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HOUSE OF THE DAY

An Outdoorsy Home With Room to Grow

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Location: Salisbury, CT

Price: \$3,950,000

A couple expanded and upgraded this 61-acre property in Salisbury, Conn., that comes with views of the Appalachian Trail. It is asking \$3.95 million —Emily Nonko



After getting married, Tom Francoline and Lelee Brandt looked for a home on a large property they could renovate. 'We wanted to create something that combined the convenience of a modern house with the character of a historic house,' Mr. Francoline says.



It took the couple, who worked in home construction and design, two years to find a 3-acre parcel with an 1880s home in Salisbury, Conn. They paid \$800,000 for it in 1996.



Over the years, Mr. Francoline, 75, and Ms. Brandt, 63, expanded and renovated the home for their blended family of five children. They also purchased surrounding land so the property, which they call Taconic Farm, now encompasses 61 acres.



The couple hired the late architect Richard Moisan to expand the existing home. 'He wanted the transition from the old house to the new house to be seamless,' Mr. Francoline says. In the new additions, Ms. Brandt added antique doors, fireplaces and flooring.



Mr. Moisan created a great room with an open kitchen, dining room and family room. 'It's where we gather for the holidays,' Mr. Francoline says. A fireplace from an 1800s convent in Hartford was integrated into the living room.



The property is listed for \$3.95 million by William Pitt Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty agents Ira Goldspiel and Howard Schissler.



The master suite was built on the west end of the home for privacy. The couple also added an adjacent roof deck with views of the Taconic Range and Appalachian Trail. The fireplace mantle is from an 1800s Pennsylvania house. Ms. Brandt added an English-style fire basket that can be controlled with a remote control.



A coffee bar connects the master bedroom and bathroom. The home has six bedrooms, four bathrooms and two half-bathrooms over 6,037 square feet.



There is a cabin with a wood stove and screened-in sleeping porch about a ½-mile from the home. Mr. Francoline and Ms. Brandt's children often stay here while visiting.



The couple also added gardens, an equestrian facility, heated pool and fishing pond stocked with bass. The family used the trail network for horseback riding, hiking and cross-country skiing.



Mr. Francoline and Ms. Brandt are selling now that their children are grown, and they want to spend time at another property of theirs in South Carolina. 'This is an outdoor person's dream place,' Mr. Francoline says.