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## HOUSE OF THE DAY

### A Labor of Love in Massachusetts

Dec. 13, 2018 10:00 a.m. ET

**Location:** Brimfield, MA

**Price:** \$3,670,000

This home outside Boston was transformed over four decades from a farmhouse into a manor with European design influences. It is asking \$3.67 million —Emily Nonko



Sean and Ann Finicane met at Harvard and decided to move to the country together. They wanted to live close to Boston to maintain ties to the city and in 1981, they found a 60-acre property in Brimfield. They bought the parcel, located about an hour outside Boston, for \$150,000. 'It was just a small farmhouse and guesthouse with a barn, but with amazing potential,' Ms. Finicane says.



The Finicanes spent the next 37 years and about \$2 million landscaping, renovating, rebuilding and expanding the property. Their first project was building the driveway, bordered by a 600-foot stone wall and white fenced-in horse pasture.





Ms. Finicane, 69, and Mr. Finicane, 76, ran three businesses from the property's guesthouse. The now-retired couple also renovated and expanded the farmhouse to create a residence with Mediterranean and European design elements.



'We created a villa-type atmosphere—even the interior of the house looks like an interior courtyard,' Mr. Finicane says. The couple imported materials from Europe like a travertine fireplace in the living room.



The Finicanes wanted an open-concept home, with rooms connected by a cathedral-style foyer and wrought-iron staircase. A skylight above the staircase brings in light.



The home is listed by William Pitt Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty agent Sherri Milkie for \$3.67 million.





The basement was converted into a dining and entertainment area. Its design was inspired by a vacation the couple took in Marbella, Spain.



The Finicanes designed the house with multiple patios, decks and large windows to connect the indoor and outdoor spaces. Their eldest daughter held her wedding at the property and threw her bouquet from the wrought-iron balcony.



The main house and guesthouse have seven bedrooms and 5½ baths over 10,608 square feet.



To complement the landscaping, the Finicanes added a pool deck with a fountain and Greco-Roman statuary. The 'lion garden,' as the family calls it, includes two stone lions imported from Belgium.





Mr. Finicane, who played tennis competitively, added clay and grass tennis courts to coach his children. There is also a golf-practice area and network of trails for horseback riding, hiking and cross-country skiing.



The pond was used by the family for ice skating and fishing. 'All the kids are out of the house and we want to do other things,' Ms. Finicane says.