



# DEEDS & DON'TS

INSIDE STORIES BEHIND AREA REAL ESTATE DEALS

**Take The Long View** Called Longview, this nearly 300-acre spread is owned by the father of U.S. Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin. It lists for \$11.5 million with Carolyn and Peter Klemm of Klemm Real Estate in Washington Depot. 860-868-7313.



## INNOVATIVE LIVING

In keeping with the innovation theme of this issue, we bring news of a co-housing project that just broke ground on a former 33-acre dairy farm in Bethany, between New Haven and Waterbury. Co-housing is an emerging trend defined by "intentional" communities of private homes clustered around the shared amenities the homeowners choose—gardens, playgrounds, event spaces and the like. Centerbrook Architects & Planners is designing the 30-unit project, billed as the first co-housing community in Connecticut. Rocky Corner dwellings range from one to four bedrooms, all built with sustainable materials and energy efficiency in mind. Visit [rockycorner.org](http://rockycorner.org) for more information.



**T**HE TREND LINE FOR THE SUMMER SELLING season has emerged and it is big—literally. Big-deal architects, big-name homeowners and big country estates with sprawling spreads. Join us on a tour of six of the market's best and brightest listings.

### SUPER-SIZED ESTATES

THERE'S NEWS OUT OF WASHINGTON ABOUT THE Mnuchins—but not *that* Washington and not *those* Mnuchins. To clarify, Washington, Connecticut, is buzzing about the listing of the nearly 300-acre estate owned by Robert Mnuchin, father of U.S. Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin. Like his son before he joined the Trump White House, Mnuchin *père* was a Yale man turned Goldman guy. He and his wife, Adriana, founder of the Tennis Lady chain of stores, have helmed two big-deal projects in tiny Washington: They transformed the gracious but traditional Mayflower Inn into a luxe resort and spa (now owned by the Grace Hotels Group), and they built an equally impressive manse, listed for \$11.5 million by Carolyn and Peter Klemm of Klemm Real Estate. White House-like, the many-columned home, known as Longview, sits in a manicured, parklike setting—this one on a hill at the end of a mile-long private drive. And like the White House, it has an indoor pool

and a library with a fireplace. But we'd wager you could have more fun on the Washington Depot grounds, with its stylish pool and pool house, tennis court and hiking trails, plus plenty of places to accommodate guests and staff—in a private guesthouse and four-bedroom caretaker's cottage. Oh, and by the way, there's another Trump administration estate for sale, the four-acre spread Donald Trump bought with then-wife Ivana Trump in the 1980s, currently the most expensive listing on the Greenwich market, asking \$45 million and offered by Tamar Lurie of Coldwell Banker. In related (and not fake) news: Fired FBI Director James Comey's Westport home has sold for \$2,475,000, down from the initial ask of \$3,395,000.

Another massive spread, Reverie Farm, on nearly 90 acres in nearby Warren, was once owned by author Francine du Plessix Gray, the daughter of the imperious Condé Nast art director Alexander Liberman. Story goes that Abstract Expressionist painter Cleve Gray whisked Francine away from her high-society Manhattan life in the 1950s to the grand but shabby circa-1799 fieldstone manor he owned in Warren. There the artistic couple would live and work, in separate studios on the property, until Cleve passed away in 2004. "As a writer and a person, I am a creation of him and of this house," Francine told the *New York Times* after his death.



**Love Story** Writer Francine du Plessix Gray and her painter husband, Cleve Gray, lived at this Warren compound for nearly 50 years. It's listed for \$5,750,000 with Ira Goldspiel and Howard Schissler of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty in Kent. 917-626-3481 and 917-304-0871.

The current owners have also invested a great deal of love—and money—into the place, which they entirely renovated in 2015. While the handsome stone façade remains the same, the interiors feature an all-new, high-end kitchen and a first-floor guest suite with a fireplace. The owners also added a tennis court and a pretty pool and terrace. The old barn that was converted into Cleve's painting studio remains. The estate lists for \$5,750,000 with Ira Goldspiel and Howard Schissler of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty.

### BIG DEAL ARCHITECTURE

ELIOT NOYES WAS ONE OF THE SO-CALLED Harvard Five architects who lived and designed homes in New Canaan. Of the 100-odd dwellings built by the "Five," four are included on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, the most famous of which is the Philip Johnson Glass House. A Noyes-designed home makes that list, too. And now on the market for the first time in its history is another Noyes creation, built in 1956 with obvious references to the Johnson masterpiece, with its glass walls and modern, open-plan interiors. Listed for \$2,750,000, the one-story dwelling blends indoor and outdoor spaces with courtyards accessed via glass doors, floor-to-ceiling windows and loads of skylights. The 3,692-square-foot renovated interiors offer five bedrooms and five bathrooms and the 4.6-acre grounds feature a pristine cube of

a pool house and a pool. Alice Jennings and Amanda Briggs, both of Houlihan Lawrence, share the listing.

Ehrick Rossiter was a 19th-century stararchitect, long before that term was coined. Like Noyes he concentrated his work in a corner of Connecticut—in his case, in Washington, where he made his home. The Gunnery school graduate designed some 25 buildings, including his own circa-1880s stone-and-shingle manse called the Rocks; a lodge-style New Preston landmark called the Boulders; and the stately old St. Michael's Church in Litchfield. The circa-1890 for-sale home is called House of the Winds, located in the town of Washington but on more than five private acres with western views overlooking the Steep Rock Association land trust. The shingle-style estate offers seven bedrooms, seven bathrooms and a screened-in eating porch, as well as a pool and cabana. It's offered for \$3.9 million by Peter Klemm of Klemm Real Estate.



**In The Wind** Called House of the Winds, this stately Washington home was built by architect Ehrick Rossiter in 1890. It's offered for \$3.9 million by Peter Klemm of Klemm Real Estate in Washington Depot. 860-868-7313.