

MANSION

HOUSE TOUR

A CONNECTICUT COUNTRY RETREAT

Classic architecture influenced a 1990s home designed to connect to its surroundings on 54 acres

BY EMILY NONKO

THE FLOORPLAN was inspired by the works of 18th-century British architecture critic Robert Morris. The dining room nods to Thomas Jefferson's designs at Monticello. But the house, located on 54 acres in Washington, Conn., was built less than 20 years ago.

Owner Tom Pearsall, who paid \$250,000 for the land in 1998, deliberately turned to classic sources for the home's design. He hired architecture firm Fairfax & Sammons to design a house "that would look settled," Mr. Pearsall says. "We chose materials we knew would age well."

Mr. Pearsall, an investor who had previously lived in New York City for 35 years, was ready "to see what it's like out in the country"



when he bought the land. After the home was completed, he settled into the property full time.

With three bedrooms and 3½ baths, the 4,112-square-foot home aims to create strong connections between the interior and the surrounding landscape. In the living



CUSTOM MADE The home's exterior, left, and living room, above, which features custom moldings.

room, three French doors offer some of the best views of the property. Mr. Pearsall keeps the kitchen's Dutch door open in the summer, offering a view of the outdoors from the table.

A garden courtyard connects the main house to the 650-square-foot

summer house, which holds exotic plants.

While the gardens close to the house are formal, the rest of the property remains natural with a stream, two meadows and hiking trails through the woods.

Mr. Pearsall, age 82, recently

listed the home with Rick Distel and Fred Bond of Sotheby's International Realty for \$6.5 million.

He is selling to move to New York because "I've had my 20 years out in the country," he says. "But I've loved every minute up here."

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Issue: October 20 | Close: September 22

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