Cities, Bath (population 8,400) is a popular tourist destination, thanks to its charming downtown, unique shops and restaurants, and notable examples of nineteenth-century Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate architecture.

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ROOMS: 10  
4 BEDROOMS  
2 FULL BATHS  
2,832 SQ. FT.  
\$1,500,000