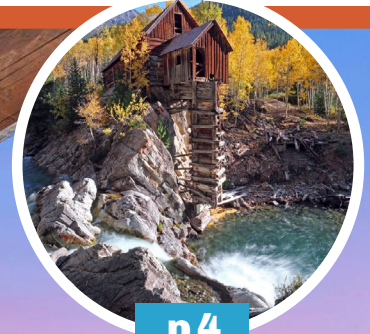


# HOMIE STRATOSPHERE

## 17 OF THE BEST SMALL TOWNS

for Retirees in the Southwest USA

p 170.



p 4

## 10 OF THE MOST SECLUDED MOUNTAIN TOWNS IN THE ROCKIES (yet still on the grid)

## THE 30 BEST SUBURBS

to live in Connecticut

p 180.



p 140

## 15 OF THE FINEST HISTORIC MANSIONS IN FLORIDA (Gilded Age South)

# table of CONTENTS



4

## 10 of the Most Secluded Mountain Towns in the Rockies

(yet still on the grid)



22

## Perfect 2-Bedroom Rustic Cabin

Step Inside this Picture

- 32** **Tour this 9,199 Sq. Ft. Masterpiece of a Mansion**  
Located in Houston, TX
- 62** **Tour this 10,773 Sq. Ft. SoCal Estate**  
with "Tower" Room, Tennis Court and Ocean Views
- 120** **Step Inside this Efficiently Planned 4-Bedroom Rancher**  
Where the Bedrooms Surround the Great Room in the Center
- 128** **Step Inside This Stunning 6-Bedroom European Manor**  
with Grand Turrets and Luxurious Details
- 140** **15 of the Finest Historic Mansions in Florida**  
(Gilded Age South)
- 148** **19 Storied and Legendary Mansions**  
That Defined Old Hollywood
- 158** **10 of the Most Secluded Towns in Texas**  
for Those Who Want to Get Away from it All
- 170** **17 of the Best Small Towns**  
for Retirees in the Southwest USA
- 180** **The 30 best suburbs to live in Connecticut**
- 212** **15 Fairytale Castles and Historic Mansions in the Netherlands**



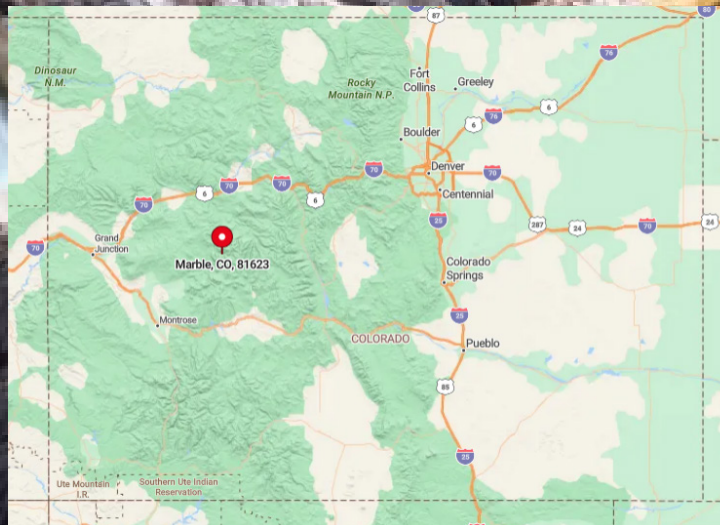
### IMAGE CREDITS:

10 of the Most Secluded Mountain Towns in the Rockies | Perfect 2-Bedroom Rustic Cabin | Tour this 9,199 Sq. Ft. Masterpiece of a Mansion | Tour this 10,773 Sq. Ft. SoCal Estate | Step Inside this Efficiently Planned 4-Bedroom Rancher | Step Inside This Stunning 6-Bedroom European Manor | 15 of the Finest Historic Mansions in Florida | 19 Storied and Legendary Mansions | 10 of the Most Secluded Towns in Texas | 17 of the Best Small Towns for Retirees in the Southwest USA | The 30 best suburbs to live in Connecticut | 15 Fairytale Castles and Historic Mansions in the Netherlands

# 10 OF THE MOST SECLUDED MOUNTAIN TOWNS IN THE ROCKIES

(yet still on the grid)

If you're looking for a mountain escape where tranquility meets breathtaking landscapes, the Rockies are home to some of the most secluded towns in North America. Tucked away amidst towering peaks and vast wilderness, these hidden gems offer a perfect retreat from the hustle and bustle of city life. From historic mining communities to artistic enclaves and gateways to untamed wilderness, each town has its unique charm and secrets waiting to be discovered. Join us as we count down ten of the most secluded mountain towns in the Rockies, each offering its own slice of serene paradise.



## Where is Marble, Colorado?

Located in Gunnison County, Marble sits about 60 miles southwest of Aspen, nestled deep within the Elk Mountains. The town's seclusion is heightened by the winding mountain roads that lead to it, often unpaved and impassable during winter months.

Accessed via State Highway 133 and County Road 3, the journey to Marble is as much a part of the adventure as the destination itself. The surrounding rugged terrain and absence of nearby major cities contribute to its isolated charm, making it a hidden treasure in the heart of the Rockies.

## 10 Marble, Colorado

With a tiny population of around 150 residents, Marble is a quaint mountain town known for its rich history and natural beauty. Visitors can explore the famous Marble Mill Site Park, where the pure white marble used for the Lincoln Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was quarried.

Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy hiking to the Crystal Mill, one of Colorado's most photographed sites, or fishing in the clear waters of the Crystal River. The town's main industries revolve around tourism and the historic marble quarry, which still operates today on a limited scale. Marble's seclusion stems from its remote location in the Elk Mountains and its limited amenities, offering a peaceful retreat surrounded by wilderness.

The lack of cell service and internet in parts of the town adds to its off-the-grid allure, making it an ideal spot for those seeking solitude.



## Victor, Idaho

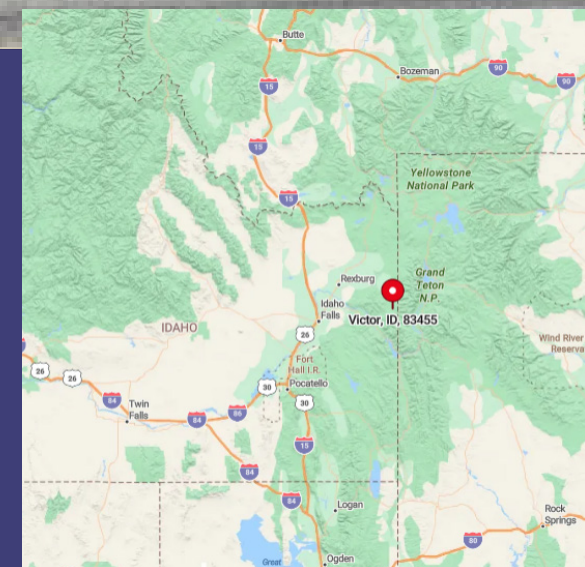
Home to approximately 2,500 residents, Victor is a hidden treasure near the majestic Teton Range. This charming town offers a quieter alternative to the bustling nearby areas, with opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and fly fishing in the untamed surroundings.

The Grand Teton Brewing Company, a local favorite, provides a cozy spot to sample craft beers after a day of outdoor activities. While tourism plays a role, many locals work in agriculture and commute to Jackson Hole for additional employment. Victor's seclusion is due to its location on the western side of the Teton Pass, offering scenic beauty without the crowds of its more famous neighbors. This peaceful setting allows visitors and residents to enjoy the grandeur of the Tetons in a more intimate and relaxed environment.

## Where is Victor, Idaho?

Nestled in Teton County, Victor lies at the southern end of Teton Valley, just miles from the Wyoming border. The town is secluded by its position west of the Teton Range, accessed primarily via State Highway 33. The mountain pass can be challenging, especially during winter months when snow can make travel difficult.

Despite being only about 25 miles from Jackson Hole, the winding roads and rugged landscape contribute to its remote feel. This strategic location provides a gateway to lesser-known trails and vistas, making Victor a secluded haven for nature lovers seeking a respite from tourist hubs.



8

# Augusta Montana

Augusta, with a population of just over 300, is a peaceful gateway to the Rocky Mountain Front. This small town exudes authentic Montana charm, where ranching and agriculture are the mainstays of the local economy.

Visitors can enjoy activities like hiking, horseback riding, and wildlife viewing in the nearby Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. The

local museums and general stores offer a glimpse into the town's rich history and community spirit.

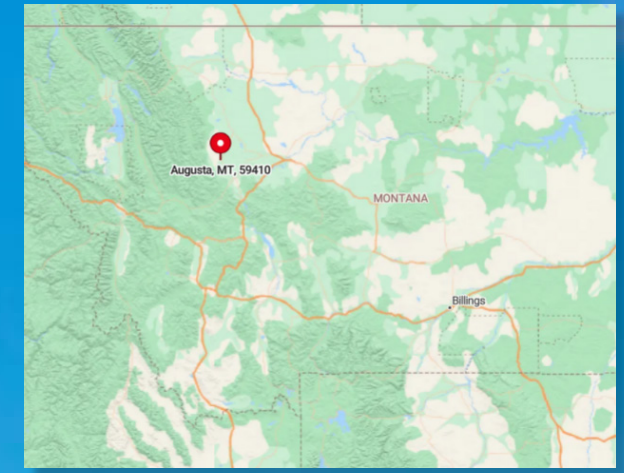
Augusta's seclusion comes from its location amid vast stretches of wilderness and grasslands, providing an unspoiled backdrop for those seeking a genuine small-town experience. Its quiet streets and friendly locals embody the essence of Montana hospitality.

## Where is Marble, Colorado?

Situated in Lewis and Clark County, Augusta lies along U.S. Route 287, about 55 miles west of Great Falls. The town is secluded due to its proximity to the remote Rocky Mountain Front, where the plains meet the towering peaks. The expansive surrounding

landscape, with few neighboring towns, accentuates its isolation.

Travelers can reach Augusta by car, driving through scenic byways that highlight the region's natural beauty. The lack of major highways and the vast open spaces make Augusta a tranquil retreat far removed from urban life.



## Crowsnest Pass, Alberta

Crowsnest Pass is a unique collection of small communities with a combined population of about 5,500. Nestled in the Canadian Rockies, these towns are rich in history, including tales of coal mining and the infamous Frank Slide rockslide of 1903.

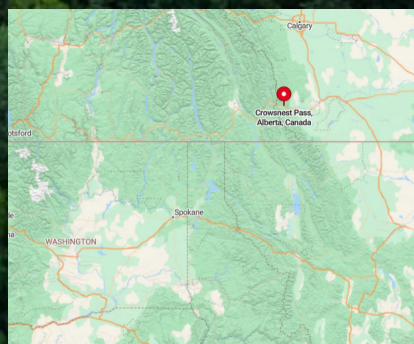
Outdoor activities abound, with opportunities for skiing at Pass Powderkeg, exploring historic sites, and hiking through picturesque trails. The main industries are mining, forestry, and tourism, reflecting a deep connection to the land and its resources.

The area's seclusion is enhanced by its mountainous terrain and the relative lack of urban development, offering a peaceful environment steeped in natural beauty and historical significance.

### Where is Marble, Colorado?

Situated in Lewis and Clark County, Augusta lies along U.S. Route 287, about 55 miles west of Great Falls. The town is secluded due to its proximity to the remote Rocky Mountain Front, where the plains meet the towering peaks. The expansive surrounding landscape, with few neighboring towns, accentuates its isolation.

Travelers can reach Augusta by car, driving through scenic byways that highlight the region's natural beauty. The lack of major highways and the vast open spaces make Augusta a tranquil retreat far removed from urban life.



## Lake City, Colorado

Lake City is a secluded haven with a population of approximately 400 residents, encircled by towering peaks of the San Juan Mountains. This quaint town offers tranquility amid pristine wilderness, with activities like hiking the Alpine Loop, fishing in Lake San Cristobal, and exploring historic sites from the silver mining era.

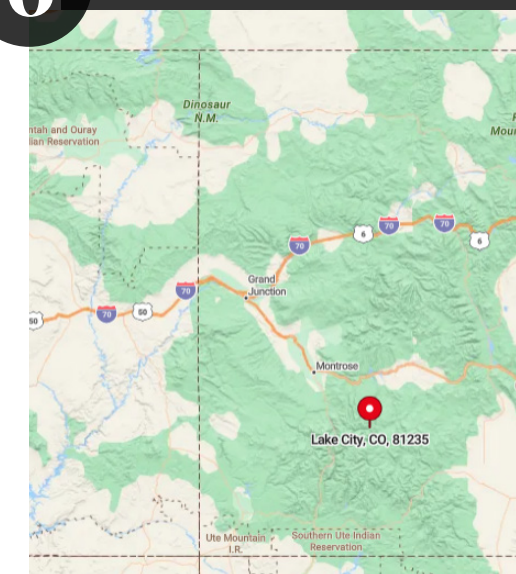
Tourism is a vital industry, though the remote location keeps visitor numbers modest. Lake City's seclusion is due to its high elevation and surrounding mountain ranges, which limit accessibility and preserve its untouched charm. The town's commitment to preserving its historic architecture adds to its appeal as a peaceful retreat steeped in Colorado's rich mining heritage.

### Where is Lake City, Colorado?

Situated in Hinsdale County, Lake City lies in the central part of the San Juan Mountains. The town is accessed mainly via Colorado State Highway 149, a route that winds through high mountain passes.

Its isolation is heightened by the fact that Hinsdale County is the least densely populated county in Colorado. The rugged terrain and limited roads make travel challenging, especially during winter months when snow can block passes.

This remoteness ensures that Lake City remains a quiet enclave, shielded from the hustle of larger tourist destinations.



# 5 Dubois, Wyoming

Dubois is an authentic Old West town with a population of around 1,000, nestled in the Upper Wind River Valley. It offers rustic charm and a vibrant mix of Native American and cowboy cultures.

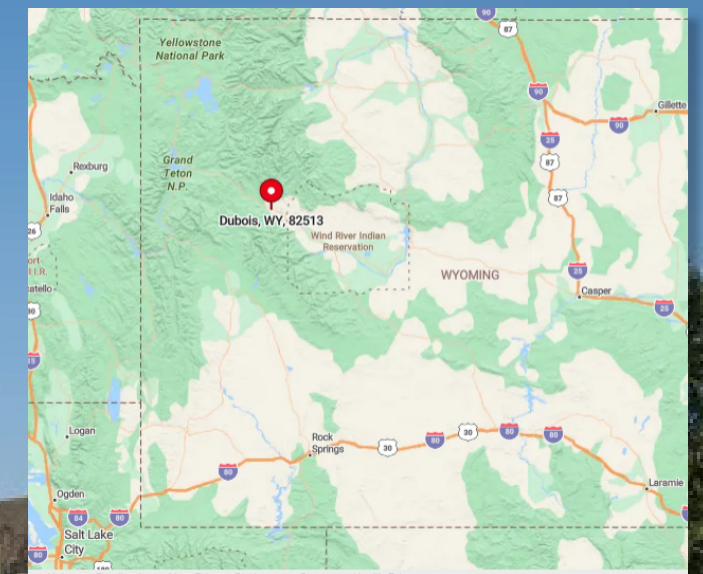
Visitors can explore the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center, enjoy horseback riding, or hike in the nearby Absaroka and Wind River mountain ranges. The local economy thrives on ranching, tourism, and logging, reflecting a strong connection to traditional industries.

Dubois's seclusion arises from its location amid vast wilderness areas and its distance from major urban centers, providing a genuine Western experience away from modern distractions.

## Where is Dubois, Wyoming?

Located in Fremont County, Dubois sits along U.S. Route 26/287, about 80 miles east of Jackson Hole. The town is surrounded by public lands, including national forests and wilderness areas, which contribute to its isolated feel.

The Togwotee Pass connects Dubois to the Jackson Hole area, but heavy snowfall can make travel challenging in winter. The remoteness is further accentuated by the expansive landscapes and minimal development, making Dubois a secluded spot perfect for immersing oneself in Wyoming's natural beauty.



4

# Creede, Colorado

Creede is an artistic enclave with a population of about 300, tucked into a dramatic canyon surrounded by the San Juan Mountains.

The town boasts a rich mining heritage, which can be explored at the Creede Underground Mining Museum. Art lovers will appreciate the Creede Repertory Theatre, renowned for high-quality performances in an intimate setting.

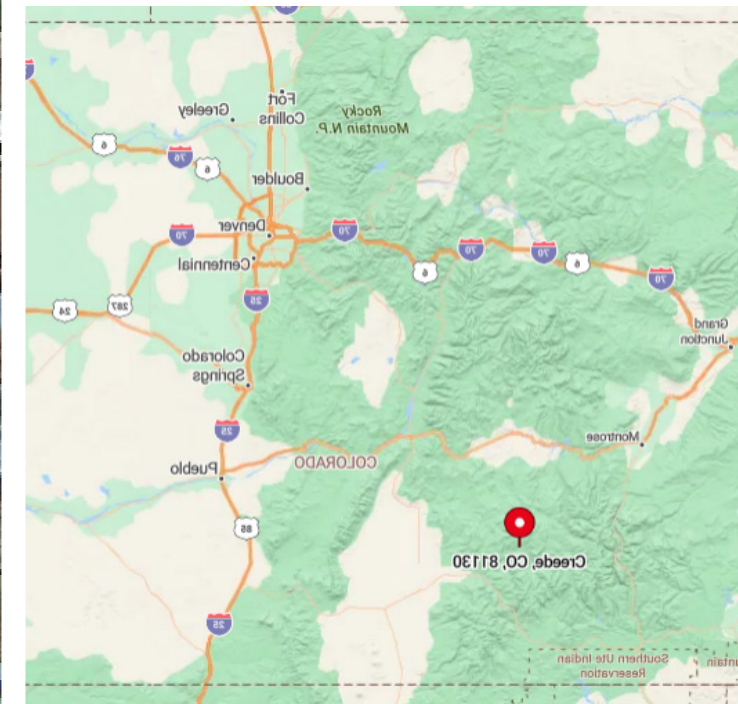
The main industries include tourism and the arts, with many local galleries showcasing regional talent. Creede's seclusion is due to its remote canyon setting, limited access roads, and preservation of its historical character, offering visitors a step back in time amidst breathtaking scenery.



## Where is Creede, Colorado?

Sitting in Mineral County, Creede is located near the headwaters of the Rio Grande River. Accessed via State Highway 149, the town is secluded by the surrounding cliffs and mountains.

The winding roads through rugged terrain make travel to Creede an adventure in itself. Its distance from interstates and larger cities, combined with the encompassing natural features, enhance its isolation. This geographic seclusion ensures that Creede remains a quiet haven for those seeking an escape into nature and history.



# Stanley, Idaho

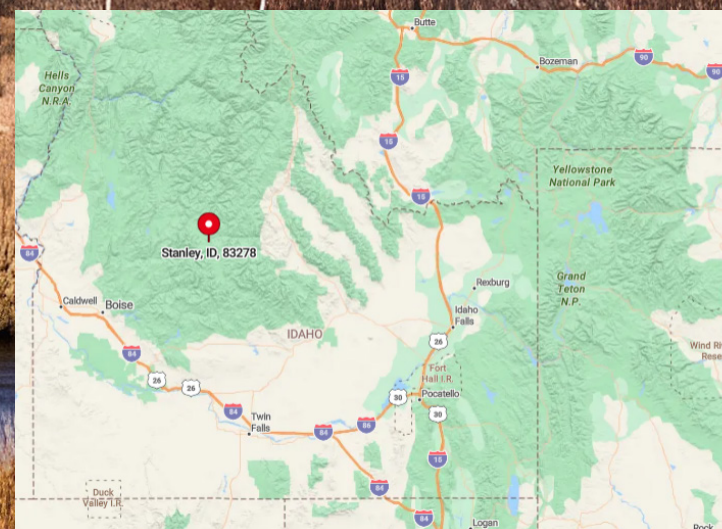
3

With a population hovering around 100 residents, Stanley is a remote gem surrounded by the Sawtooth Mountains.

The area provides unparalleled access to outdoor activities such as hiking, rafting on the Salmon River, fishing, and soaking in natural hot springs. The local community thrives on tourism, catering to enthusiasts of the great outdoors.

Stanley's seclusion is rooted in its location at the intersection of mountain ranges and wilderness areas, far from urban development.

The star-filled night skies and panoramic mountain views offer a serene backdrop for those looking to disconnect and immerse themselves in nature.



## Where is Stanley, Idaho?

Stanley is situated in Custer County, at the junction of State Highways 21 and 75, known as the Sawtooth Scenic Byway. The town's isolation is pronounced due to the long stretches of road required to reach it, with the nearest cities hours away.

The surrounding Sawtooth National Recreation Area forms a natural barrier, making it a secluded paradise. Access can be limited during winter months when snow can close mountain passes. This remoteness preserves Stanley's pristine environment, making it a sought-after destination for solitude and wilderness exploration.

# Red Lodge Montana

Red Lodge is a quaint mountain town with a population of about 2,300, located at the base of the Beartooth Highway. Its picturesque main street is lined with unique shops, galleries, and eateries that reflect the town's vibrant community.

Outdoor adventures await in the form of skiing at Red Lodge Mountain, hiking, and

exploring Yellowstone National Park, just a scenic drive away. The local economy is driven by tourism, mining, and ranching, blending historical roots with modern attractions.

Red Lodge's seclusion is attributed to its position amid expansive wilderness and the dramatic landscapes of the Beartooth Mountains, offering a peaceful atmosphere away from crowded tourist spots.

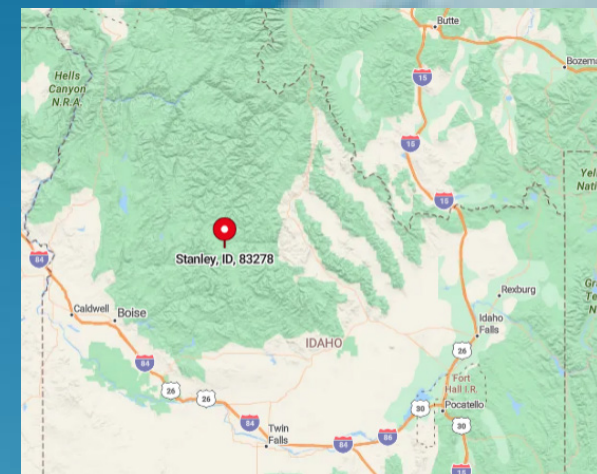
## Where is Red Lodge, Montana?

Located in Carbon County, Red Lodge is accessible via U.S. Route 212, which becomes the famous Beartooth Highway—a National Scenic Byways All-American Road.

The town is about 60 miles southwest of Billings, but the mountainous terrain and

winding roads create a sense of remoteness. The Beartooth Highway connects Red Lodge to the northeast entrance of Yellowstone National Park, but snow closes the highway for much of the year, enhancing the town's seclusion.

The majestic surroundings and limited access points make Red Lodge a hidden gem nestled in Montana's rugged landscape.



1

# Silverton Colorado

Silverton, a historic mining town with a population of around 600, is nestled high in the San Juan Mountains at an elevation of over 9,300 feet.

The town offers stunning alpine scenery and a preserved Wild West atmosphere, with many original buildings from its mining heyday. Visitors can ride the famous Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, explore the San Juan County Historical

Society Museum, or venture into the mountains for hiking, skiing, and off-roading. While tourism is now a primary industry, remnants of mining are still present, contributing to the local character.

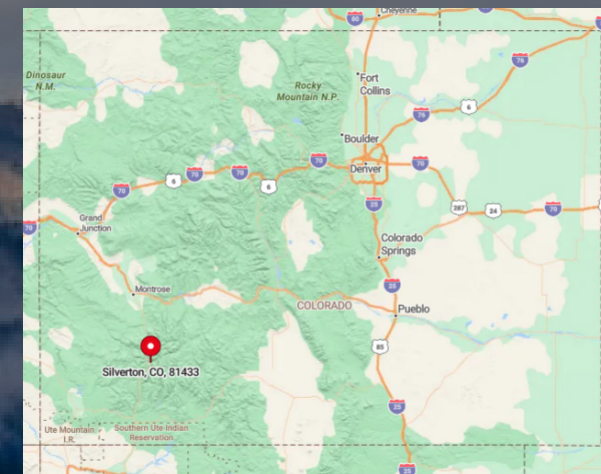
Silverton's seclusion is due to its high-altitude location and surrounding peaks, making it accessible by only a couple of roads that can be challenging during winter, offering an

authentic mountain town experience removed from the bustle of modern life.

## Where is Silverton, Colorado?

Situated in San Juan County, Silverton is accessible via the scenic Million Dollar Highway (U.S. Route 550) that connects it to Ouray in the north and Durango in the south. The town's

seclusion is heightened by the rugged mountain passes and steep cliffs that characterize the route, making travel an adventure itself. During winter months, snowfall can make these roads treacherous, further isolating the community. The lack of nearby urban centers and the surrounding wilderness areas contribute to Silverton's remote feel, offering visitors a genuine escape into Colorado's storied mining past and natural grandeur.



STEP INSIDE THIS PICTURE

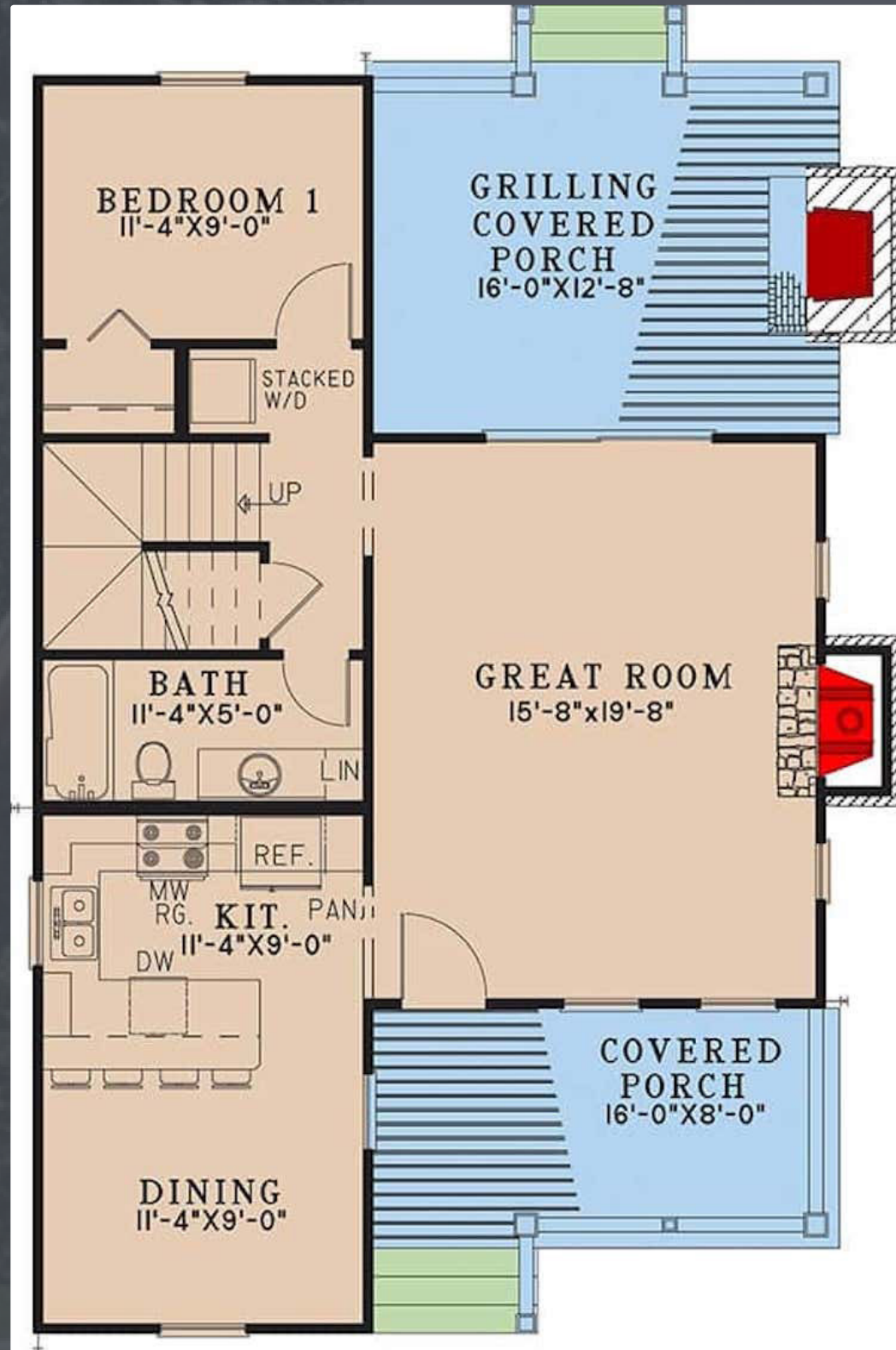
# PERFECT 2-BEDROOM RUSTIC CABIN

1,266 SQ. FT. FLOOR PLAN

This cabin exemplifies the rustic farmhouse architectural style. It blends traditional rural elements like wooden siding, a metal roof, and stone chimneys with a cozy, cottage-like design.

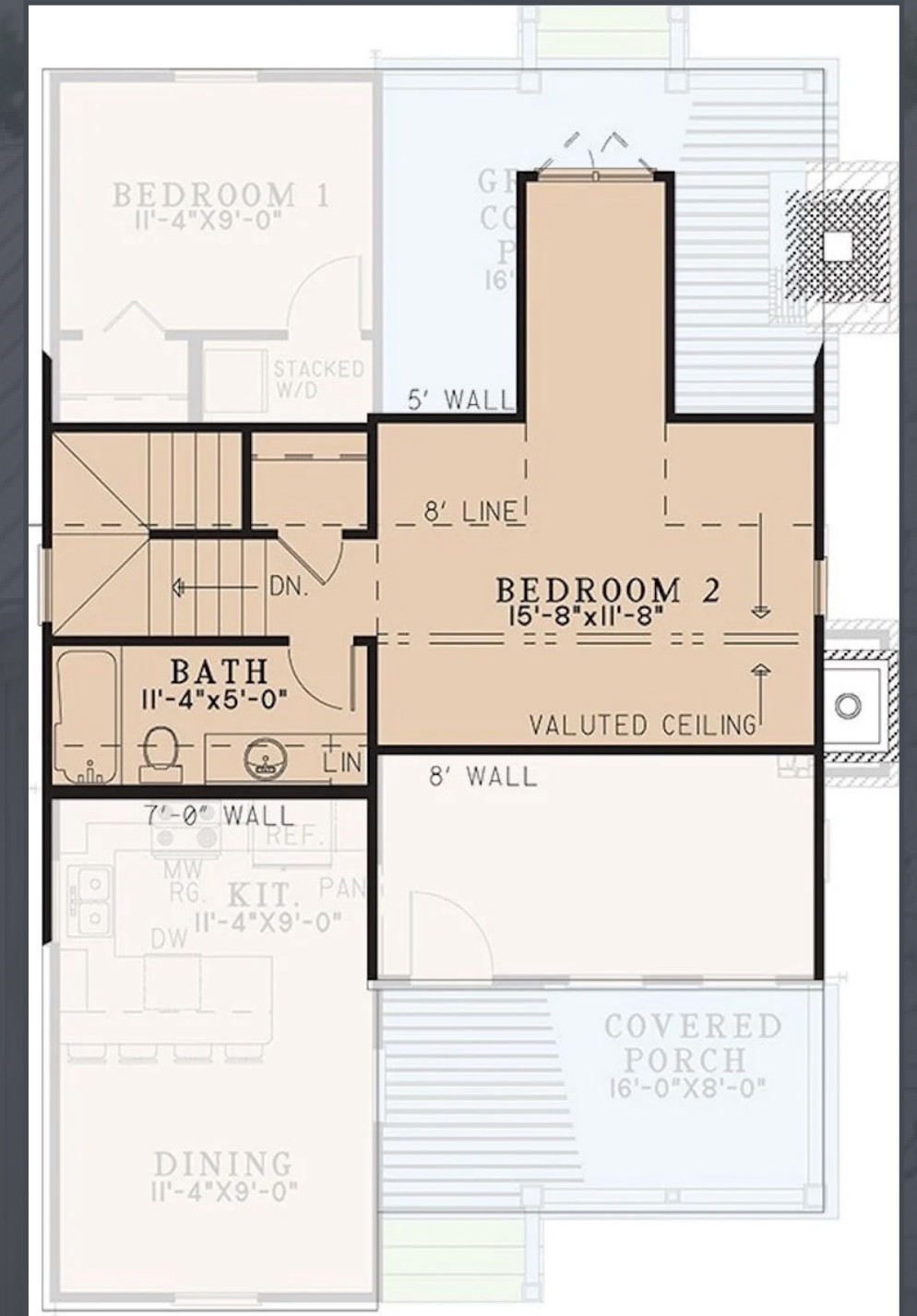
The structure features a welcoming front porch, vertical board-and-batten exterior, and a simple gabled roofline that captures the essence of countryside living with a modern twist.

# The Main Floor Plan



The main level floor plan maximizes space with an open-concept design, connecting the great room, kitchen, and dining area seamlessly. The bedroom and bathroom are positioned for convenience, with a stacked washer and dryer near the stairs. The grilling porch and covered porch extend the living space outdoors, perfect for relaxing or entertaining.

**BUY: ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS**  
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## Upper Floor Layout

The upper level floor plan includes a second bedroom with a vaulted ceiling, adding height and dimension to the space. This bedroom is positioned for privacy, separate from the main living areas below. A small landing connects the stairs to the bedroom, maintaining the compact yet functional layout of the cabin.

# Cozy Living Room with Stone Fireplace and Rustic Wood Framed Windows

The living room centers around a rustic stone fireplace that anchors the space. White sofas and armchairs provide comfortable seating, contrasting with the warm wood ceiling. Large windows flood the room with natural light, while a ceiling fan adds both style and function to this inviting gathering area.

## SAME LIVING, DIFFERENT VIEW

This living space seamlessly blends rustic and modern elements. A wooden coffee table serves as the focal point, surrounded by plush white furniture. The room opens to adjacent areas, with glimpses of the kitchen and stairs visible, creating a spacious and connected feel.



## TWO HANDSOME ARMCHAIRS

Comfortable armchairs face a stone-framed fireplace, creating a cozy nook for relaxation. A large sliding glass door offers expansive views of the surrounding landscape. The wooden ceiling adds warmth to the space, while the stone fireplace provides a striking visual element.





**FARMHOUSE KITCHEN AND DINING AREA – INTERESTING MIX OF RUSTIC AND CONTEMPORARY DESIGN FEATURES**

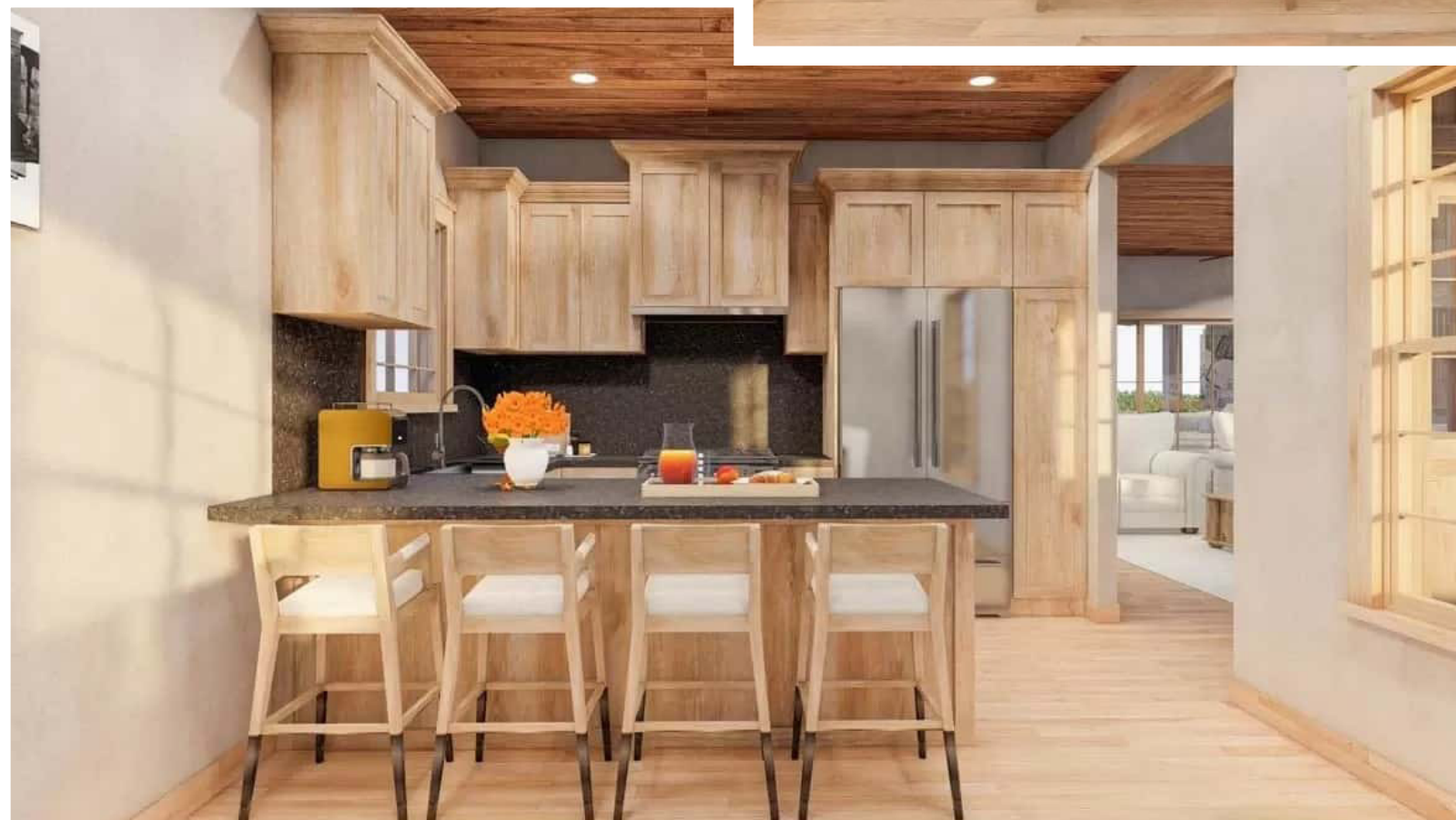
The kitchen combines functionality with farmhouse charm, featuring light wood cabinetry and stainless steel appliances.

A central island with bar seating bridges the kitchen and dining areas. The dining table, illuminated by a contemporary light fixture, offers ample space for shared meals and conversation.



**COZY DEDICATED DINING NOOK**

The dining area boasts a simple, square table surrounded by four cushioned chairs, all set against large windows that offer scenic outdoor views. A black metal chandelier adds an elegant touch, casting soft light over the minimalistic space. The room's neutral tones and wooden ceiling provide a warm, inviting atmosphere, perfect for intimate meals.



**SIZEABLE KITCHEN FOR 1,266 SQ. FT. HOME**

The kitchen features a large island that doubles as a casual dining area with space for three bar stools. The wood cabinetry extends to the ceiling, creating ample storage while maintaining the cabin's rustic charm. Stainless steel appliances and dark countertops contrast beautifully with the light wood tones, creating a modern yet cozy cooking space.

# Front View – Charming Cabin with Cozy Front Porch

This cabin's front porch, complete with simple wooden railings, offers a welcoming space to enjoy the outdoors. The compact structure features a steep metal roof and a stone chimney that adds rustic character to the design. Lush landscaping around the porch and windows enhances the home's curb appeal, creating a serene and inviting environment.



## **SIDE VIEW – GIVE A SENSE OF FIREPLACES AND DOUBLE PORCHES**

The side of this cabin features two towering stone chimneys that add a dramatic, rustic element to the exterior. The vertical wood siding enhances the natural, handcrafted look, while the small windows offer a glimpse of the cozy interior. A covered porch extends from the side, creating a sheltered spot for relaxing and blending seamlessly with the natural surroundings.



## **REAR VIEW – COOKIE CUTTER TO FRONT LOL**

The rear view of the cabin features a charming dormer window that adds architectural interest and natural light to the upper level. A cozy covered porch provides a sheltered outdoor seating area, perfect for enjoying the peaceful surroundings. The combination of light wood siding, stone chimney, and metal roofing maintains the rustic yet modern aesthetic of the cabin.



TOUR THIS **9,199 SQ. FT.**  
**MASTERP  
PIECE**  
**OF A MAN  
SION**

**LOCATED IN HOUSTON, TX**

\$5 million gets you this incredible nearly 10,000 sq. ft. stunner in Houston, TX. It starts with its grand brick exterior with classic architecture of towering white columns. From there, it's meticulously landscaped grounds... and we haven't gone inside yet lol.

Once you get inside, every room is perfect; a masterpiece in every sense. The attention to interior design detail is second-to-none. Built in 1984, this home includes four spacious bedrooms and eight bathrooms. Let's take a look.

**LIVING ROOM WITH ORNATE  
DECOR – THE MOLDING IS  
EXCEPTIONAL**

Carved fireplace mantel anchors the living room, flanked by crystal sconces and a gilded mirror. Large windows bring in natural light, highlighting intricate moldings and wainscoting. Plush seating and a floral-patterned rug create a cozy, refined atmosphere.



**EXPANSIVE TRADITIONAL  
LIVING ROOM WITH FRENCH  
DOORS TO THE PATIO**

Large windows with divided panes overlook a green lawn, filling the living room with natural light. A sparkling chandelier hangs from a detailed ceiling medallion above an ornate seating arrangement. Custom woodwork frames the fireplace, flanked by built-in shelving and decorative accents.



**THIS IS MY FAVORITE ROOM OF THE HOUSE – IT'S NOVEL AND STUNNING IN EVERY REGARD**

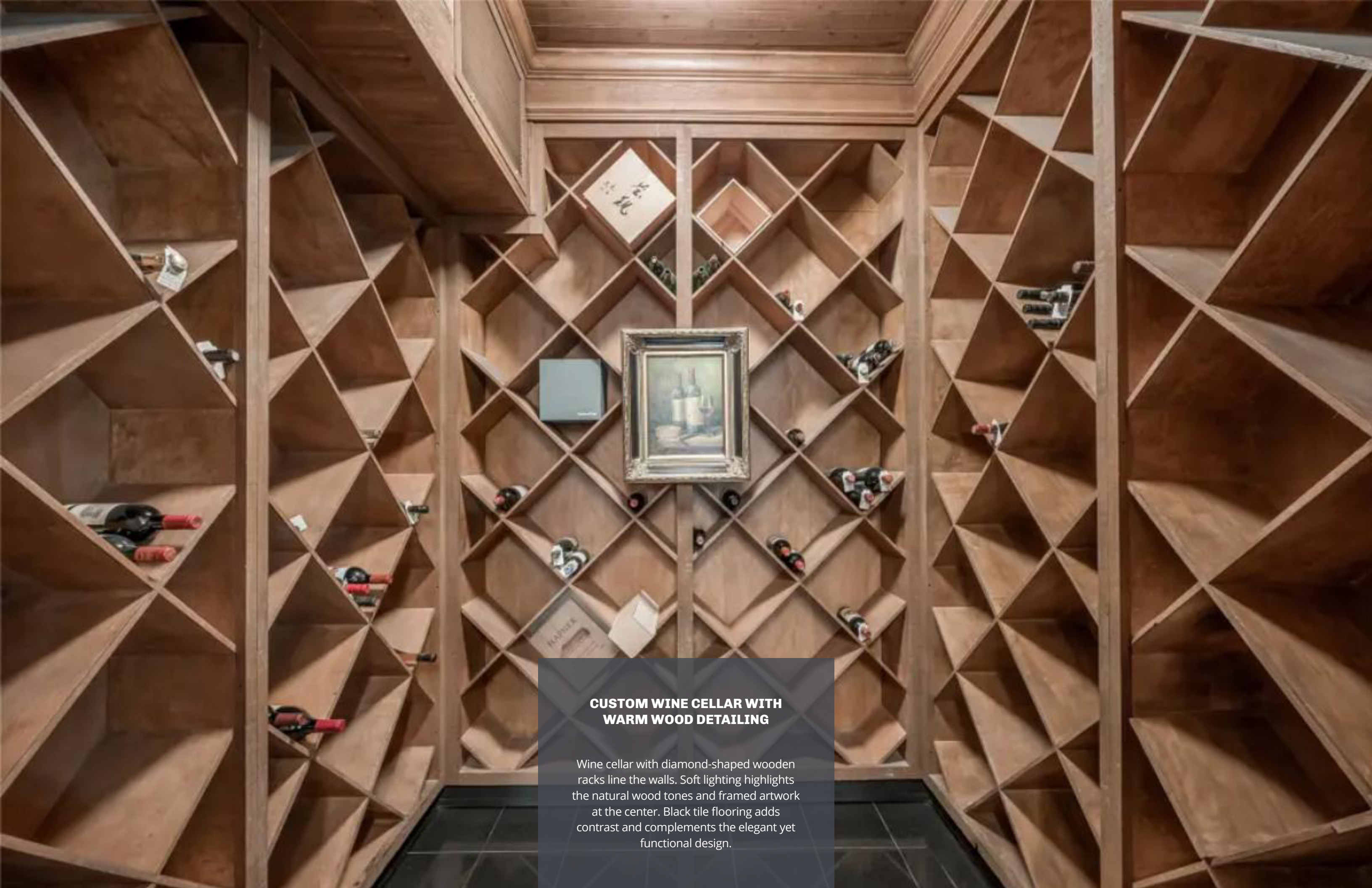
Rich green lacquered walls and a coffered ceiling exude sophistication and grandeur. A black marble fireplace serves as a focal point, surrounded by ornate moldings and elegant paneling. Large windows framed by luxurious drapes flood the space with natural light, highlighting the intricate furnishings and detailed decor.



**I'M NOT A BIG TRADITIONAL  
DESIGN PERSON BUT WHEN IT'S  
DONE UP LIKE THIS, I LIKE IT**

Vaulted ceiling features exposed brickwork, adding warmth and texture to the living room. Large windows and French doors bring in natural light and provide views of the landscaped yard. Blue and white upholstered furniture complements the neutral walls and elegant decor.





**CUSTOM WINE CELLAR WITH  
WARM WOOD DETAILING**

Wine cellar with diamond-shaped wooden racks line the walls. Soft lighting highlights the natural wood tones and framed artwork at the center. Black tile flooring adds contrast and complements the elegant yet functional design.



**FORMAL DINING ROOM  
FIT FOR ROYALTY (IT  
REALLY IS)**

Crystal chandelier hangs above a polished wood dining table surrounded by upholstered chairs. Dining room's large windows and mirrored walls enhance natural light and create a spacious feel. Decorative moldings, a richly patterned rug, and antique accents complete the refined ambiance.



**INTERESTING TRADITIONAL LIVING ROOM WITH RUSTIC  
A HINT OF RUTIC**

Exposed brick fireplace with detailed stonework serves as the living room's focal point. Large windows with wood trim bring in natural light and offer garden views. Neutral furnishings, a chandelier, and soft accents create a warm and inviting atmosphere.



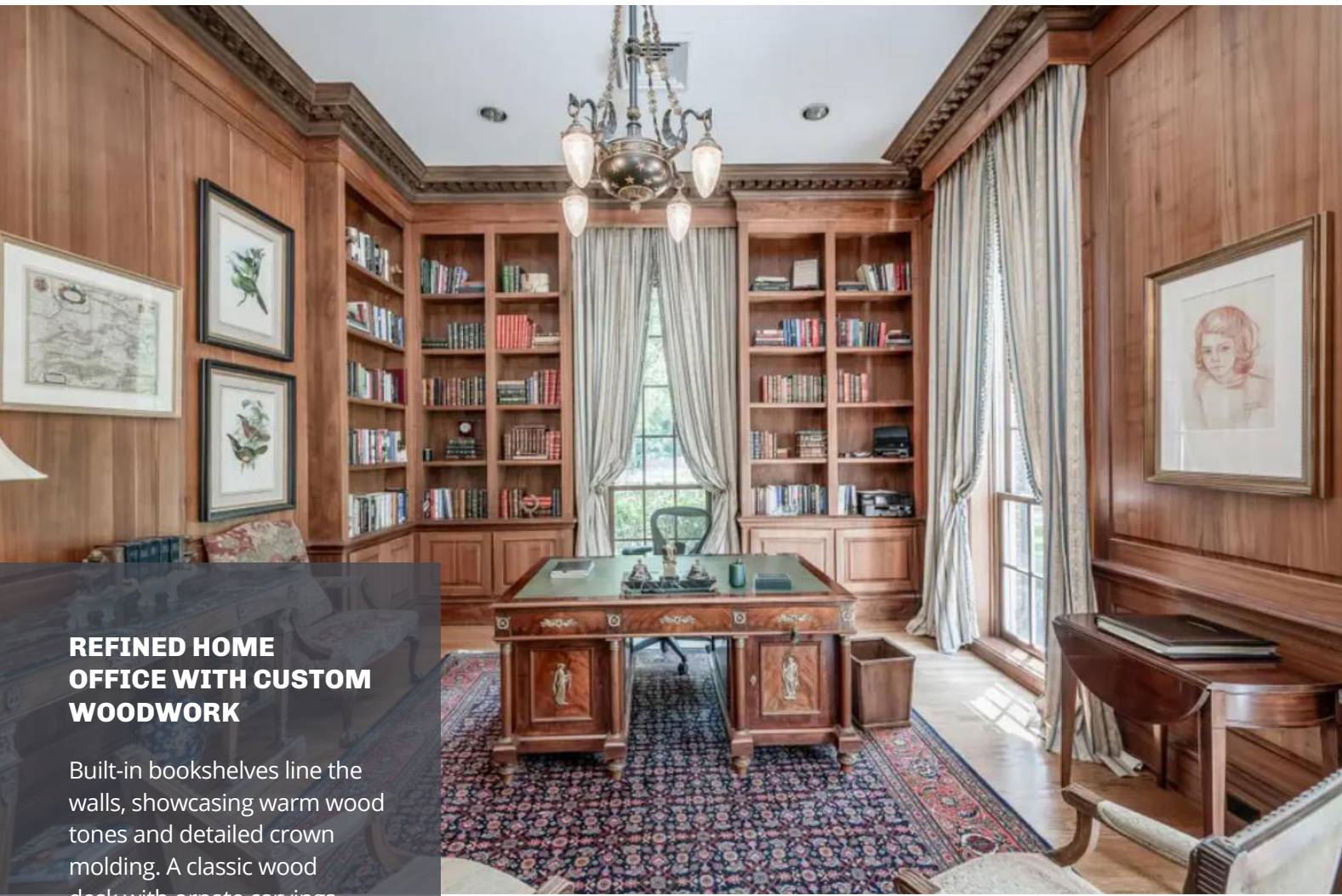
**TRADITIONAL KITCHEN – IT'S A NICE KITCHEN BUT CAN'T SAY IT  
COMES CLOSE TO BEING MY FAVORITE ROOM OF THE HOUSE**

The kitchen's custom white cabinetry provides ample storage, complemented by black granite countertops. An arched window above the sink allows natural light to illuminate the space. Stainless steel appliances and a central island enhance functionality and efficiency.



**COMFORTABLE HOME THEATER  
WITH CUSTOM BUILT-INS**

Home theater's built-in cabinetry and a large projection screen dominate the front wall, creating a functional entertainment space. Plush seating with soft pillows provides a cozy environment for movie viewing. Warm wood tones and subtle lighting enhance the intimate atmosphere.



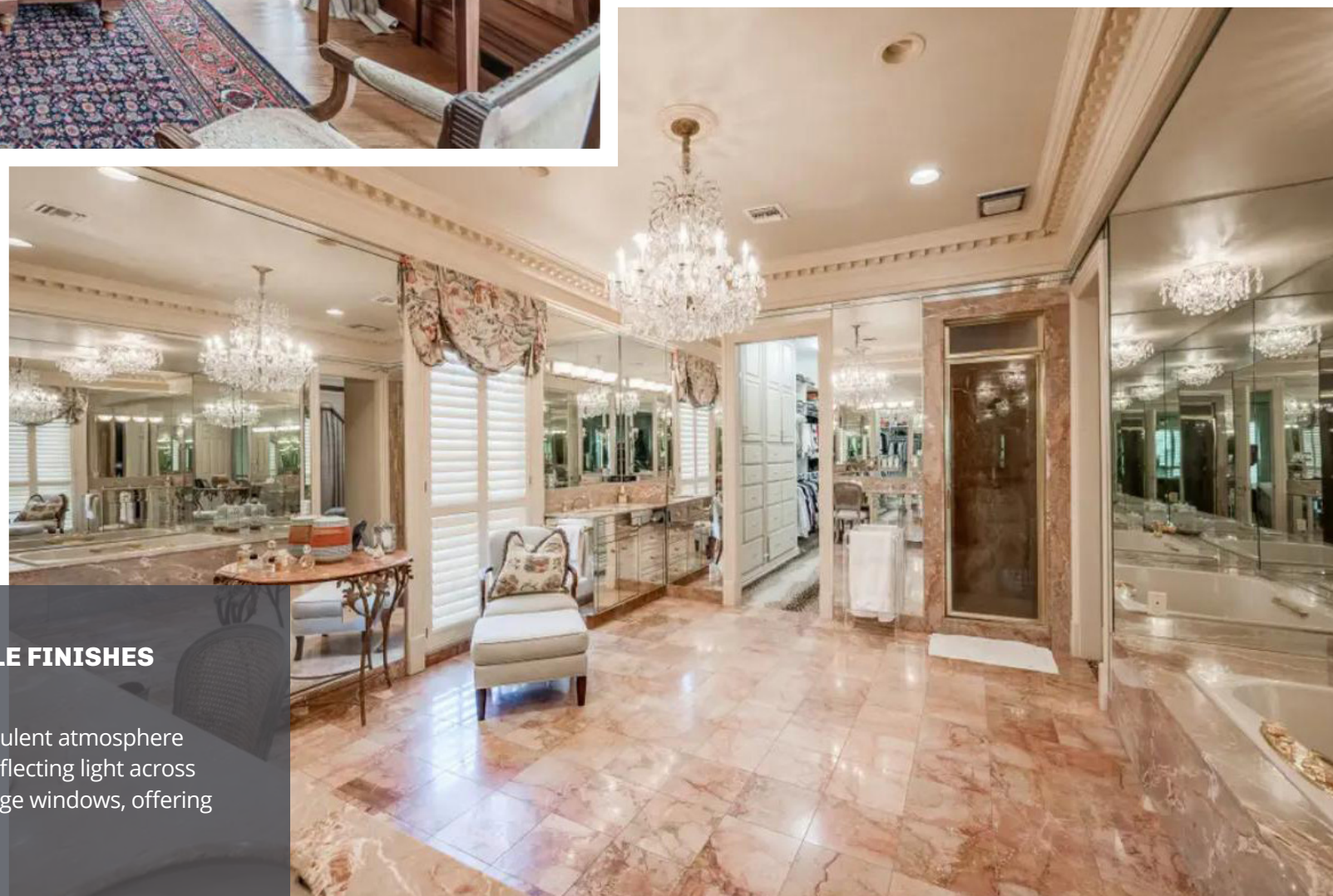
### REFINED HOME OFFICE WITH CUSTOM WOODWORK

Built-in bookshelves line the walls, showcasing warm wood tones and detailed crown molding. A classic wood desk with ornate carvings anchors the home office, complemented by a richly patterned rug. Floor-to-ceiling windows with elegant drapes bring in natural light, creating an inviting workspace.



### SPACIOUS BEDROOM WITH OLD-WORLD TOUCHES

Bedroom's soft neutral tones and detailed crown molding create a calm and sophisticated ambiance. Large windows with plantation shutters provide natural light and privacy. Ornate furnishings, including an upholstered bed and floral area rug, enhance the refined style.



### LUXURIOUS OLD WORLD BATHROOM WITH MARBLE FINISHES AND ELEGANT DETAILS

Polished marble floors and countertops create a refined and opulent atmosphere of the bathroom. Crystal chandeliers add a touch of glamour, reflecting light across mirrored walls. Plantation shutters and floral valances frame large windows, offering both natural light and privacy.



### STYLISH DRESSING ROOM WITH ELEGANT ACCENTS

Built-in cabinetry with dark blue finishes provides ample storage and organization. Full-length mirror and patterned carpet add both functionality and visual interest. A chandelier overhead complements the refined design, enhancing the room's luxurious ambiance.



### CHARMING BEDROOM WITH COORDINATED FABRICS AND SOFT TONES

Delicate floral patterns on bedding and curtains create a cohesive and inviting design of the bedroom. Large window with soft drapery allows natural light to brighten the room. Neutral walls and a green geometric rug complement the elegant and serene ambiance.



### BEDROOM WITH CLASSIC DÉCOR AND FUNCTIONAL DESIGN

Bedroom's neutral walls and floral drapery create a calm and timeless aesthetic. Large windows with plantation shutters provide ample natural light and privacy. Antique wooden furniture and a subtle patterned rug add charm and warmth to the space.



## ELEVATOR

Wood-paneled walls provide a warm, classic interior for the compact elevator. Black trim accents the walls, adding contrast and a clean finish. A built-in phone ensures convenience and safety during operation.



**SERENE BACKYARD WITH POOL  
AND COVERED PAVILION PATIO**

Brick pathway leads through lush green lawn to a sparkling pool. Elegant covered patio area offers shaded seating and space for outdoor relaxation. Mature trees and manicured hedges frame the private and peaceful setting.



**THE REQUISITE POOL WITH  
POOLSIDE PAVILION WITH  
CURVED DESIGN**

Curved covered pavilion overlooks a serene pool, offering ample space for outdoor seating and lounging. Draped curtains provide privacy and a touch of sophistication. Surrounding trees and greenery enhance the tranquil atmosphere of the outdoor retreat.

**THE REQUISITE POOL WITH  
POOLSIDE PAVILION WITH  
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Curved covered pavilion overlooks a serene pool, offering ample space for outdoor seating and lounging. Draped curtains provide privacy and a touch of sophistication. Surrounding trees and greenery enhance the tranquil atmosphere of the outdoor retreat.



**BACKYARD WITH PATIO  
SEATING AND POOL VIEW**

Brick pathways wind through a vibrant green lawn, connecting the home to the pool area. Wooden benches under mature shade trees provide a peaceful outdoor seating area. French doors open to the backyard, seamlessly blending indoor and outdoor spaces.



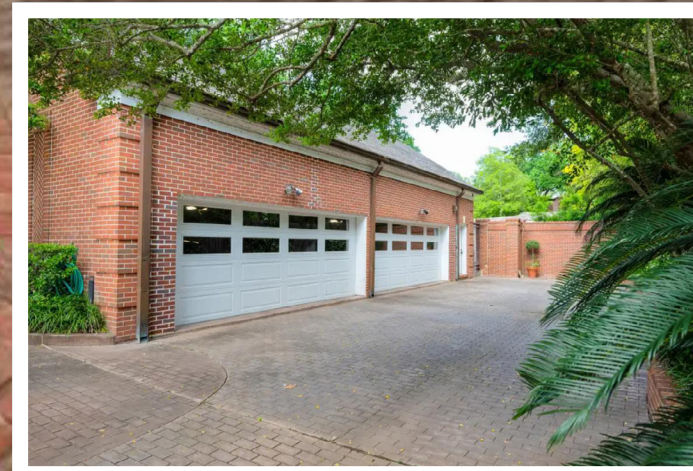
**CLASSIC PORCH LONG ENOUGH  
FOR A BOWLING ALLEY**

Brick flooring and white railings enhance the traditional charm of the spacious balcony. Large white columns frame serene views of the surrounding greenery. Rocking chairs and lantern-style lighting create an inviting space for outdoor relaxation.



**LET'S END IT WITH ANOTHER CURB  
PEAK CAUSE IT'S SO GREAT**

Illuminated white columns create a striking focal point against the brick facade at dusk. Symmetrical windows with classic black shutters frame the grand entrance, accentuated by warm lighting. A sweeping brick driveway leads to the front door, surrounded by manicured hedges and lush greenery.



**SPACIOUS 4-CAR GARAGE**

Paved driveway leads to a three-car garage with white panel doors and modern window accents. Brick construction complements the architectural style of the home. Lush greenery and mature trees provide privacy and a natural border around the area.

TOUR THIS

# 10,773 SQ. FT. SOCAL ESTATE

with “Tower” Room, Tennis  
Court and Ocean Views

Spanning 10,773 sq. ft., this \$35 million estate features six bedrooms and eleven baths. Built in 2002, it sits on 2.49 manicured acres in uber-wealthy Santa Barbara, CA. Architectural elegance and refined craftsmanship define the space. Expansive interiors and meticulous detailing create a timeless appeal.

## Main Gate Entrance (Privacy)

A custom wooden gate with an arched design marks the entrance to the property. Flanked by stucco pillars with terracotta-tiled tops, the gate combines rustic charm and modern craftsmanship. The words "Villa delle Palme" are engraved on the wall, adding a personalized touch to the entryway.

VILLA *delle* PALME



## Exterior Front View of the Mansion

THIS IS THE WELCOME VIEW

The home features Mediterranean-style architecture with white stucco walls and terracotta roof tiles. A circular driveway surrounds a gravel courtyard, framed by tall cypress trees and lush landscaping. Arched windows and wrought-iron accents enhance the building's timeless design.

## Take a Look at That Timber

Massive exposed wood beams with intricate metal accents dominate the vaulted ceiling, adding warmth and character. Expansive floor-to-ceiling glass doors frame sweeping outdoor views and fill the space with natural light. A sleek fireplace, modern furnishings, and a grand piano create a refined yet inviting atmosphere.



## Elegant Dining Room with Panoramic Ocean

Arched floor-to-ceiling windows frame panoramic views of the rolling hills and ocean beyond. A sleek marble dining table with modern chairs anchors the space, creating a blend of elegance and simplicity. Exposed wood beams and wide plank flooring add warmth to the bright, open room.

# Outdoor Patio with Fire Pit and Distant Ocean Views

A spacious stone patio overlooks rolling hills and the ocean, offering a serene backdrop. Centered around a modern fire pit, the seating area includes woven chairs and a plush outdoor sofa. Arched glass doors lead seamlessly into the interior, blending indoor and outdoor living.





## Modern Kitchen with Sleek Design

Central island with a matte black finish anchors the kitchen, surrounded by minimalist cabinetry in contrasting white and dark tones. Open shelving displays curated decor, while stainless steel appliances and a mirrored backsplash add a contemporary touch. Large windows and track lighting brighten the space, highlighting the warm wood flooring and clean lines.

## Bedroom with Ocean Views and Fireplace

Exposed wooden beams add warmth to the vaulted ceiling, complementing the serene decor. French doors open to sweeping views of the ocean and surrounding greenery, inviting natural light into the room. A gold-framed mirror hangs above the modern fireplace, creating a focal point of elegance and comfort.



# Luxurious Bathroom with Modern Features

A frameless glass shower surrounded by mirrored tiles creates a spacious and reflective design. Double vanities feature amber glass vessel sinks and sleek pendant lighting, enhancing the modern aesthetic. Built-in shelving and gold-framed artwork add functional elegance to the space.



## Sophisticated Walk-In Closet with Modern Design

Glass shelving and sleek black cabinetry create a contemporary and organized atmosphere. Chevron-patterned wood flooring adds texture and sophistication to the space. Natural light streams through open French doors, connecting the walk-in closet to the lush outdoor setting.

## Outdoor Pavilion with Stone Fireplace

A stone pavilion with a terracotta-tiled roof anchors the landscaped backyard. The cozy seating area surrounds a built-in stone fireplace, offering a serene retreat. Framed by lush greenery, the space combines rustic charm with natural beauty.



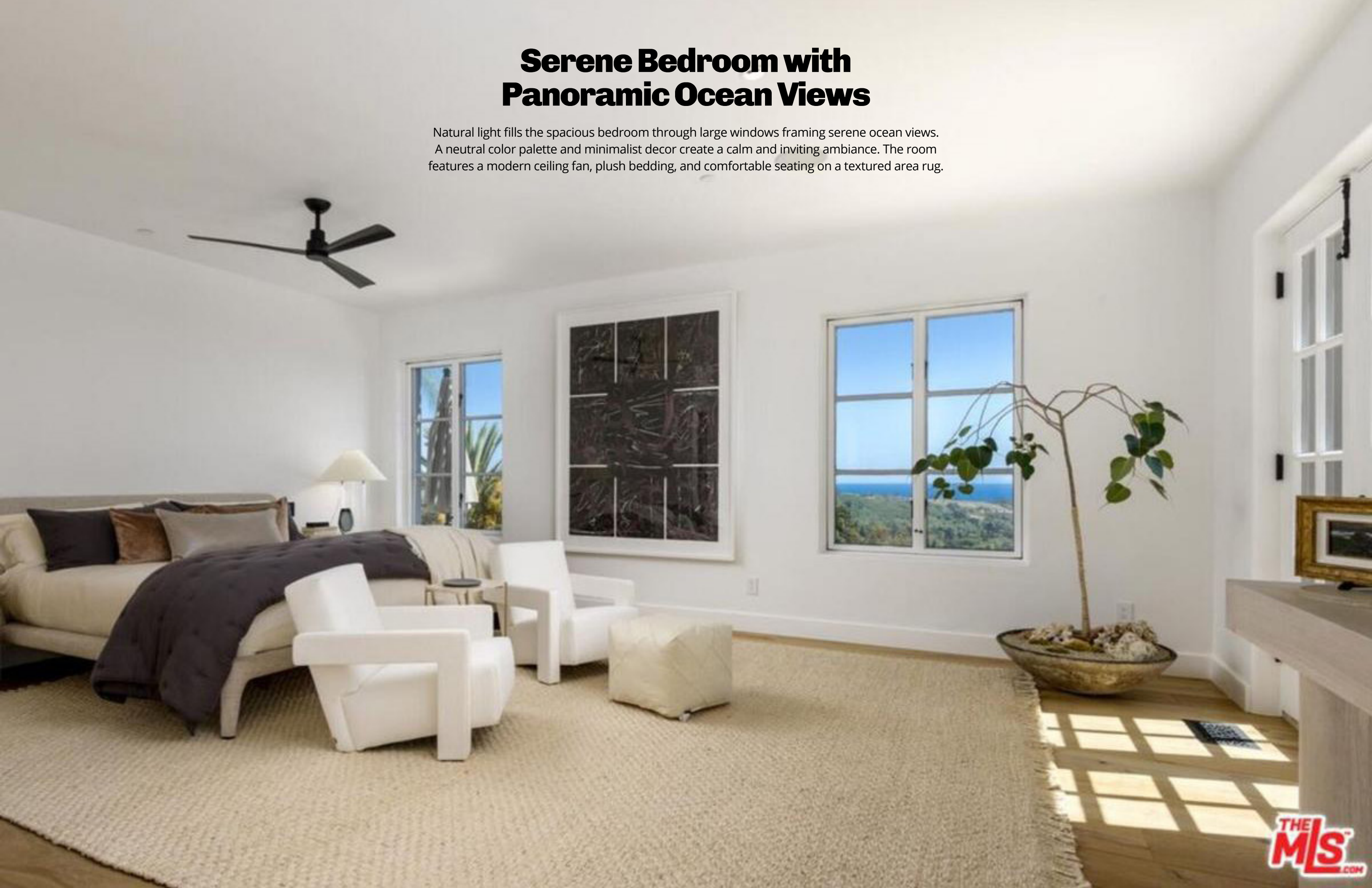
## Cozy Sitting Area with Ocean Views

Exposed wooden beams enhance the intimate charm of the sitting area, which features built-in shelving and a comfortable daybed. French doors open to reveal stunning ocean views and access to the outdoor pool. Modern furnishings and textured accents create a warm, inviting space for relaxation.



# Serene Bedroom with Panoramic Ocean Views

Natural light fills the spacious bedroom through large windows framing serene ocean views. A neutral color palette and minimalist decor create a calm and inviting ambiance. The room features a modern ceiling fan, plush bedding, and comfortable seating on a textured area rug.



## Contemporary Bathroom with Minimalist Design

Bright white tile walls and a floating vanity create a clean, modern aesthetic. An illuminated circular mirror serves as a striking focal point, enhancing the room's warm lighting. The bathroom features a sleek bathtub with a frameless glass partition and black hardware accents.



## Elegant Staircase with Rustic Details

A curved staircase with light oak treads and wrought-iron railing adds a touch of sophistication to the entryway. Exposed wood beams on the ceiling complement the rustic cabinetry and built-in shelving. Arched doorways and recessed wall niches enhance the architectural character of the space.

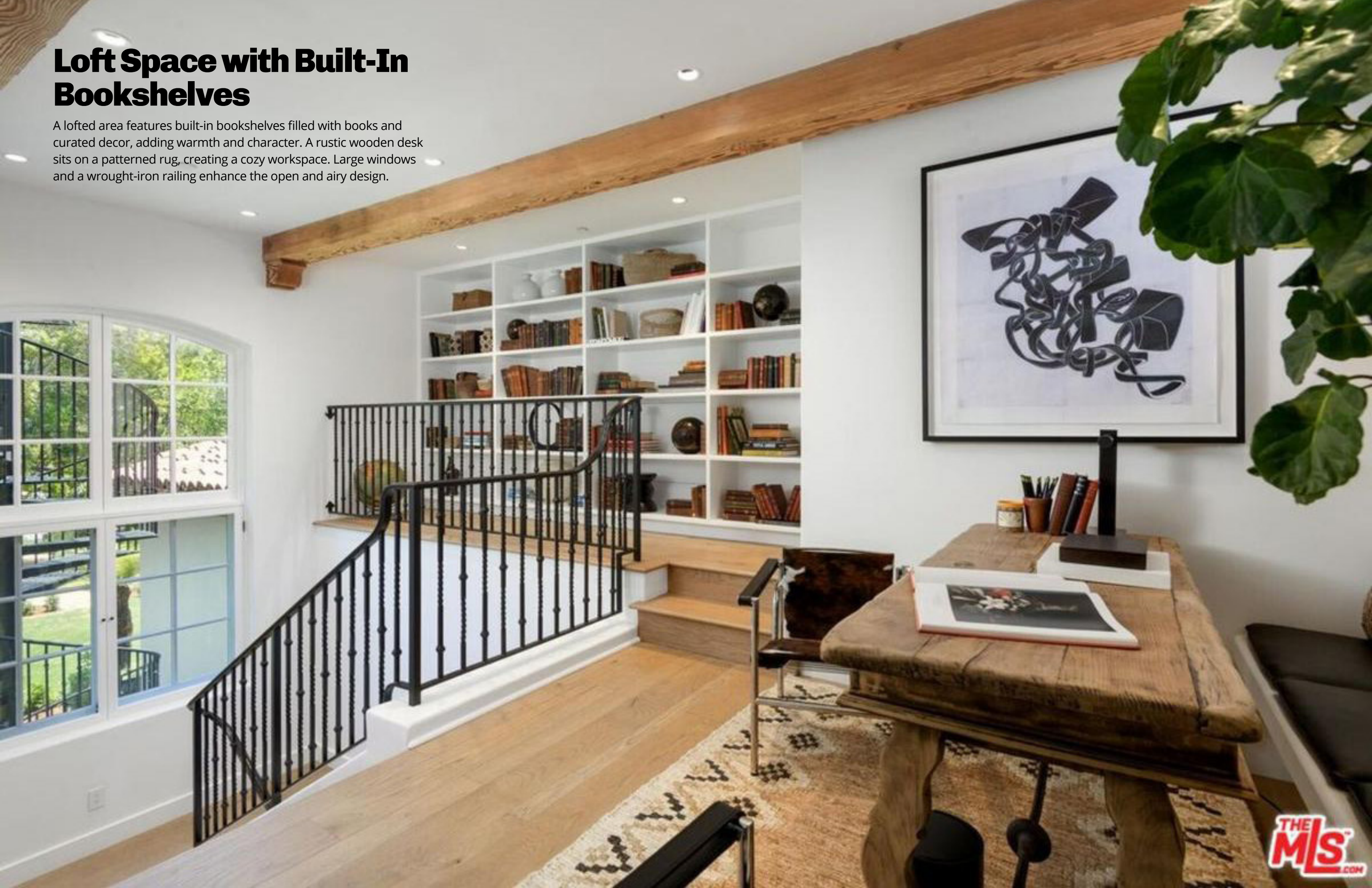
## Spacious Bedroom with Balcony and Ocean Views

French doors open to a private balcony, showcasing stunning ocean and hillside views. The bedroom features a neutral palette with cozy bedding, a patterned area rug, and contemporary furniture. A wall-mounted television and modern ceiling fan add functionality and comfort to the serene space.



# Loft Space with Built-In Bookshelves

A lofted area features built-in bookshelves filled with books and curated decor, adding warmth and character. A rustic wooden desk sits on a patterned rug, creating a cozy workspace. Large windows and a wrought-iron railing enhance the open and airy design.



## Elegant Wine Cellar with Custom Storage

Custom wooden racks line the walls of the wine cellar, providing organized storage for an extensive collection. Subtle lighting highlights the craftsmanship and creates a warm ambiance. A tasting counter adds functionality, while decorative accents enhance the room's sophistication.

# Infinity Pool with Scenic Views

An infinity-edge pool reflects the serene hues of the sunset, seamlessly blending with the horizon. The surrounding landscape features lush greenery and distant ocean views, creating a tranquil atmosphere. Natural stone decking adds a warm and rustic contrast to the modern pool design.

## Exterior Courtyard with the Coolest Spiral Staircase and Fountain

A wrought-iron spiral staircase connects multiple levels, adding charm and functionality to the exterior design. The courtyard features a central fountain surrounded by manicured lawns and lush greenery. Terracotta roof tiles and arched windows enhance the Mediterranean-inspired architecture.



## Cozy “Tower” Lounge Room

Vaulted ceilings and arched windows create a bright and airy atmosphere in the lounge room. Built-in seating with layered pillows adds comfort, while a striped rug anchors the space. French doors open to a private balcony with breathtaking views of the ocean and hills.





## **Picturesque Garden with Outdoor Dining Area – Looks Like Italy**

A landscaped garden path lined with roses and cypress trees leads to a decorative stone sculpture. Large potted plants and palm trees add to the tropical atmosphere, creating a serene retreat. A wooden picnic table shaded by umbrellas provides a casual outdoor dining space surrounded by natural beauty.

## Garden Nook with Fountain and Stone Seating

An ornate stone fountain is set against a rustic stacked-stone wall, creating a tranquil focal point. A sculptural stone table and chairs offer a shaded spot for relaxation beneath mature trees. Surrounding greenery and landscaped tiers enhance the peaceful ambiance of the garden nook.





## Greenhouse and Seating Area

Glass-paneled greenhouse sits nestled among lush greenery, providing a space for cultivating plants. A nearby seating area, shaded by a large mature tree, offers a peaceful retreat within the garden. Stone pathways wind through the landscaped setting, blending natural elements with functional design.

# Tennis Court Surrounded by Terraced Gardens

A regulation-size tennis court is set amidst lush greenery and rolling hills, offering a serene recreational space. Adjacent landscaping features palms, manicured hedges, and terracotta-tiled accents, adding visual interest. The surrounding trees and open sky create a picturesque backdrop for outdoor activities.



## Sizeable Guest House

The guest house features a terracotta tile roof and is framed by ivy-covered columns and vibrant greenery. Manicured shrubs and lavender beds create a colorful, welcoming pathway leading to the entrance. A cozy patio area provides a serene outdoor space nestled against the hillside.





## Guest House Living Room

The living room features terracotta tile flooring and bright white walls, emphasizing its airy ambiance. Large windows open to verdant outdoor views, allowing natural light to flood the space. Thoughtfully placed furnishings, including patterned armchairs and rustic accents, create a cozy yet sophisticated atmosphere.



## Serene Bedroom with Lush Views

A four-poster bed, draped with rich, textured linens, anchors the room's design. Tall indoor plants flank the bed, blending the indoor and outdoor environments. French doors open to a private patio, offering direct access to serene garden and ocean views.

# Aerial Rear View of Mansion and Pool

The mansion showcases a white stucco exterior complemented by a red tile roof and wrought iron accents. A spacious stone patio surrounds the pool and spa, offering multiple lounge areas and outdoor dining space. Towering cypress trees and lush landscaping frame the property, set against a scenic mountain backdrop.



# A Simple Front Facade Home Comprised of Mostly Brick with a Hint of Siding



Featuring a classic Country Ranch design, this single-story home boasts a charming brick exterior paired with horizontal siding accents. The gabled roofline adds visual interest, while the attached two-car garage offers convenience. A cozy covered entryway welcomes guests, flanked by large windows that invite natural light into the spacious interior. With its timeless materials and inviting curb appeal, this home perfectly blends rustic charm with modern comfort.



## Main level floor plan

The main floor leads to a welcoming foyer that leads to a spacious living room, perfect for entertaining guests. The dining room, adjacent to the kitchen, provides a comfortable space for family meals. The master bedroom, located at the rear of the house, offers a private retreat with an ensuite bathroom. Bedrooms two and three are also situated at the back, sharing a hallway with a full bathroom. A practical laundry room is conveniently located near the bedrooms.

**BUY: THE PLAN COLLECTION -  
PLAN 142-1196**

STEP INSIDE THIS EFFICIENTLY PLANNED

# 4-BEDROOM RANCHER

WHERE THE BEDROOMS SURROUND THE GREAT ROOM IN THE CENTER (FLOOR PLAN)



FLOOR PLAN WITH  
OPTIONAL BASEMENT

## Same floor plan but with an optional basement

The floor plan presented is similar to the previous one but with the addition of an optional basement. The basement can be accessed from the entryway, suggesting a direct connection between the main floor and the lower level. This design choice provides easy access to the basement for storage, recreational purposes, or potential living space.

## Rear exterior view showing the covered porch with brick stoop leading to the concrete patio

Another view from the rear highlights the home's inviting outdoor space, featuring a covered porch with a brick stoop leading down to a spacious concrete patio. Perfect for relaxation or entertaining, this area seamlessly blends with the home's exterior, maintaining the same brick detailing for a cohesive look. Large windows provide a connection between the indoor and outdoor spaces, allowing plenty of natural light to flood the interior rooms.



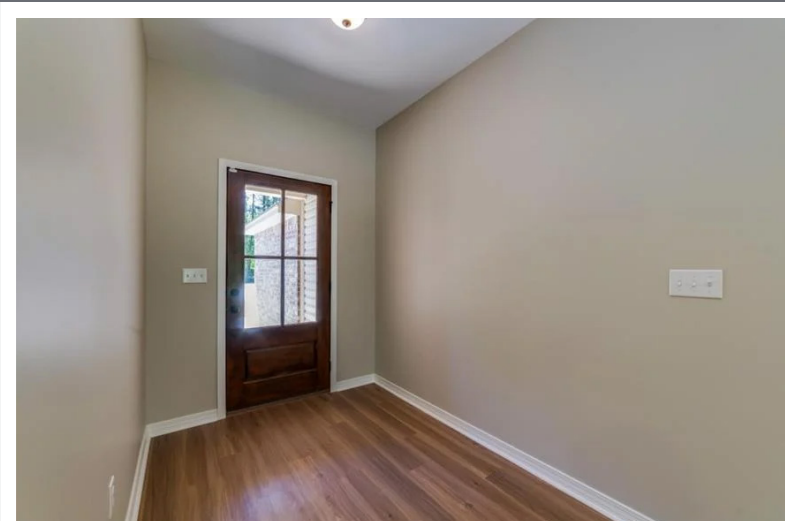
## Enjoy the fresh air from the covered porch as it looks out over the generous backyard space

Featuring a light-colored ceiling and siding, the porch creates a bright and airy atmosphere that enhances the overall appeal of the home. Small brick steps lead down to a concrete patio, providing a smooth transition from the porch to the outdoor area. This concrete patio overlooks an expansive backyard, making it an ideal spot for family gatherings, barbecues, or simply enjoying the view of the surrounding landscape. The covered design allows for outdoor enjoyment in various weather conditions, whether it's a sunny day or a light rain.



## Simple foyer with a glazed entry door, beige walls, and hardwood flooring

Entering the foyer, a glazed entry door welcomes guests into a narrow space adorned with beige walls and hardwood flooring. To enhance this area, consider incorporating furniture in light or neutral colors, such as a soft gray or cream console table. Adding a small bench in a light wood finish or upholstered in a subtle pattern can also enhance the space without overwhelming it. Incorporating a tall, narrow mirror can help reflect light and create the illusion of more space, making the foyer feel less cramped. A frame in white or light wood will tie in nicely with the overall color scheme while adding visual interest.



## Sizable living room with a white framed window, wrought iron ceiling fan, and a glass door that leads out to the rear porch

Stepping into the living room, you're met with a spacious area featuring a white-framed window that allows natural light to fill the space. The wrought iron ceiling fan adds a touch of elegance while providing comfort on warmer days. A glass door leads out to the rear porch, making it easy to enjoy fresh air and views of the backyard. The open entry from the foyer invites guests to explore the generous living area without barriers. To complement the bright atmosphere created by the window, consider incorporating light-colored furniture such as a soft beige or light gray sectional sofa.



## From this angle, you can see how the living room connects with the kitchen and dining space

From this angle, the living room opens to the kitchen and dining area. The kitchen features crisp white cabinets and a matching white island, providing a clean and modern aesthetic that complements the overall design. This bright color scheme helps to maintain an airy atmosphere throughout the interconnected spaces. Hardwood flooring extends into the kitchen, unifying the areas and adding warmth to the contemporary look.



## White cabinetry and granite countertops work together to create a clean and sophisticated kitchen design

A closer look at the kitchen reveals a well-designed space featuring white cabinetry that enhances the bright and modern aesthetic. Granite countertops provide durability and elegance, while the center island includes an eating bar, perfect for casual meals or entertaining guests. To the right, a large window occupies the entire wall of that area, flooding the kitchen with natural light and creating a warm ambiance. This expansive window not only offers beautiful views of the outdoors but also makes the space feel more open and inviting.

## Center island is a home cook's dream, equipped with a dishwasher, a double bowl sink, and a gooseneck faucet

Examining the center island reveals a functional and stylish feature of the kitchen. Fitted with a dishwasher, the island enhances convenience, allowing for easy cleanup after meals without interrupting the flow of cooking and entertaining. The double bowl sink provides ample space for food preparation and washing dishes, making it a practical addition for busy kitchens. A gooseneck faucet adds a touch of elegance while offering flexibility for filling pots and cleaning larger items.



## Open doorway off the kitchen leads to a well-organized mudroom

Across the dining area, an open doorway off the kitchen leads to the mudroom, providing easy access for storing shoes, coats, and other outdoor gear. This thoughtful design element enhances functionality, allowing for a smooth transition between indoor and outdoor spaces.

## Here's another view of the kitchen overlooking the living room and dining area

You can see the living room and dining area from this angle in the kitchen, emphasizing the open-concept design that enhances the home's spaciousness. The seamless connection between these areas creates an inviting atmosphere, perfect for entertaining or family gatherings.



## Built-in mudroom shelving provides easy access to everyday items like shoes and backpacks

Stepping into the mudroom, you'll find a practical and organized space designed for convenience. The room features a white built-in unit that provides ample storage for shoes, bags, and outdoor gear, keeping the area tidy and functional. This built-in design not only maximizes storage but also adds a clean and modern aesthetic to the space. A glazed door leads directly to the garage, allowing for easy access when coming and going.

## Reasonably spacious dining corner looking out onto the patio

Let's take a better look at the dining corner, which is conveniently located beside the kitchen. This space features a large window that fills the room with natural light, creating a bright and welcoming atmosphere. Hanging above is a wrought iron chandelier that adds an elegant touch, enhancing the overall aesthetic of the area. Although the dining room is currently empty, it's easy to imagine how the space would transform with furniture. A rectangular wooden dining table in a rich walnut or medium oak finish would serve as a beautiful centerpiece, complementing the warm tones of the room. Pairing the table with upholstered chairs in a soft beige or light gray fabric would create a comfortable dining experience.



## Beige walls and hardwood flooring are carried into the bedroom

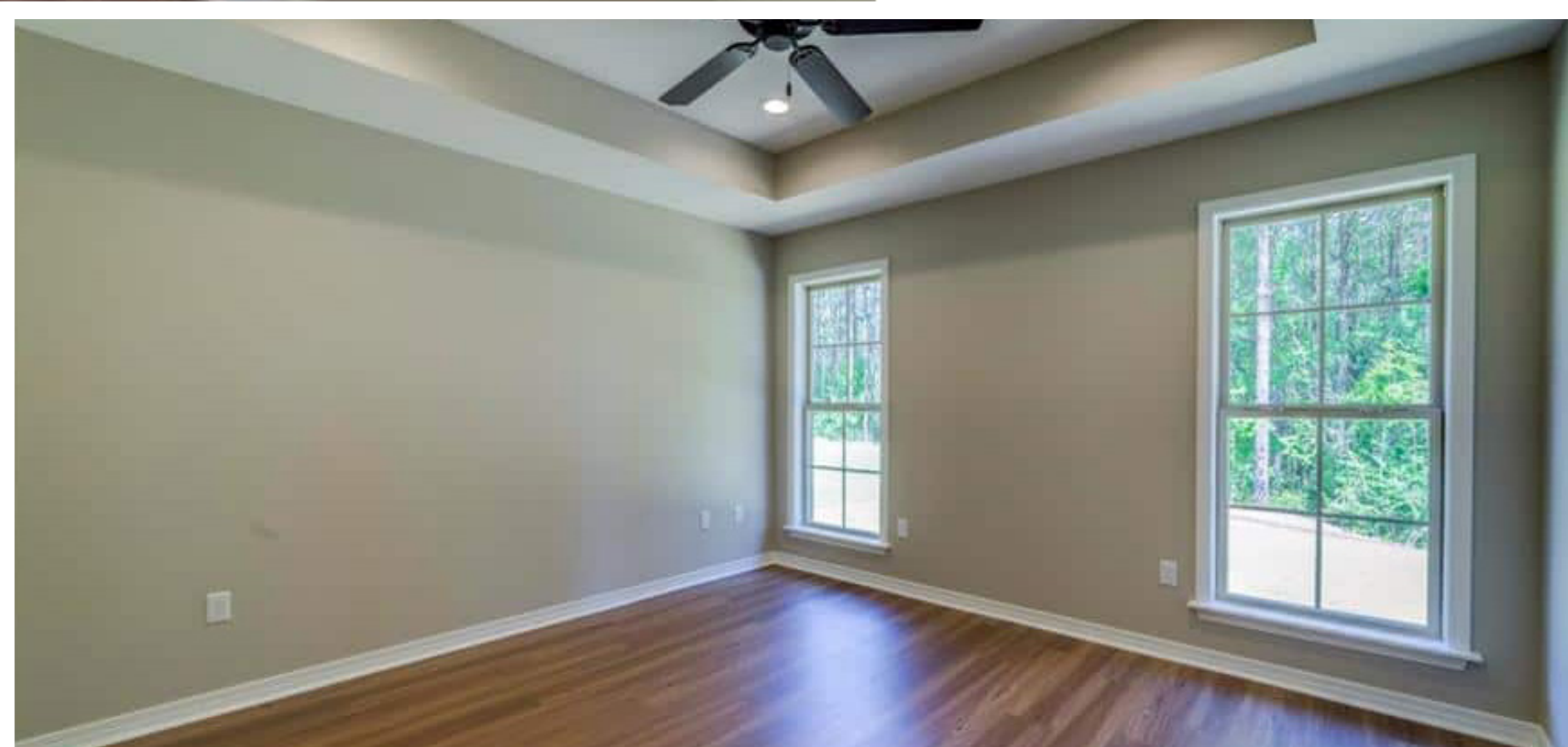
Entering the bedroom, the beige walls and hardwood flooring create a warm and inviting atmosphere that carries the design elements from the rest of the home. A long window allows natural light to stream in, enhancing the spacious feel of the room while providing a pleasant view of the outdoors. A dark brown ceiling fan adds a touch of sophistication and complements the overall color scheme.



## Second bedroom with pretty much the same layout as the first

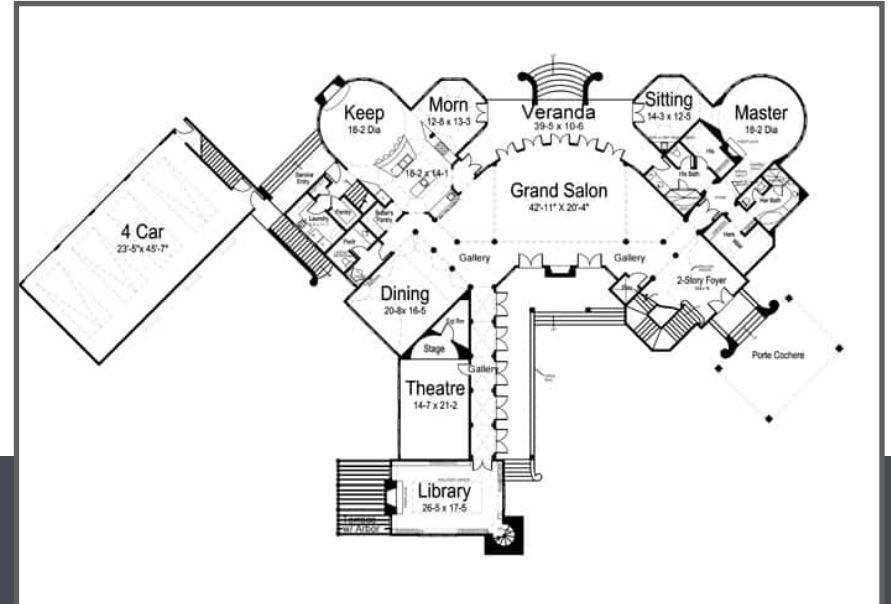
**Notice the tray ceiling in the primary bedroom, adding a touch of sophistication to the area**

Moving into the other bedroom, you'll find a similar aesthetic with beige walls and hardwood flooring, creating a cohesive look throughout the home. The white-framed window allows natural light to fill the space, maintaining a bright and airy feel. To make this bedroom unique, consider incorporating a stylish queen-sized bed with a tufted headboard in a soft gray fabric. Flanking the bed, two sleek nightstands in a dark wood finish could provide functional storage and contrast nicely with the lighter elements in the room. Adding a cozy area rug in muted tones can help define the space and add warmth underfoot.



Entering the primary bedroom, you'll immediately notice the unique features that set it apart from the other two bedrooms. Though the walls and hardwood flooring maintain the same warm beige color scheme as the rest of the home, this room comes with two large windows that flood the room with natural light. The elegant tray ceiling adds architectural interest, while the wrought iron ceiling fan and recessed lights provide both style and functionality.

STEP INSIDE THIS STUNNING



## Explore the Grand Salon and Theatre in This Expansive Floor Plan

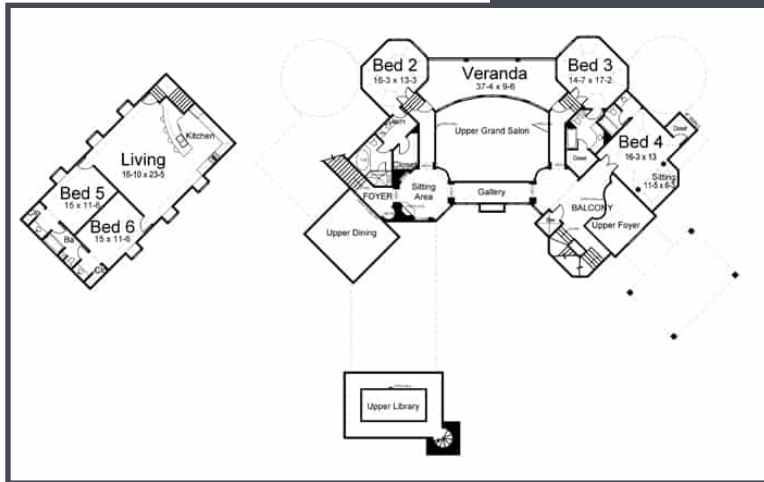
This floor plan reveals the home's majestic layout, centering around a spacious Grand Salon designed for elegant gatherings. Notice the personal Theatre and expansive Library, perfect for entertainment and relaxation. The detailed layout includes a 4-car garage and multiple specialized rooms, showcasing the home's luxurious functionality.

# 6-Bedroom European Manor

with Grand Turrets and Luxurious Details  
(7196 Sq. Ft. Must-See Floor Plan)

Embark on a journey through elegance and grandeur with this impressive European manor, spanning an expansive layout that includes multiple bedrooms and state-of-the-art amenities. The home's strikingly textured stone facade, complete with majestic turrets and a slate roof, evokes the timeless allure of a classic castle. Featuring opulent spaces such as a grand salon, personal theater, and an indoor pool, this residence blends luxury with function, ensuring every corner is designed for both entertainment and relaxation.

**SOURCE: THE HOUSE  
DESIGNERS - PLAN 6039**

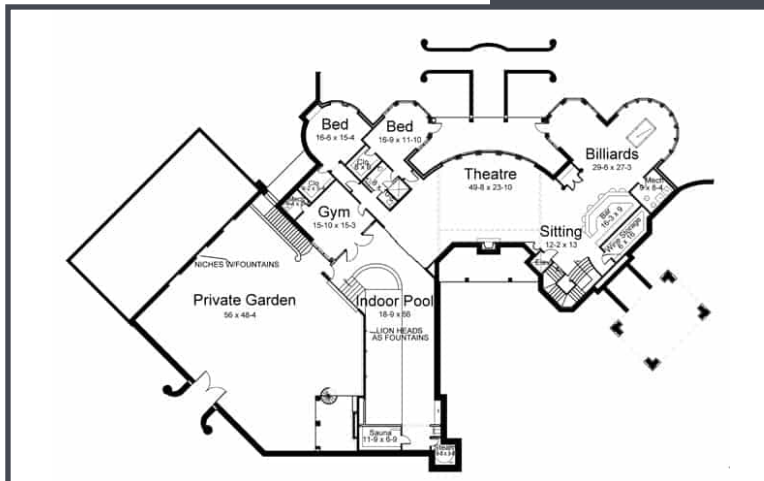


### Check Out This Upper-Level Floor Plan with a Lovely Veranda

This upper-level floor plan showcases a thoughtful design with three bedrooms arranged around a spacious Veranda, perfect for enjoying views. The Upper Grand Salon connects seamlessly to the Gallery, providing an open flow ideal for both relaxation and entertainment. Additional features include an Upper Library, offering a tranquil space for study or reading, and versatile Sitting Areas enhancing the home's functional elegance.

### Backyard Oasis with Stone Pavilion and Rolling Lawn

This stunning backyard is anchored by a grand stone pavilion, offering a perfect blend of shade and luxury for outdoor gatherings. The beautifully manicured lawn, accented with natural stone landscaping, provides a serene extension of the home's exquisite design. The architecture seamlessly connects expansive balconies to the outdoor spaces, enhancing the sense of openness and elegance.

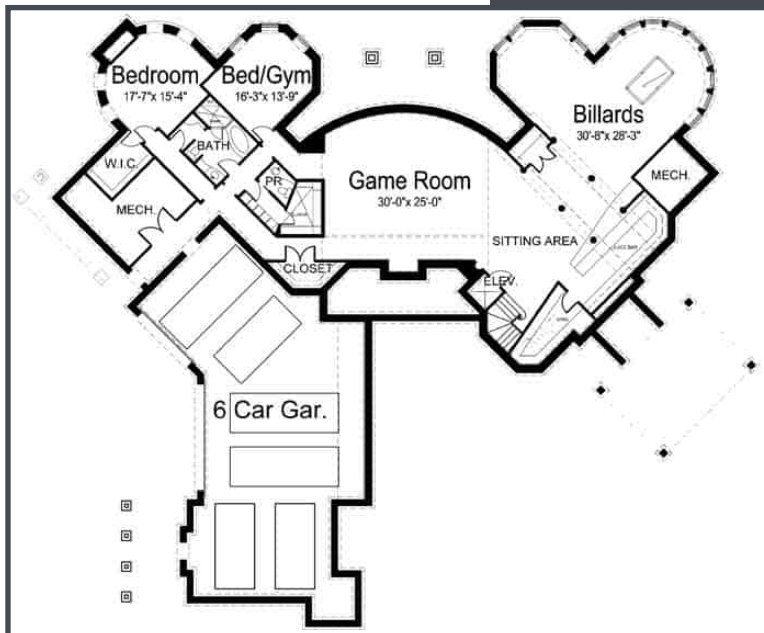


### Dive Into Luxury with an Indoor Pool and Private Garden

This lower-level floor plan highlights a luxurious indoor pool area, complete with decorative lion-head fountains. Adjacent to the pool is a private garden, providing a secluded space for relaxation and leisure. The design also includes a Gym and Theatre, alongside a Billiards room and two Bedrooms, creating versatile entertainment options in this elegant home.

### Look at This Backyard Refinement with a Glorious Stone Facade

This stunning backyard view showcases an impressive European-style manor, complete with a textured stone facade and slate roof. The expansive patio features elegant arches that overlook a shimmering pool, offering a perfect spot for outdoor leisure and entertainment. The lush, manicured lawn enhances the home's grandeur, seamlessly blending the architectural beauty with natural elements.



### Unwind in the Game Room with Adjacent Billiards Hall

This floor plan captures a haven for leisure with a spacious Game Room at its core, seamlessly connecting to a dedicated Billiards Hall.

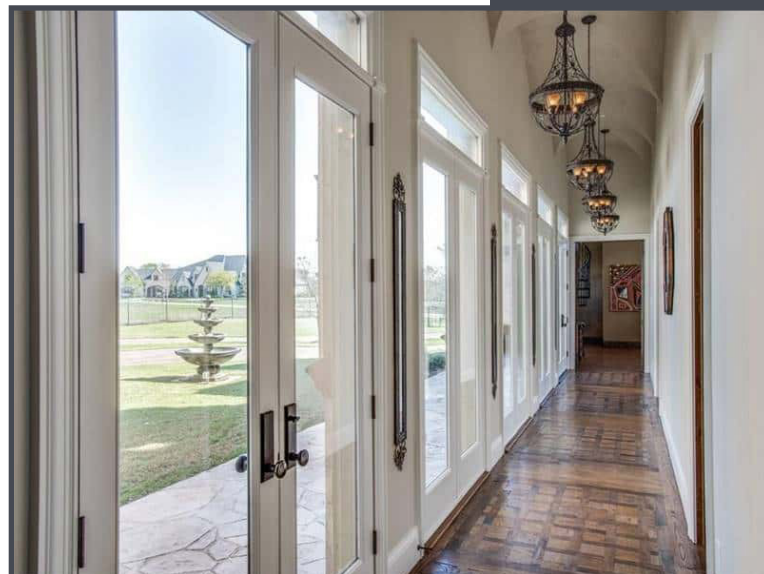
The layout includes versatile spaces like a bedroom that doubles as a gym, ideal for both relaxation and fitness.

A 6-car garage complements the design, emphasizing both luxury and utility.

### Golf Enthusiast's Dream: Backyard Putting Green with Natural Stone Accent

This picturesque backyard blends luxury with leisure, featuring a beautifully maintained putting green bordered by rustic stone. The stonework seamlessly integrates with the home's elegant facade, creating a cohesive and refined outdoor space. Surrounded by lush greenery, this area offers a peaceful setting for practicing swings while enjoying the beautiful vista.





### Stroll Down This Sunlit Hallway with Stunning Outdoor Views

This bright hallway features expansive glass doors that invite natural light and offer panoramic views of the landscaped garden. The ornate pendant lights and detailed parquet flooring add a touch of elegance to the airy space. This thoughtful design effortlessly merges indoor comfort with the beauty of the outdoors, creating a tranquil passageway.



### Step Into This Majestic Living Room with a Lofted Balcony View

This grand living room impresses with its lofty ceilings and intricate iron balcony, creating an open and inviting atmosphere. Warm wooden floors and plush leather seating form a cozy, yet elegant central space, ideal for gatherings. The room seamlessly combines traditional elements, like the ornate chandelier and detailed fireplace, with spacious modern design, offering a stunning blend of comfort and style.



### Wow, Look at Those Rustic Wooden Cabinets in This Inviting Kitchen

This kitchen offers a blend of rustic charm and modern utility with its expansive granite island, perfect for meal prep and gatherings. The rustic wooden cabinets complement the warm tones of the hardwood floors, adding a cozy yet elegant touch. High ceilings with exposed beams and decorative archways provide an airy, sophisticated ambiance.

### Explore the Expansive Granite Island in This Stylish Kitchen

This kitchen is a showcase of elegance and functionality, centered around a vast granite island ideal for meal prep or gatherings. The combination of rich wood cabinetry and exposed ceiling beams adds warmth and charm, while the curved window wall brings in abundant natural light. A stone fireplace with a beautifully crafted clock detail adds a touch of rustic sophistication to this luxurious open-plan space.



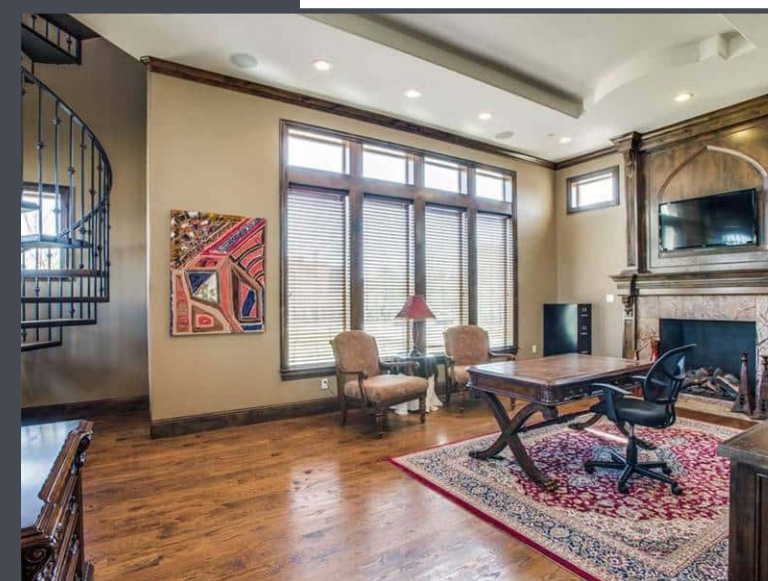
### Admire the Intricate Ceiling Design in This Inviting Kitchen

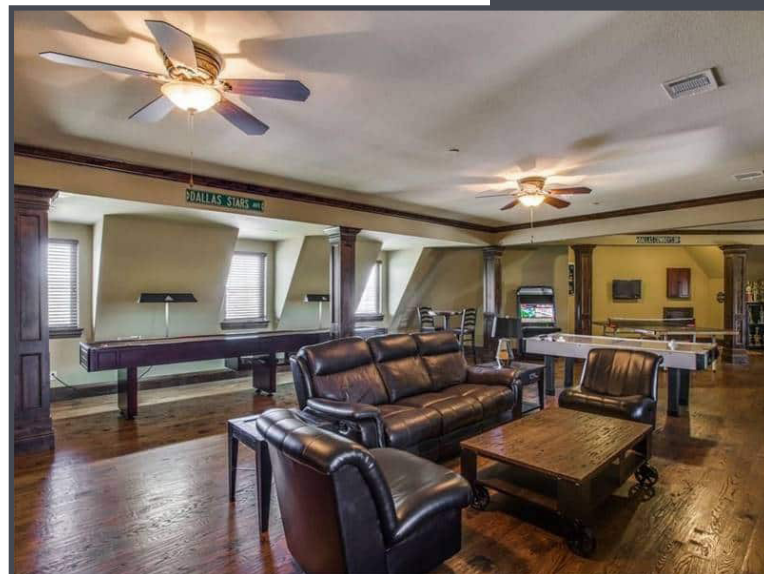
This kitchen stands out with an exquisite coffered ceiling that adds depth and character to the space. The rich wood cabinetry and expansive granite island create a harmonious blend of traditional and contemporary elements. A trio of pendant lights illuminates the island, highlighting its central role in both cooking and entertaining.



### Explore This Office's Intricate Woodwork and Artistic Flair

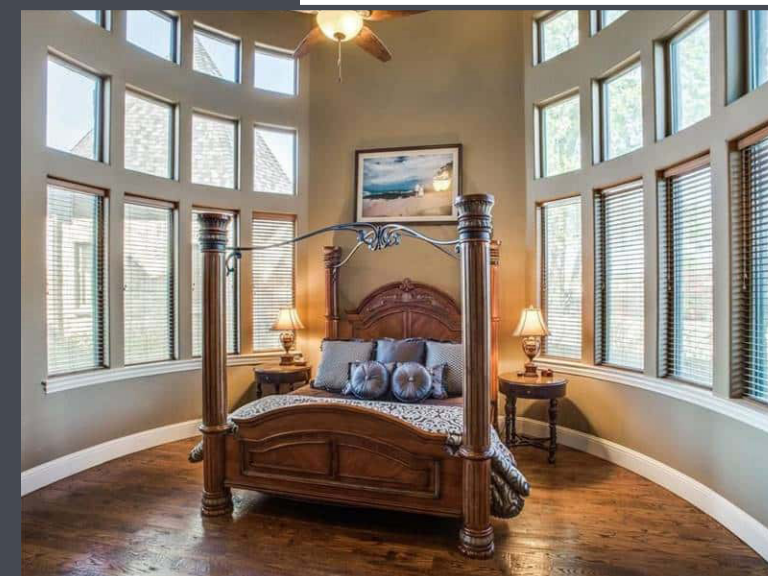
This home office is a blend of sophistication and comfort, highlighted by the intricate woodwork surrounding the fireplace. Large windows flood the space with natural light, enhancing the rich tones of the hardwood floors and the ornate rug. The spiral staircase adds a dynamic architectural element, while bold artwork infuses a touch of personal style.





### Game Room Fun with Classic Wood Details and Arcade Vibes

This inviting game room blends classic comfort with entertainment, featuring rich hardwood floors and leather seating for relaxation. The space is anchored by timeless wooden columns and an array of games, including a shuffleboard and foosball table, offering something for everyone. Notice the warm, ambient lighting and personalized decor that lend a welcoming family-friendly atmosphere.



### Discover the Dramatic Curved Window Wall in This Classy Bedroom

This bedroom exudes elegance with a striking four-poster bed framed by a magnificent curved wall of windows. The warm tones of the hardwood floors harmonize with the rich woodwork of the bed, creating a tranquil and refined space. Soft ambient light filters through the blinds, highlighting the intricate details and providing a serene retreat.



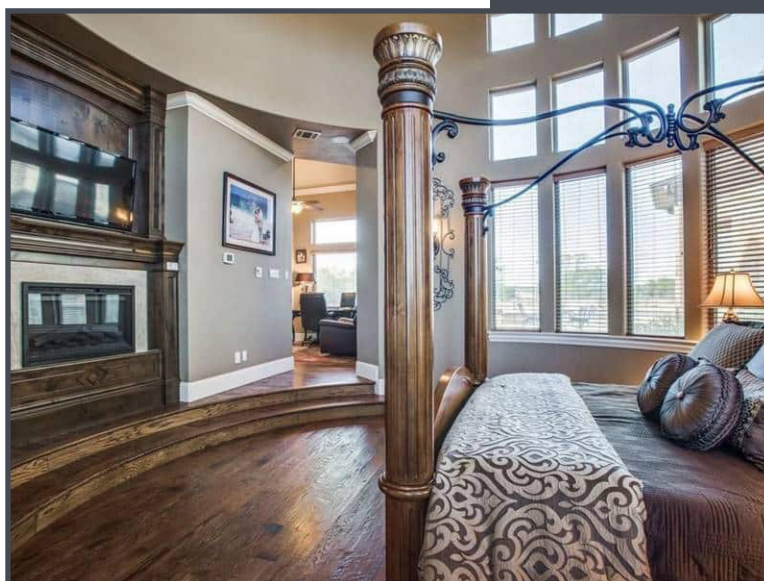
### Indulge in This Bathroom's Luxurious Curved Cabinetry and Spa-Like Tub

This elegant bathroom features a centerpiece soaking tub surrounded by beautiful curved cabinetry, offering abundant storage and style. The high, frosted windows allow for natural light while maintaining privacy, enhancing the serene atmosphere. Rich wood tones, exposed ceiling beams, and a strategically placed TV add a touch of luxury to this spa-like retreat.



### Notice the Rustic Charm in This Stone Pavilion with Star Decor

This outdoor stone pavilion showcases a perfect blend of rustic charm and functional design, featuring a striking star motif that draws the eye. Arched openings and a vaulted wooden ceiling provide an open feel that's ideal for gatherings. The combination of wrought iron furniture and natural stone flooring creates an inviting and stylish space for outdoor dining.



### Elevated Bedroom Charm: Notice the Intricate Ironwork

This bedroom combines elegance and comfort, featuring a dramatic four-poster bed with detailed iron accents. Large windows flood the space with light, highlighting the warm hardwood floors and a cozy step-up sitting area for relaxation. The built-in fireplace adds a touch of luxury, seamlessly integrating with the room's classic design.



### Check Out This Poolside Pavilion with a Warm Stone Fire Pit

This outdoor oasis features a charming stone pavilion that blends rustic elegance with modern comfort. The inviting fire pit is surrounded by plush seating, perfect for evening gatherings by the reflective pool. The natural stone patio complements both the pavilion and the lush lawn, creating a seamless transition between relaxation and entertainment spaces.



### **Gaze at This Backyard Paradise Featuring a Basketball Court and Pool**

This expansive backyard is a haven for recreation and relaxation, showcasing a luxurious swimming pool with a built-in hot tub and natural rock accents. The adjacent stone pavilion adds a touch of elegance, perfect for hosting gatherings or escaping the sun. Beyond the pool, a pristine basketball court and putting green offer endless entertainment against a lush, open landscape.



### **Step Into This Stone Pavilion with Arched Openings and Well-Placed Bar Seating**

This outdoor pavilion combines rustic charm with sophisticated design, featuring arched stone openings that frame the lush landscape. The spacious bar area, adorned with wrought iron barstools, is perfect for hosting alfresco gatherings. A vaulted wooden ceiling with exposed beams adds a touch of grandeur to this inviting entertainment space.



### **Step Into This Home Theatre with Rich Red Walls and Granite Bar**

This home theatre is a luxurious escape, featuring deep red walls that add drama and richness to the space. The coffered ceiling enhances the room's elegance, while the patterned carpet introduces a lively touch. A granite-topped bar offers the perfect spot for enjoying snacks, making this an ideal place for cinematic experiences.

### **Unique Wine Cellar with Barrel-Topped Counter and Stone Walls**

This intimate wine cellar features rustic stone walls that evoke an old-world charm, enhanced by warm wooden shelving that elegantly displays the wine collection. A central barrel serves as both a counter and a conversation piece, adding to the room's distinctive character. The arched mural depicting a Venetian scene further enriches the ambiance, offering a whimsical touch to this cozy space.



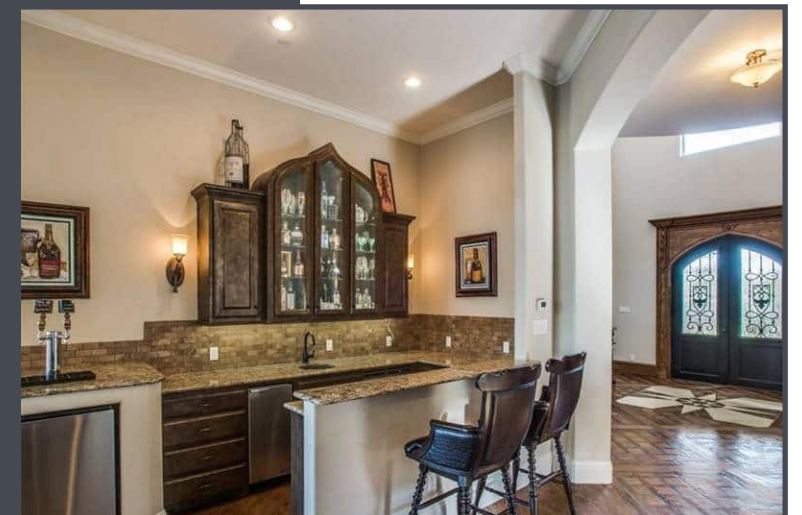
### **Game Room Delight: Check Out the Granite Bar and Hardwood Finishes**

This game room combines classic style with modern amenities, featuring a stunning granite-topped bar that's perfect for entertaining. The rich hardwood floors and wood paneling add warmth and sophistication, while the foosball and pool tables provide endless fun. Decorative pendant lighting and sports memorabilia infuse the space with personality, making it the perfect hangout spot.



### **Admire This Home Bar's Stylish Hutch and Granite Countertop**

This home bar blends sophistication and functionality, featuring a striking glass-front hutch that showcases crystal clear glassware. The rich wood cabinetry complements the granite countertop, creating a refined space for entertaining. Flanked by ambient lighting and paired with classic bar stools, this area invites guests to unwind and socialize.





### Admire This Home Bar's Stylish Hutch and Granite Countertop

This home bar blends sophistication and functionality, featuring a striking glass-front hutch that showcases crystal clear glassware. The rich wood cabinetry complements the granite countertop, creating a refined space for entertaining. Flanked by ambient lighting and paired with classic bar stools, this area invites guests to unwind and socialize.



### Marvel at the Curved Fireplace and Panoramic Windows in This Luxurious Room

This stunning room features a grand curved fireplace that commands attention, surrounded by floor-to-ceiling windows offering uninterrupted garden views. The intricate ceiling design adds a touch of opulence, echoing the elegance of a European manor. Sunlight floods the space, creating a warm and inviting ambiance perfect for relaxing by the fire.



### Feast Your Eyes on This Dining Room's Vaulted Ceilings and Classic Chandelier

This elegant dining room captures attention with its soaring vaulted ceilings and grand arched window that floods the space with natural light. Rich wood paneling and an ornate chandelier enhance the room's classic charm, offering a perfect setting for formal gatherings. The traditional dining set complements the architectural details, creating a harmonious and inviting atmosphere.



### Admire the Ornate Coffered Ceiling and Rich Wood Finishes in This Kitchen

This kitchen stands out with its elegant coffered ceiling, adding depth and a touch of old-world charm. The intricate wood cabinetry and two central islands create a balanced and functional space, perfect for culinary adventures. Subtle lighting and a blend of classic materials bring warmth, making this an inviting heart of the home.



### Enjoy the Chill Vibes of This Home Theatre with Rich Wood Details

This home theatre combines rich wood paneling with warm earth tones, creating an inviting atmosphere for movie nights. The coffered ceiling adds a touch of elegance, while the plush leather recliners ensure comfort. Notice the stone accents flanking the large screen, which provide a rustic contrast to the high-tech setup.



# 15 OMNIBUS FINEST HISTORIC MANSIONS IN FLORIDA (Gilded Age South)

## 15. Wardlaw-Smith House - Madison

The Wardlaw-Smith House, built in 1860, is a straightforward yet striking example of Greek Revival architecture. Its design is all about balance and symmetry, with Doric columns supporting a no-nonsense portico that stretches across the front.

The clapboard exterior is unadorned but effective. Inside, the layout follows a central hall plan, a practical choice for Florida's heat, allowing for better airflow. High ceilings and tall,

multi-paned windows amplify the sense of space while letting in natural light. The details are understated but refined: carved wood mantels on the fireplaces, subtle crown moldings, and sturdy pine floors.

Constructed by Benjamin F. Wardlaw, a cotton planter, the house took on new roles during the Civil War, serving as a Confederate hospital.

## 14. El Retiro - Lake Wales



El Retiro, also known as Pinewood Estate, sits elegantly amidst the lush Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida. Built in 1930 for Charles Austin Buck, a vice president at Bethlehem Steel, this Mediterranean Revival mansion reflects the era's fascination with European styles.

Designed by architect Charles R. Wait, the house boasts stucco walls, a red barrel-tile roof, and a series of intricate wrought iron details. Massive carved wooden doors lead to rooms lined

with Cuban tiles, hand-stenciled ceilings, and decorative plasterwork. Surrounding the home, the gardens, designed by landscape architect William Lyman Phillips, create a connection between the built and natural environment.

The grounds feature terraces, fountains, and a meandering path shaded by native plants. In 1970, the mansion became part of Bok Tower Gardens, preserving its architectural splendor for future generations.

### 13. Howey Mansion – Howey-in-the-Hills



The Howey Mansion, located in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, is a great example of the Mediterranean Revival architecture that appeared during the state's land boom era. Built in 1925 for citrus magnate William J. Howey, the residence was designed by architect Katherine Cotheal Budd, one of the few prominent women architects at the time.

The mansion's 20 rooms are framed by stucco walls, red tile roofing, and elegant wrought iron detailing. The symmetrical façade is punctuated by arched windows and doorways, giving it a refined yet approachable appearance. Inside, high ceilings, original hand-painted tiles, and a sweeping grand staircase showcase a commitment to craftsmanship and detail. The estate's grounds once hosted lush citrus groves and were designed to complement the grandeur of the house.

Fountains, stone pathways, and expansive lawns remain integral to its aesthetic appeal. In its heyday, the mansion was the site of glamorous parties attended by Florida's elite. After falling into disrepair, the Howey Mansion has been meticulously restored, reaffirming its place as a cornerstone of Florida's architectural and cultural heritage.

### 10. Bonnet House – Fort Lauderdale



The Bonnet House in Fort Lauderdale is a vibrant fusion of Caribbean plantation architecture and whimsical artistic touches, designed as a tropical retreat for Frederic Clay Bartlett and his wife, Helen Louise Birch. Constructed in 1920, the estate stands on 35 acres of lush coastal land, blending its breezy, open-plan layout with the surrounding landscape. The house was named for the bonnet lily, which thrives in the lagoon at the heart of the property.

Architecturally, the Bonnet House prioritizes ventilation and light, with wide porches, open loggias, and a central courtyard brimming with tropical foliage. Painted in sunny yellows and blues, the structure has a casual yet sophisticated charm, further enhanced by coral stone accents and decorative ironwork. The interior is equally eclectic, showcasing Bartlett's artistic talents in hand-painted murals, quirky furnishings, and an assortment of collected artifacts. The grounds include orchid-filled gardens, a bamboo forest, and a lagoon.

### 12. William Kimbrough Pendleton House – Eustis



The William Kimbrough Pendleton House, located in Eustis, Florida, combines elements of Classical Revival and vernacular design. Built in 1876, the two-story home is defined by its symmetrical façade and commanding front porch, supported by robust Doric columns. A hipped roof crowns the building, punctuated by dormer windows that provide both light and a touch of visual interest.

The clapboard siding, painted in soft tones, harmonizes with the surroundings, while large, double-hung sash windows allow for cross-ventilation — an essential feature in the pre-air-conditioning South. Pendleton, a leader in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and president of Bethany College in West Virginia, retired to Florida and built the house as a personal retreat.

### 9. Mar-a-Lago – Palm Beach



Mar-a-Lago, built in 1927 by cereal heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post, is a sprawling 126-room estate designed by Marion Sims Wyeth with interiors by Joseph Urban. Perched between the Atlantic Ocean and Lake Worth Lagoon, its name aptly means "Sea-to-Lake." The estate is an unapologetic mix of Mediterranean Revival and Spanish influences, with coquina stone facades, coral accents, and a 75-foot tower that nods to Moorish architecture.

The dining room's 36-foot-high ceilings are adorned with frescoes, while Venetian chandeliers and imported European furniture fill the spaces with grandeur. Post envisioned Mar-a-Lago as a seasonal retreat for the elite, complete with formal gardens, intricately tiled courtyards, and spaces designed for large social gatherings. Donald Trump purchased the property in 1985 and converted it into a private club in 1994. While its function has evolved, much of its original design remains intact. The estate's lavish ballrooms, sprawling grounds, and historic elements have ensured its continued role as a cultural and political landmark.

### 11. Stetson Mansion – DeLand



The Stetson Mansion in DeLand, Florida, is a striking blend of Gilded Age elegance and frontier ambition. Built in 1886 for hat magnate John B. Stetson, the mansion is one of the earliest examples of luxury homes in Florida, combining elements of High Victorian, Moorish, and Gothic Revival styles.

Architects George T. Pearson and John H. Pearson designed the estate with an eye for detail that borders on the obsessive. The exterior features elaborate woodwork and polychromatic brick patterns. The interior features hand-carved staircase balustrades, intricate parquet floors in 16 different patterns, and custom windows crafted by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

The mansion also boasts advanced technology for its time, including electric lighting courtesy of Thomas Edison, a close friend of Stetson. Set on ten acres, the estate was once surrounded by orange groves.

### 8. The Casements – Ormond Beach



The Casements, a Mediterranean Revival gem in Ormond Beach, Florida, became John D. Rockefeller Sr.'s winter refuge. Built in 1913, the mansion's cream stucco walls, red tile roof, and arched windows give it a relaxed elegance.

Purchased by Rockefeller in 1918, the house features soaring ceilings, exposed wood beams, and wide, airy rooms. The gardens around The Casements were meticulously planned, with palms and magnolias forming a lush canopy.

## 7. Anderson-Frank House – Tampa



The Anderson-Frank House in Tampa, Florida, is a textbook example of Colonial Revival architecture, built in 1898. Its red brick exterior is paired with white accents and symmetrical proportions. The façade is dominated by a two-story portico supported by Ionic columns, which frame the central entryway. Large, evenly spaced windows are crowned with lintels, allowing natural light to flood the interior while maintaining the home's symmetry.

A steeply pitched, hipped roof, punctuated by dormers, adds a vertical dimension without overwhelming the overall design. Originally built for Josiah and Sarah Anderson, prominent figures in Tampa's early development, the house was later acquired by Judge Frank and his family, cementing its place as a landmark of local history. Inside, wood-paneled walls and intricate moldings showcase craftsmanship typical of the era, while the layout emphasizes both grand entertaining spaces and private family quarters.

## 6. Gilmer-Heitman House – Fort Myers



The Gilmer-Heitman House in Fort Myers, Florida, is a charming example of early 20th-century architectural trends blending Queen Anne and Craftsman influences. Built in 1908, its design balances ornate detail with a more grounded, functional aesthetic, making it a standout in the historic downtown area. The house's asymmetrical façade features a wide wraparound porch supported by tapered wooden columns on brick piers.

A hipped roof with gabled projections adds depth, while decorative wood shingles in the upper story nod to the Queen Anne style's flair for intricate detailing. The double-hung sash windows, paired with multi-paned transoms, provide both ventilation and elegance, practical for Florida's climate. Commissioned by local businessman Harvie Gilmer, the house later became associated with the Heitman family, prominent figures in Fort Myers' development during its early boom years. The home's interior boasts original hardwood floors and high ceilings, with an open floor plan designed for entertaining.

## 5. Gamble Mansion – Ellenton



The Gamble Mansion in Ellenton, Florida, is an exercise in contradictions. Built between 1845 and 1850, it stands as a hulking reminder of the pre-Civil War South, a time of vast plantations and architectural excess cloaking darker truths. The mansion's Greek Revival style feels oddly out of place against the subtropical Florida landscape, its stucco-covered brick walls and Doric columns exuding a kind of stubborn permanence in an environment that thrives on impermanence.

The house was designed as the headquarters of a sugar plantation, its wide verandas providing relief from the oppressive heat while the thick walls worked overtime to keep the interior cool. There's no mistaking its role in history: this was a working plantation house, its grandeur directly tied to the labor of enslaved people. It later became a refuge for Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin during his flight from Union forces — a footnote that only adds to its complicated legacy.

## 4. Deering Estate – Miami



The Deering Estate in Miami is a textbook case of architecture playing dress-up. Built between 1913 and 1922 for Charles Deering, a wealthy industrialist with an eye for the grandiose, the estate fuses Mediterranean Revival and Florida vernacular styles with a kind of shameless theatricality. It's a monument to wealth's ability to transport European architectural ideals across the Atlantic, plopping them into the subtropics with little regard for context beyond aesthetics.

The estate's crown jewel is the Stone House, a limestone monolith that looks like it could have been airlifted from a Spanish coastal village. Its heavy, fortress-like appearance belies its role as a high-society retreat, a place where Deering entertained Miami's elite in the shade of its loggias. Not to be overlooked is the Richmond Cottage, an earlier wooden structure on the site, which brings a dash of local flavor to the estate's otherwise imported personality.

What sets the Deering Estate apart is its deliberate interplay with the environment. The grounds include sprawling mangroves and a glimpse of Biscayne Bay, but even this nod to nature feels curated, like a museum exhibit. It's a reminder that architecture, especially at this scale, often seeks to control its surroundings, rather than exist within them. The result? A stunning but slightly absurd mashup of European romanticism and Floridian pragmatism.

## 3. Whitehall (Henry Flagler Museum) – Palm Beach



Whitehall, built in 1902 by railroad tycoon Henry Flagler, is Palm Beach's Beaux-Arts heavyweight. Designed by Carrère and Hastings, the mansion has 75 rooms spread across a sprawling layout.

With its massive columns, symmetrical wings, and monumental portico, the exterior could easily be mistaken for a European palace that took a detour to Florida. Step inside, and you're greeted by polished marble, carved woodwork, and ceilings painted to impress. The Grand Hall is pure theater — an open space designed for high society to see and be seen. Flagler spared no expense, importing materials and artisans to ensure his winter retreat was as ornate as it was functional.



## 2. Villa Vizcaya – Miami Beach

Villa Vizcaya, built between 1914 and 1922, is Miami's Mediterranean Revival masterpiece. Commissioned by industrialist James Deering, the villa was designed by architect F. Burrall Hoffman, with gardens by Diego Suarez, and interiors overseen by Paul Chalfin.

The main house features a blend of Italianate and Baroque influences, with loggias, courtyards, and sweeping terraces that feel as theatrical as they are grand. Its façade, made of pale stucco and adorned with classical detailing, opens onto Biscayne Bay, providing postcard-worthy views that double as a cooling breeze for Miami's heat.

The interiors are no less ambitious with intricately carved ceilings, 15th-century fireplaces, and antique furnishings. But it's the gardens that steal the show. With geometrically arranged parterres, fountains, and whimsical grottoes, they are an homage to European formal landscapes, adapted with tropical flora. The overall effect is less stuffy manor house and more artful fantasy. Villa Vizcaya is a rare example of how architecture can blend the old world with the new, offering a Miami address to European grandeur.



## 1. Ca' d'Zan – Sarasota

Ca' d'Zan is a surreal homage to Venetian Gothic architecture planted firmly on Florida's Sarasota Bay. Built in 1926 for circus magnate John Ringling and his wife Mable, the mansion was inspired by the couple's love for Venice — a city they frequented and admired for its artistic and architectural legacy.

Architect Dwight James Baum translated their vision into a five-story confection of arches, terraces, and towers that recalls the Doge's Palace but with a Floridian twist. Its exterior, clad in terra-cotta and

stucco, is banded with vibrant pinks and golds, mirroring Sarasota's sunsets. The intricate windows and tile mosaics are steeped in Venetian charm, while the 82-foot tower offers panoramic views of the bay.

The interior features a 30-foot-tall living room with a ceiling painted to resemble an Italian Renaissance palazzo. Murano glass chandeliers, antique furnishings, and marble floors complete the picture of Ca' d'Zan, an eccentric and theatrical dream house.



19 STORIED AND

# Legendary Mansions

THAT DEFINED OLD HOLLYWOOD

Old Hollywood mansions were monuments to ego, ambition, and that quintessential L.A. need to outshine your neighbors — literally. These estates, draped across Beverly Hills and beyond, are where the stars escaped their spotlights only to bask in another kind of glow: chandeliers dripping from frescoed ceilings, infinity pools reflecting meticulously landscaped gardens, and ballrooms built for the kind of parties that defined an era.

Take Pickfair, once the stomping grounds of Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks, or Hearst Castle, where Charlie Chaplin might've stumbled upon a Romanesque statue on his way to a midnight swim. These homes were as over-the-top as the personalities that inhabited them — each more like a film set than a place to hang your hat.

They were social hubs where movie deals were made over cocktails, relationships bloomed (and often combusted), and Hollywood royalty crafted their image both on and off-screen. In a town obsessed with reinvention, these homes are the last relics of a glittering era — timeless monuments to the American dream on steroids.

**19. Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman’s Mansion “The Shuwarger House”**

The mansion is known as the Shuwarger House. It’s built in the Georgian Colonial Revival style. The whitewashed brick exterior is understated, allowing the eye to notice the symmetry and mature shrubbery around the home.

The second floor features a recessed balcony, which adds interest to the facade. The palatial estate was built in 1938 by renowned architect Paul Wyman. Today it remains much as it was then, with the original architecture completely intact. The large open rooms, high ceilings, crown molding, and opulent decor have a charm that remains 80 years after its construction.

Shuwarger’s house is like a window back in time. If you’ve ever watched a black and white film and dreamed of stepping into their world, this is the place to do it. Every aspect of the mansion is reminiscent of the glitz and glam of old Hollywood. It’s a story straight out of Hollywood. Ronald Regan is well known as the 40th President of the United States. However, before he was President, he was a star.

His first starring role was Brother Rat, and Jane Wyman was his co-star. They married in 1940 and moved into the Shuwarger House. Divorce rumors were circulating as early as 1943, and Jane filed for divorce in 1948. Ronald Regan was the only divorced president until Donald Trump was elected. Jane kept the Shuwarger house, where she resided until 1954.

**18. Cecil B. DeMille’s Mansion**

Cecille B. DeMille was a legendary filmmaker in Hollywood – considered the founding father of Hollywood films. With his success and fortune, he lived in luxurious mansions including this 11,000 square feet Beaux Arts-style mansion.

It sits on 2.1 acres of land. There are mature trees and gardens that have been manicured for decades. There are inside and outside terraces leading to a magnificent swimming pool. In more recent years, this home was owned by Angelina Jolie.

**17. Historic W.C. Fields Mansion – Neighbor To Cecil B. DeMille and Charlie Chaplin Mansions**

The W.C. Fields Mansion is located in Laughlin Park, a gated neighborhood of the rich and famous in Los Angeles, California. The 1920 mansion is measured at 8,000 square feet with four bedrooms, five bathrooms, Italianate architecture, antique mahogany paneling, woodwork from a Spanish monastery, and beautiful archways along with four fireplaces.

It also has French doors that lead to the terraces and gardens from almost every room in the house, including

the master bath. The mansion boasts of a special room, a copper-and-glass sunroom with a view of the estate’s lush landscaping. Though he didn’t own the house, not believing in home ownership, Fields rented the home in 1940 and added a pool table, a ping-pong table and bowling lanes set up in the living room – but almost no furniture.

A legendary party guy, he had three bars in the house, including a portable bar, and lived there until his death in 1946. Since then it has always been known as the W.C. Fields Mansion. One of L.A.’s first celebrity neighborhoods, Laughlin Park was developed by Homer Laughlin in 1905, whose intention was to limit it to 40 luxurious mansions. Lot divisions over the years increased that number to 60, several of the homes designed by Lloyd Wright.

In addition to its quiet tree-lined streets, the enclave is unusually secure behind five gates. The area has always drawn celebrities who seek security, peace, luxury and privacy. Some of the first residents were Cecil B. DeMille, whose home was built on the highest point with stunning views, and Charlie Chaplin.

**16. Lucille Ball’s Home**

Lucille’s California home — all 4,126 square feet of it — features six bedrooms and seven baths. It’s well-shaded in front of a number of tall palm trees that tower above the red-timed roof. Juliet balconies complement the home’s light exterior and add to its charm.

As for Lucille herself, she started out as a singer and model before “I Love Lucy” put her in the national spotlight. She was born in Jamestown, NY, in 1911. While she achieved considerable prestige throughout her career, her childhood was marked by poverty and tragedy. And as for the house...she and Arnaz had bought property on the same street and had a home built on it.

**15. Marilyn Monroe’s House in Hollywood**

Technically not old Hollywood, I’m including Marilyn’s home because she was such an iconic figure in Hollywood history. Interestingly, this was the only property that Monroe purchased, which she did shortly before she died in 1962. Although this estate isn’t as flashy as newer homes in Hollywood, it still maintains much of that Golden Age charm.

Few elements have been updated since Monroe lived here, so you can get a sense of the history within its walls. The home was built in 1929 in the hacienda style. We appreciate the blending of southwestern architectural elements, such as vaulted ceilings with exposed wood beams (called vigas), and multiple fireplaces. One of the central fireplaces has Mexican tiling around the edges, adding some cultural flair to the otherwise bare walls.



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#### 14. Canfield-Moreno Estate, now known as Paramour Estate

During the glitz and glamour of the legendary Hollywood parties in the 1930s, one house was proclaimed by the tabloids as the most beautiful home in Hollywood. This is the Canfield-Moreno Estate that is now known as Paramour Estate.

The 4.3-acre Paramour Estate has a main mansion overlooking Silver Lake that is measured at 22,000 square feet. It has 15 bedrooms and 15 bathrooms and features include ceiling beams painted to match the colors in the home's fabrics, a bar front covered in zebra skin, a grand ballroom with a 25-foot-high ceiling, gilded mirrors, bold colors, crystal chandeliers, a myriad of places to dine, marble-hand-tiled pool, sunroom, and lower-level staff quarters.

The house also boasts of four guest cottages, two guest suites, lush landscaping with rose gardens, and parking for 50 cars. Heiress-and-socialite Daisy Canfield, with the Pan American Petroleum fortune in her back pocket, could have almost anything she wanted.

And what she wanted most was the grandest home in Los Angeles. Daisy hired the most famous architect of the time to design and build a monument-mansion where she could overlook Hollywood from the highest ridge in the Los Angeles basin. It was the most opulent mansion of the era and like many of the old L.A. mansions, was full of celebrity connections and intrigue.

#### 13. Legendary Howard Hughes Hollywood Mansion

Born in 1905 in Houston, Texas, Howard Hughes was an American philanthropist, engineer, pilot, business magnate, and, most famously, a film producer. During his lifetime, he became one of the wealthiest and most influential people on Earth. He earned fame through film and became a critical figure in the aviation industry.

His film career began in the late 1920s when he first produced *The Racket*, *Hells Angels*, and *Scarface*. Although Hughes died in 1976, he will live in infamy as a billionaire and forward-thinking film director. The mansion was also featured in *The Aviator*, a 2004 biopic starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Hughes during the golden era of film. Designed by Roland E. Coate in 1926, Hughes's mansion was initially constructed for Eva K. Fudger, a wealthy socialite. Over the past century, the home has changed hands several times, including the current owners,

Ash Shah, a former film producer, and their wife, Niroupa Shah. This 12-bathroom, eight-bedroom estate sits on a private, half-acre property that delivers beautiful 8th-green Wilshire Country Club views and glimpses of the Hollywood

sign, another subtle nod to Hollywood roots. The residence also includes several lounge areas, a stone pizza oven, and a swimming pool, all surrounded by several citrus tree varieties and other local greenery. This lively home also features a premier area for entertaining guests – an old-world cobblestone courtyard without an outdoor fireplace. Hughes' residence also boasts a three-car garage, guest parking, a workshop, and an attached guest residence with a private entrance, bath, and full kitchen.

#### 12. Greta Garbo's 1937 Beverly Hills Mansion

During the 1920s and '30s, Greta Garbo was one of the most glamorous stars on the silver screen. Although the Swedish actress was born in poverty, she skyrocketed to fame after landing an MGM contract. She started out in silent films but was best known for her roles in sound pictures like *Camille* and *Anna Karenina*.

The hillside property, which is located in Los Angeles' wealthy Beverly Crest neighborhood, was custom-made for Garbo back in 1937. In 2003, the property was purchased by renowned interior designer Nicole Sassaman for \$1.4 million. Even though the adobe-style property has been modernized, it still has many features that are original to the home, including a stucco facade and a curved fireplace.

It's located on a spacious 15,080-square-foot lot and offers breathtaking 180-degree views of Downtown Los Angeles, the Santa Monica Mountains, and the Pacific Ocean. Throughout the property, you'll find spacious windows and glass walls that let in natural light and help to showcase the surrounding scenery.

#### 11. John Barrymore's Mansion

When John owned the estate, it had a 7-acre property. The home itself has seven bedrooms, eleven baths, a main house, two guest houses, and two apartments for a total of 6,976 square feet of living space. The large Spanish-style mansion has more character and history than many others, though, thanks to Barrymore's riches and vices in the early 1900s.

The successful actor had an interesting life, which involved many school expulsions, multiple marriages, unique collections of exotica (it is said that he collected shrunken heads), and many vices—one that had a particular influence in this amazing mansion. At the time that John Barrymore lived in *Bella Vista* mansion, he had joined the popular trend of the time of enjoying recreational drugs, particularly opium.

Because of this hobby, he created an opium den above his bedroom in his mansion, which has been perfectly maintained and still stands to this day.



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#### 10. Greystone Mansion

Greystone Mansion, sitting high in Beverly Hills, is the former estate of oil tycoon Edward Doheny, completed in 1928. The 55-room, 46,000-square-foot house sprawls across 18.3 acres of prime real estate. Its Gothic and Tudor architecture screams old-money grandeur, but what really makes Greystone stand out is its history — a little less glamorous and a lot more scandalous.

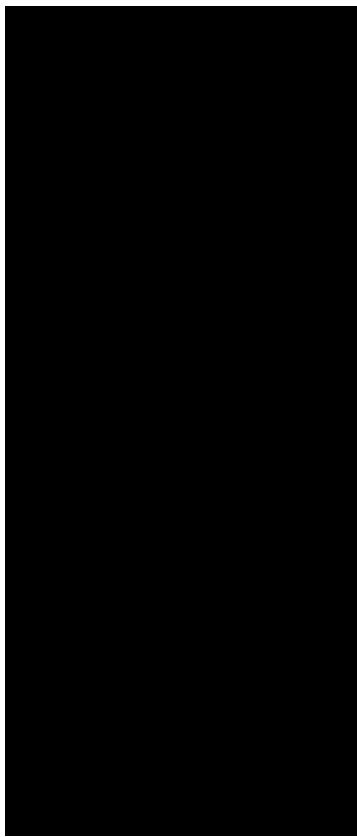
Doheny's son, Ned, was found dead in the house in an apparent murder-suicide. After that, the estate changed hands several times and became a location for films like *The Big Lebowski* and *X-Men*. Now, it's a park and event space, but the whispers of Hollywood drama still cling to those cold stone walls.



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**9. Beverly Hills Hotel Bungalows**

Alright, this one's a bit different, but no less iconic. The bungalows at the Beverly Hills Hotel have played host to more star scandals and romantic escapades than any single mansion on this list.

Marilyn Monroe had her favorite, as did Elizabeth Taylor, who spent several of her honeymoons there. While technically not a mansion, the privacy and luxury of these bungalows have made them legendary. It's Hollywood history on a smaller, albeit no less glamorous, scale.

**8. The Chateau Élysée**

Built in 1927 by Eleanor Ince, widow of the famous silent film producer Thomas Ince, this French-Norman style mansion once housed the most glamorous stars of the silver screen. Think of it as Hollywood's answer to a Parisian chateau.

Later taken over by the Church of Scientology, the Chateau Élysée became their Celebrity Centre, adding an extra layer of intrigue to its storied past. The arched windows and steep gables are more Versailles than Tinseltown, but that's part of the magic — a place that's always been for the glitterati, whether they were movie stars or spiritual seekers.

**7. Falcon Lair**

Originally owned by silent film legend Rudolph Valentino, Falcon Lair in Beverly Hills was built in 1925. Valentino only lived there briefly before dying at age 31, but the mansion's Spanish Revival style became a Hollywood icon. The estate has since been owned by a string of A-listers, including Doris Duke and Talitha Getty.

Duke spent a fortune restoring the property, though she rarely lived there. The place has a kind of haunted legacy, and it's said Valentino's ghost never left. No one stays for long, but the whispers of its glamorous and tragic past make Falcon Lair one of the most mysterious houses in Hollywood.

**6. The Beverly House**

The Beverly House, perched in Beverly Hills, has a résumé that reads like a who's who of Hollywood lore. Built in the 1920s by banker Milton Getz, this 50,000-square-foot Mediterranean Revival estate is famous not only for its grandeur but also for its guest list.

Newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst and actress Marion Davies called it home when they weren't at San Simeon, and it's where John F. Kennedy honeymooned with Jackie. If that's not enough star power, the house famously appears in *The Godfather* and *The Bodyguard*. It's got all

the makings of an old-school epic—columns, cascading gardens, a 75-foot hallway, and stories that whisper in every room. With multiple owners since Hearst, including investors who turned it into a \$135 million listing, Beverly House is as much a part of the Hollywood story as the stars who passed through its doors.

**5. The Knoll**

The Knoll, designed by architect Wallace Neff, is the sprawling Holmby Hills estate once owned by studio mogul Jules Stein, founder of MCA. This Georgian-style mansion boasts 10 acres of lavish gardens, an Olympic-sized pool, and all the classic charm of a studio boss's playground.

Stein turned the property into a social hotspot where the power brokers of Hollywood met to shape the industry. Later, the house became known for its equally storied buyers, including TV producer Aaron Spelling, who added his own brand of "Dynasty" excess to the property.

The Knoll's real intrigue lies in its long history of being a place where Hollywood deals got sealed — and more than a few martinis were thrown.



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**4. Harold Lloyd Estate**

Greenacres, the Harold Lloyd Estate, was built in 1929 by one of the most successful silent film stars in history. Spanning over 15 acres in Beverly Hills, this Italian Renaissance villa stood as a testament to Lloyd's success.

Complete with a 900-foot canoe stream, a golf course, and a 44-room mansion, Greenacres was more than an estate—it was Lloyd's personal amusement park. Though Lloyd was known for his slapstick comedy, there was nothing funny about the opulence of his home. He even had his own zoo. Post-Lloyd, the estate has seen various owners, but it remains one of the grandest relics of Hollywood's golden age.



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### 3. Buster Keaton's "Italian Villa"

Buster Keaton's Hollywood mansion, built in 1926, was an architectural playground that embodied the spirit of its owner. Known as the "Italian Villa," this sprawling estate in Beverly Hills was as bold as one of Keaton's stunts.

Designed by Keaton himself, with architect Gene Verge, the mansion mixed Mediterranean influences with a dose of whimsy, as if each corner held the potential for a cinematic gag. The 10,000-square-foot mansion featured six bedrooms, a sunken Roman bath, a screening room, and a tennis court that saw the likes of Charlie Chaplin and Greta Garbo. Keaton's comedic genius didn't stop with the silver screen; it extended into his home life, where legendary soirées blurred the line between film set and real life.

### 2. Pickfair Estate

Pickfair was the epitome of Hollywood royalty. Built in 1919 for silent film star Mary Pickford and her husband, Douglas Fairbanks, the estate was originally a hunting lodge but was transformed into a 22-room mansion by architect Wallace Neff.

It quickly became the social hub of the Golden Age, with guests like Charlie Chaplin, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Amelia

Earhart sipping cocktails on the terrace. Post-divorce, Pickford held onto it, eventually selling it to businessman Jerry Buss. Later, it was bought by Pia Zadora, who notoriously razed the estate, sparking outrage. Today, Pickfair's mystique lives on in ghost stories and cocktail party chatter about "what used to be."

### 1. Hearst Castle

Though technically not in L.A., Hearst Castle's significance to Old Hollywood is undeniable. Designed by Julia Morgan for newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst, the San Simeon estate is more than a mansion — it's a fantasy made real.

From the moment construction began in 1919, Hearst set out to outshine everyone, and in typical Hearst style, he did. The estate, with 165 rooms and 123 acres of gardens, pools, and terraces, looks like it belongs in some European dreamscape. The Neptune Pool alone is worth the trip. Hearst and his paramour, actress Marion Davies, hosted parties for the likes of Charlie Chaplin, Cary Grant, and Clark Gable on a regular basis.

Even today, it remains a symbol of what happens when money and ambition collide on a grand scale.

# 10 OF THE MOST SECLUDED TOWNS IN TEXAS

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL  
(FOR RELOCATION OR VACATION)

If you're seeking a true escape, these ten Texas towns offer a blend of seclusion, scenic beauty, and a touch of desolation that only enhances their charm. Far from the bustling city life, each town provides a unique retreat into Texas's rugged landscapes, where quiet desert stretches and open skies create an unforgettable setting.

From Terlingua's desert solitude to Marfa's artsy desolation, these towns promise a lifestyle where peace and vast horizons reign. Perfect for a serene vacation or a permanent getaway, they're havens for those who crave space, solitude, and a slower pace. Dive into the heart of Texas's hidden gems and experience life on the untouched, tranquil side.



# 10. Terlingua

Terlingua, a tiny desert town with a population of about 100, is known for its rugged landscapes and unique desert charm. Situated near Big Bend National Park, it's an ideal spot for adventurous activities like hiking, stargazing, and exploring nearby ghost towns and desert trails.

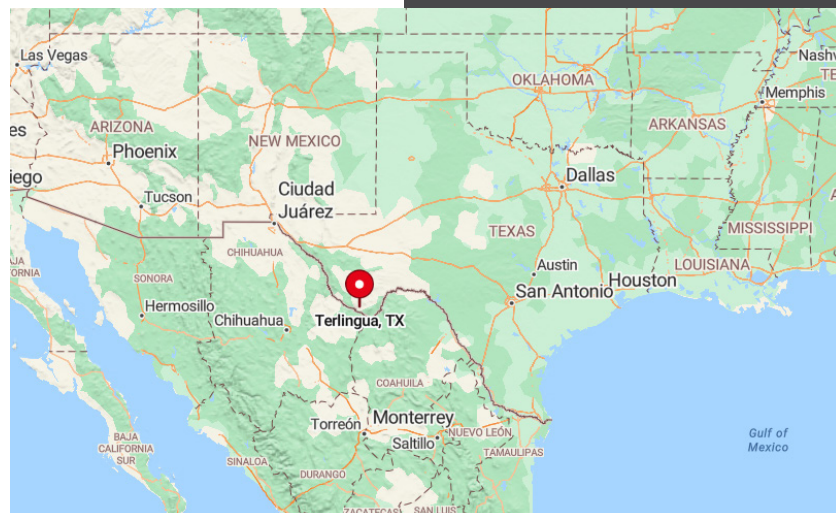
Most properties here are acreages and ranches, with prices ranging from \$200,000 to over \$1 million, catering to those seeking large, private land in a remote area. The town's seclusion is reinforced by its wide-open spaces, minimal development, and a quiet lifestyle centered on solitude and the natural beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert.

Terlingua is perfect for those who want to escape modern conveniences and embrace a slower, nature-focused life. Its isolation creates a close-knit community of residents who appreciate the freedom and tranquility of the desert.

## Where is Terlingua?

Located in West Texas, near the U.S.-Mexico border, Terlingua is about an hour's drive from the nearest town of Alpine. Its remote desert location, surrounded by vast stretches of uninhabited land, gives it a distinct sense of isolation.

The lack of major highways and the rugged terrain make it feel worlds away from urban life. Terlingua's remoteness and expansive landscapes make it a retreat for those looking to escape the demands of city living.



# 9. Marfa

Marfa, a small West Texas town with a population of around 1,800, is renowned for its blend of art, culture, and desert landscapes. Known for the mysterious Marfa Lights and as an artist's haven, the town offers unique attractions like contemporary art installations, galleries, and an annual film festival.

Residents and visitors can also explore the nearby desert trails and scenic vistas of the Big Bend region. A 3-4 bedroom home in Marfa typically ranges from \$200,000 to \$500,000, making it an affordable yet secluded option in Texas. The town's remote location, coupled with its quiet artsy vibe, gives it an unusual charm away from typical tourist paths.

Marfa's small community and expansive surroundings create a tranquil setting perfect for those seeking inspiration and solitude.

## Where is Marfa?

Located about 60 miles from the Mexican border and far from major cities, Marfa's isolation is enhanced by its vast, open desert landscape. It sits on a remote stretch of highway, with limited accessibility and miles of desert around it, creating a distinct sense of seclusion.

This remote setting draws those looking for a peaceful, creative atmosphere, far removed from urban distractions. Marfa's unique combination of art and isolation makes it a truly distinct escape within the Texas desert.



# 8. Alpine

Alpine, a quaint town in West Texas with a population of approximately 6,000, offers a peaceful blend of small-town charm and scenic mountain views.

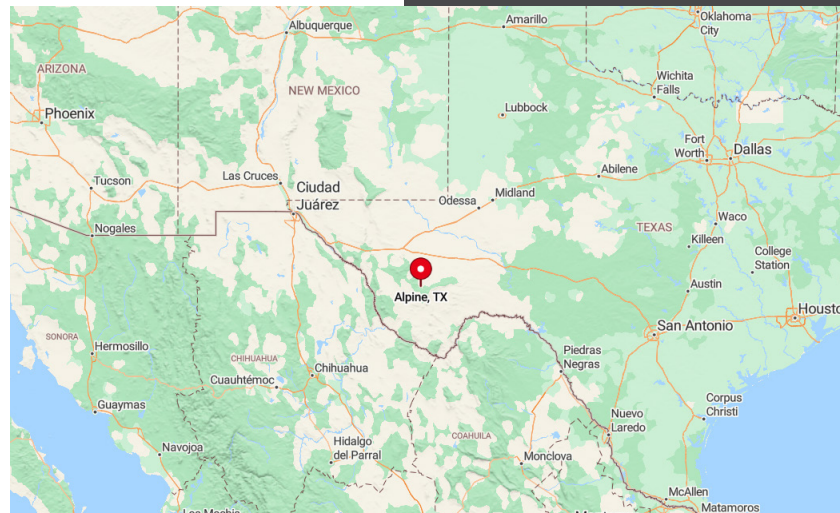
As the gateway to Big Bend National Park, Alpine provides ample outdoor activities, including hiking, stargazing, and exploring local attractions like the Museum of the Big Bend and the historic Holland Hotel. The town hosts an annual cowboy poetry gathering, adding a unique cultural touch to its quiet atmosphere.

Homes in Alpine generally range from \$300,000 to \$600,000 for 3-4 bedroom properties, appealing to those seeking solitude within a scenic landscape. Its seclusion comes from its remote location in the Chihuahuan Desert, where wide open spaces and few major highways keep it free from bustling crowds. Alpine's relaxed lifestyle and close-knit community make it ideal for anyone wanting to enjoy the tranquility of West Texas.

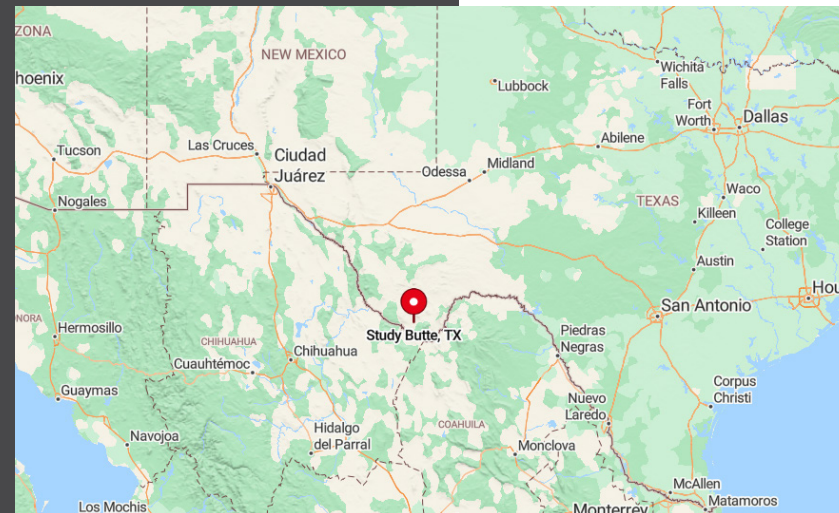
## Where is Terlingua?

Located roughly halfway between Marfa and Fort Davis, Alpine's isolation is enhanced by its distance from larger cities, with the nearest metropolitan area hours away.

The town's location within the high desert mountains adds a sense of remoteness, making it a hidden retreat in the heart of West Texas. Surrounded by vast desert landscapes and rugged terrain, Alpine offers a sense of escape from the fast pace of modern life. This combination of natural beauty and geographic isolation makes Alpine a peaceful haven for those looking to get away.



# 7. Study Butte



Study Butte, a small desert community with a population of around 300, sits at the edge of Big Bend National Park, offering rugged beauty and a true sense of seclusion. Known for its access to outdoor adventures, Study Butte is ideal for hiking, exploring desert trails, and visiting scenic sites within the park.

While most available properties are vacant land, those seeking a 3-4 bedroom home can find options starting at around \$300,000, making it a unique place to establish a remote lifestyle. The area's isolation is amplified by its vast stretches of open desert, minimal development, and limited amenities, which create an unhurried, rustic atmosphere.

Life in Study Butte revolves around nature, solitude, and the quiet of the desert landscape. This remote town draws those looking to escape urban life and embrace a simpler way of living.

## Where is Study Butte?

Located in West Texas, near the Mexican border and about 80 miles from the nearest larger town, Alpine, Study Butte is tucked away in a remote part of the state.

The town's geographic seclusion is enhanced by the surrounding mountains and desert, which act as natural barriers to the outside world. Limited road access and sparse population contribute to its isolated charm, making it ideal for those seeking a true getaway. Study Butte's unique position near Big Bend makes it both a secluded retreat and an adventurer's paradise.

# 6. Presidio

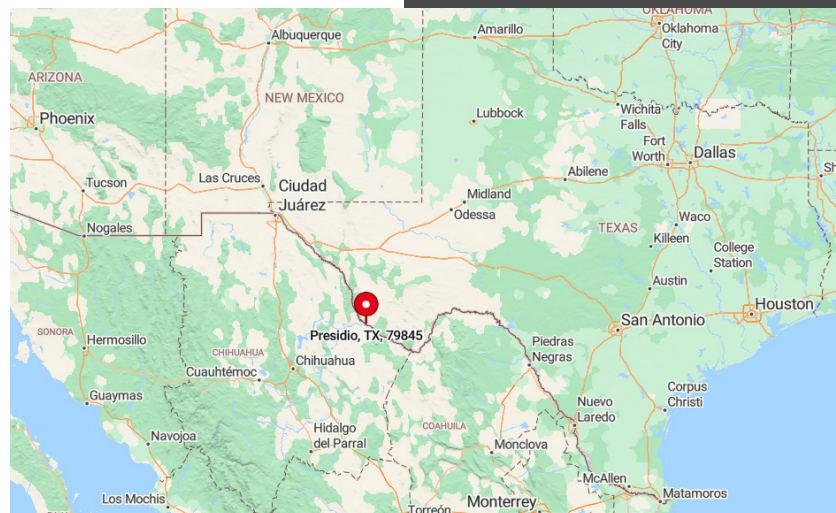
Presidio, a remote border town in West Texas with a population of around 4,000, offers a unique blend of desert landscapes and rich cultural heritage. Situated along the Rio Grande, it provides plenty of outdoor activities, including hiking, river kayaking, and exploring historic sites like Fort Leaton State Historic Site. For those seeking a modest home, a decent three-bedroom property typically starts at around \$300,000, appealing to those wanting a secluded lifestyle in an affordable yet scenic area.

The town's isolation is underscored by its limited development and its quiet, community-centered way of life. Presidio's proximity to the border and vast open spaces create a peaceful setting far from urban distractions. Living here means embracing the slower pace and the natural beauty that surrounds this desert town.

## Where is Presidio?

Located in far West Texas, Presidio sits right on the U.S.-Mexico border, about 90 miles from the nearest larger town, Marfa.

The town's remote location and the desert terrain add to its sense of seclusion, with limited accessibility from major highways. Its position along the Rio Grande gives it an isolated yet picturesque quality, making it feel worlds away from city life. Presidio's location at the edge of Texas provides a tranquil retreat for those looking to escape into the rugged beauty of the borderlands.



# 5. Sanderson

Sanderson, a small and quiet town with a population of around 800, is nestled in the rugged desert landscapes of West Texas. Known as the "Cactus Capital of Texas," Sanderson offers a simple lifestyle with outdoor activities like hiking, birdwatching, and exploring the expansive desert terrain.

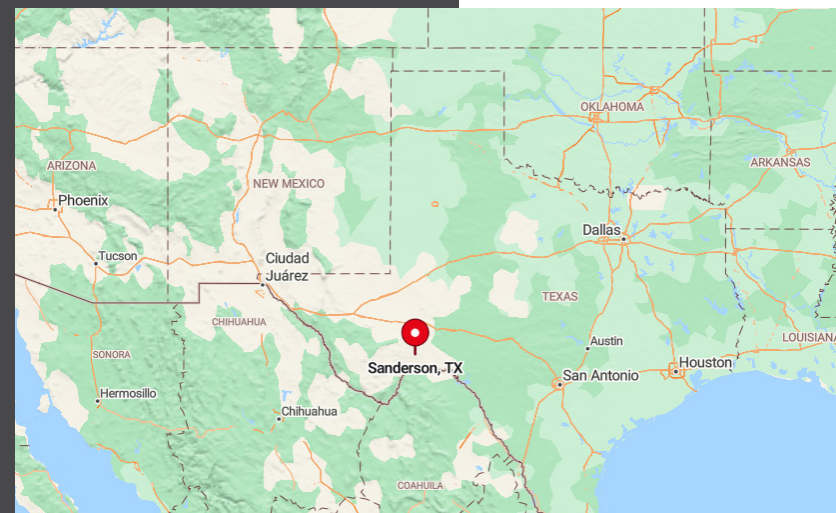
Local amenities are minimal, but the town's charm lies in its isolation and the scenic beauty of its surroundings. A modest three-bedroom home can be found starting at around \$100,000, making it an affordable option for those looking to live off the beaten path.

The town's remoteness and low population contribute to its peaceful and secluded atmosphere, ideal for residents seeking solitude. Sanderson's open spaces and quiet streets create an unhurried environment in the heart of the Texas desert.

## Where is Sanderson?

Located along U.S. Highway 90, Sanderson is roughly 120 miles from the nearest larger town, Fort Stockton, adding to its sense of isolation.

The town's position in the remote stretches of the Chihuahuan Desert enhances its feeling of seclusion and distance from urban life. With vast, empty landscapes surrounding it, Sanderson offers a sense of calm and escape from the crowded cities of Texas. This geographic isolation makes it an appealing choice for anyone looking to enjoy the serenity of Texas's wide-open desert.



# 4. Valentine

Valentine, a tiny town in West Texas with a population of around 130, is as secluded as it gets, offering a quiet escape in the open desert. Known for its quirky roadside art installation, the Prada Marfa, Valentine is a destination for those who appreciate a unique and laid-back atmosphere.

Amenities are limited, with a few local establishments catering to the small community, but residents enjoy the untouched beauty of the surrounding landscape. A simple three-bedroom home here starts at about \$80,000, making it an affordable option for those seeking solitude in a remote area.

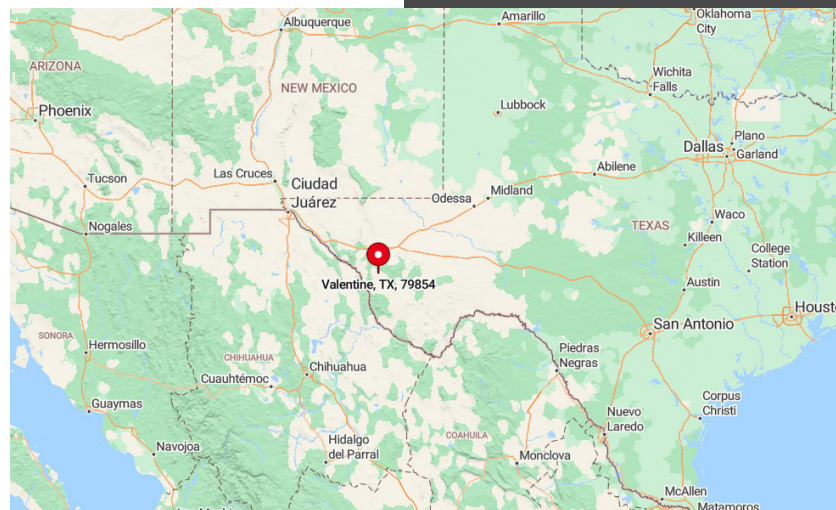
The town's isolation is heightened by its sparse population and expansive desert surroundings, creating an atmosphere of tranquility. Life in Valentine moves at a relaxed pace, far removed from the demands of urban living..

## Where is Valentine?

Located on U.S. Highway 90, Valentine is roughly 30 miles from the art-focused town of Marfa, yet feels worlds apart due to its quiet, unpopulated environment.

The surrounding desert landscape and minimal development add to its sense of remoteness, making it a peaceful hideaway. Its location far from major highways and cities enhances the secluded experience, attracting those looking to fully disconnect.

Valentine's remote charm and wide-open spaces offer a rare retreat within Texas's vast western landscape.



# 3. Langtry

Langtry, a tiny community with a population of around 30, offers a remote, desert lifestyle steeped in Old West history. Known as the home of Judge Roy Bean, the "Law West of the Pecos," the town features the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center, drawing visitors interested in exploring Texas's storied past.

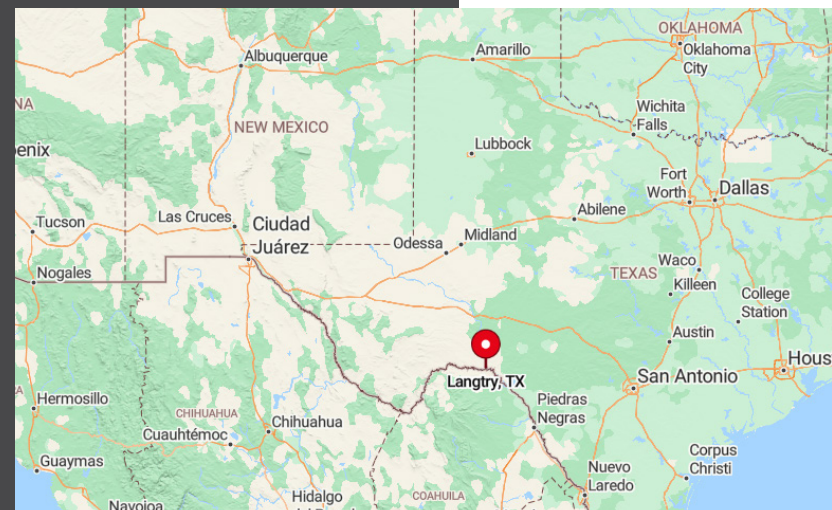
Outdoor options nearby include the Pecos River and the Amistad National Recreation Area, which are ideal for hiking, fishing, and birdwatching. Current real estate offerings consist solely of large acreages and ranches, making it a unique opportunity for those seeking expansive land in a secluded setting. Langtry's isolation is due to its sparse population, minimal development, and vast surrounding landscapes, appealing to those looking for true solitude.

The quiet, rustic atmosphere provides an escape for residents and history enthusiasts alike.

## Where is Sanderson?

Located along U.S. Highway 90, about 60 miles west of Del Rio, Langtry lies near the Texas-Mexico border, heightening its sense of remoteness.

The town's position amid rugged canyons and desert terrain creates a natural barrier to the outside world. Sparse amenities and long distances from larger towns add to its quiet and secluded charm. This geographic isolation, combined with its rich history, offers a distinct retreat for those seeking a simpler, quieter life.



# 2. Marathon

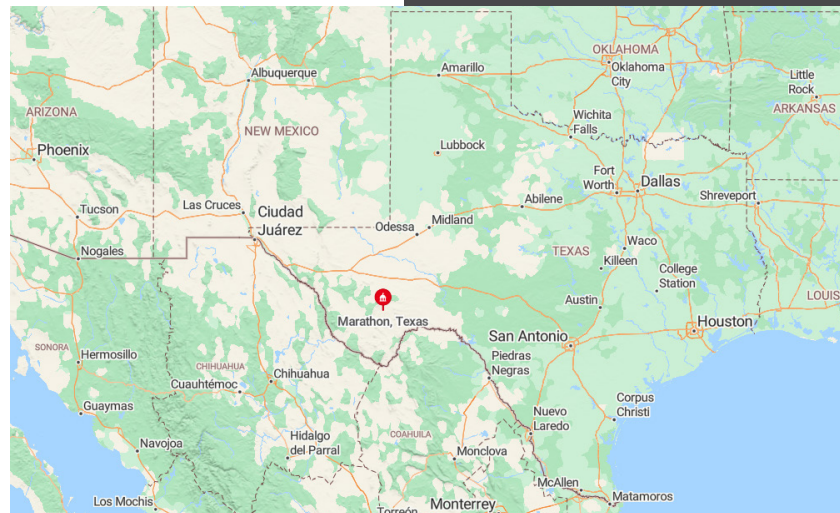
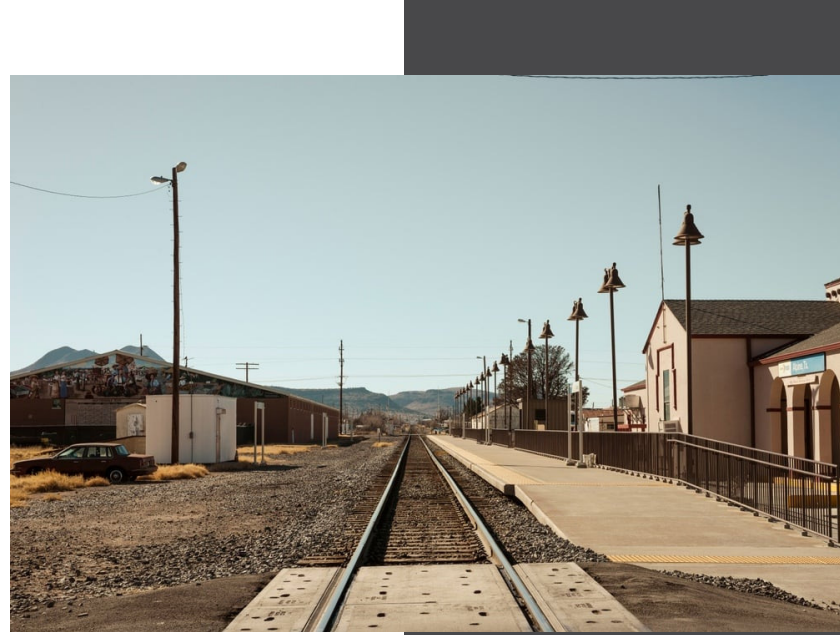
Marathon, a small town of about 400 residents in West Texas, is known for its scenic desert landscape and serves as the primary gateway to Big Bend National Park. With tourism as its main industry, the town attracts visitors eager to experience the natural beauty of West Texas through hiking, stargazing, and wildlife observation. Marathon offers a handful of local attractions, including art galleries, the historic Gage Hotel, and charming shops that add to its welcoming atmosphere.

Homes here start at around \$300,000 for 3-4 bedroom properties, appealing to those seeking a secluded, culturally rich lifestyle. Its isolation and small population contribute to a quiet, laid-back setting perfect for retreating from urban bustle. Marathon's serene desert surroundings and focus on eco-tourism create a unique community dedicated to appreciating nature and history.

## Where is Marathon?

Located on U.S. Highway 90, Marathon lies about 40 miles north of Big Bend, making it an ideal entry point for exploring the park. The town's remoteness is heightened by miles of open desert and minimal nearby development, enhancing its sense of seclusion.

Marathon's isolation and dedication to preserving its natural surroundings attract residents who value peace and proximity to the wilderness. This geographic and cultural solitude offers a calm, picturesque escape for those drawn to Texas's desert landscapes.



# 1. Van Horn

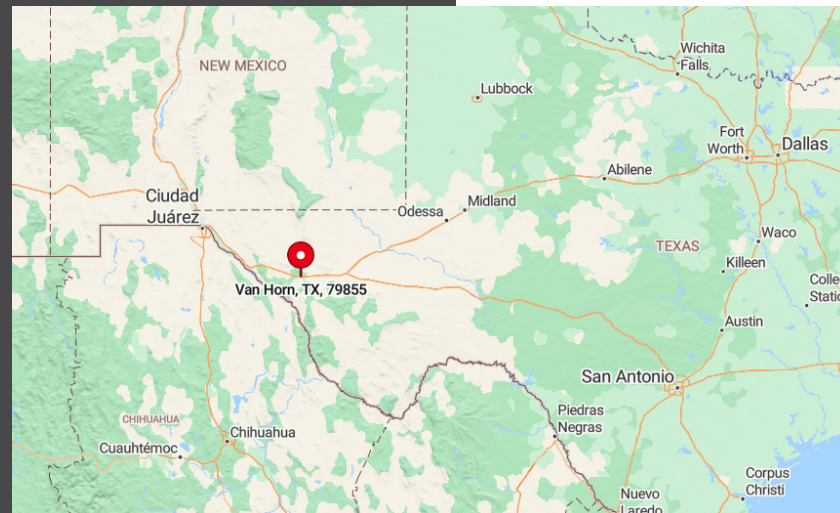
Van Horn, a small town in West Texas with a population of around 2,000, is known for its rugged desert landscape and close-knit community. The town's economy centers around transportation and hospitality, given its location along Interstate 10, which brings travelers passing through the region. Van Horn offers a few local attractions, including the Red Rock Ranch and Culberson County Historical Museum, as well as nearby hiking in the Chihuahuan Desert.

A typical three-bedroom home here starts around \$250,000, making it a budget-friendly option for those seeking solitude in a desert setting. Van Horn's remote location and surrounding open landscapes give it a quiet, relaxed atmosphere away from the hustle of city life. The town's peaceful charm and small-town hospitality appeal to those who want a simple lifestyle in a unique desert environment.

## Where is Van Horn?

Situated in far West Texas, Van Horn is about 120 miles east of El Paso, along a long stretch of open highway. Its geographic isolation, surrounded by desert mountains and vast plains, enhances its sense of remoteness.

The sparse population and limited commercial development add to its secluded feel, making it a refreshing escape from more urbanized areas. Van Horn's position along I-10 offers a blend of accessibility and seclusion, attracting residents and visitors who appreciate the slower pace of desert living.



17 OF THE

# Best Small Towns for Retirees

IN THE SOUTHWEST USA



Retirement opens up a world of possibilities, especially when it comes to choosing the perfect place to settle down. The Southwest USA, with its diverse landscapes and rich cultural heritage, offers a plethora of charming small towns that cater to a relaxed yet fulfilling lifestyle.

From serene mountain retreats to coastal getaways, let's explore 17 of the best small towns in the Southwest that could be your ideal retirement destination.

17



### Scenic Views in Ruidoso, New Mexico

Set in the Sierra Blanca Mountains, Ruidoso offers cool summers and a refreshing mountain climate. Retirees can explore the Lincoln National Forest or try their luck at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track.

The town's charming streets are dotted with boutique shops and eateries, providing a cozy small-town feel. For those who appreciate nature and a slower pace, Ruidoso is a picturesque choice. Home prices in Ruidoso range from \$335,000 to \$600,000 for a 3-4 bed home, making it an attractive option for mountain lovers looking for affordability.

16



### Golf Haven in Sun City, Arizona

As one of the original active adult communities, Sun City is designed with retirees in mind. The town boasts numerous golf courses, recreation centers, and social clubs catering to a wide array of interests.

Residents can enjoy performances at the Sun Bowl Amphitheatre or participate in crafting at the Bell Craft Club. Sun City's vibrant community life ensures retirees have ample opportunities to stay active and engaged. Home prices in Sun City range from \$220,000 to \$420,000 for homes with 3-4 bedrooms, offering affordable living for retirees in a bustling community.

15

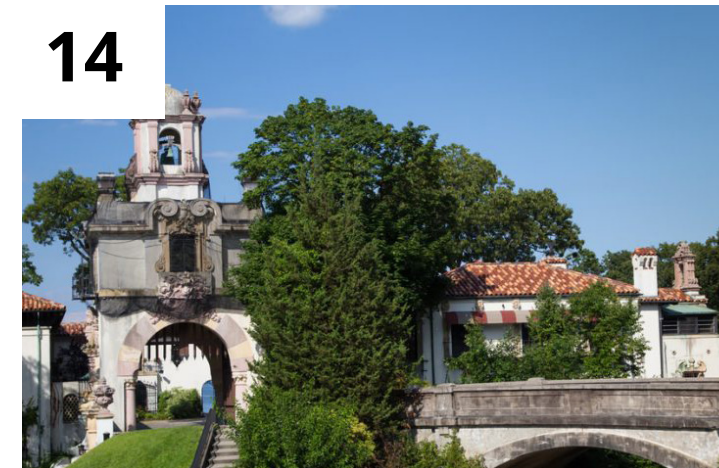


### Historic Vibes in Mesilla, New Mexico

Mesilla enchants with its adobe architecture and storied past, once a stop on the Butterfield Stagecoach Line. The town's central plaza is lined with shops and restaurants housed in historic buildings.

The famous San Albino Basilica anchors the plaza, adding to the town's old-world charm. For retirees seeking a quaint setting steeped in history, Mesilla offers a peaceful retreat. 3-4 bedroom homes in Mesilla are priced from \$361,116 to \$525,000, providing a historic charm that's also a sound investment.

14



### Peaceful Living in Kerrville, Texas

Located in the heart of Texas Hill Country, Kerrville is known for its scenic beauty and friendly atmosphere. The Guadalupe River runs through town, offering riverside parks perfect for picnics and fishing.

Retirees can participate in community events like the Kerrville Folk Festival, a beloved annual music event. Kerrville's combination of natural beauty and community spirit makes it an inviting place to call home. With 3-4 bedroom homes priced between \$225,000 and \$420,000, Kerrville offers an affordable escape with hill country charm.

13

# Cultural Experiences in Silver City,

New Mexico

Silver City is a vibrant town nestled near the Gila National Forest. Retirees can enjoy annual festivals like the Silver City Clay Festival and explore the eclectic shops of the historic downtown. The nearby Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument offers a unique window into ancient civilizations. With its thriving arts scene and engaging community events, Silver City keeps retirees connected and entertained. Home prices in Silver City range from \$350,000 to \$400,000 for 3-4 bedrooms, providing affordability for retirees seeking a lively arts and culture scene.



# Desert Beauty in Tubac,

Arizona

Tubac's tranquil setting along the Santa Cruz River provides a peaceful backdrop for retirement. Known as an art colony, the town is filled with galleries and studios where locals showcase their crafts. The historic Tubac Presidio State Historic Park offers a glimpse into Arizona's oldest European settlement. Tubac's quiet ambiance and artistic flair make it a serene escape from the hustle and bustle. With 3-4 bedroom home prices between \$450,000 and \$575,000, Tubac offers a balance of beauty and artistic community.



11



## Active Lifestyle in St. George, Utah

With its sunny weather and striking red cliffs, St. George is a gateway to outdoor adventure. Retirees can tee off at one of the many golf courses or explore nearby national parks like Zion National Park. The city's extensive trail system, including the scenic Virgin River Trail, caters to walkers and cyclists alike. St. George's active community and breathtaking scenery are perfect for those looking to stay vibrant in retirement. Homes in St. George range from \$450,000 to \$625,000 for 3-4 bedrooms, reflecting the popularity of this outdoor paradise.

10



## Lakeside Relaxation in Horseshoe Bay, Texas

Situated on the shores of Lake LBJ, Horseshoe Bay offers waterfront living and serene landscapes. The town is known for its world-class golf resorts, including courses designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. Water activities abound, from boating to fishing, making it a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. The peaceful environment and upscale amenities make Horseshoe Bay a luxurious spot for retirement. Home prices in Horseshoe Bay range from \$550,000 to \$700,000 if you want 3-4 bedrooms, ideal for retirees seeking lakeside luxury and tranquility.

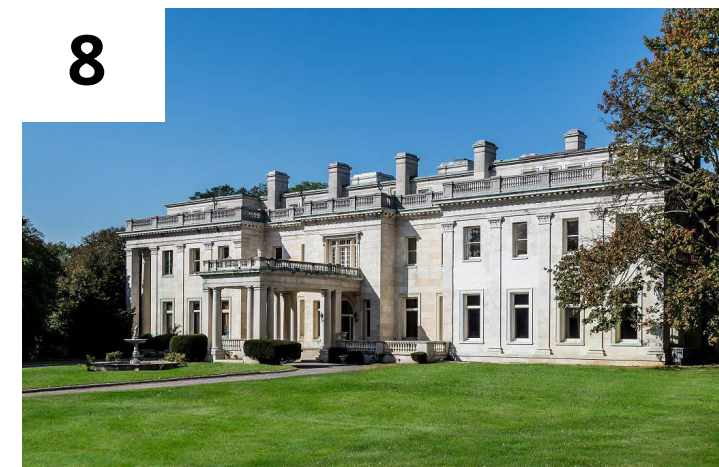
9



## Small-Town Charm in Bisbee, Arizona

Perched high in the Mule Mountains, Bisbee is a former mining town turned artistic enclave. Its well-preserved Victorian architecture and colorful hillside homes make it a picturesque retreat. Retirees can explore the historic Queen Mine tour or delve into the town's past at the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum. The cooler climate and vibrant community events add to Bisbee's unique appeal. Homes in Bisbee are priced between \$350,000 and \$450,000 for a 3-4 bedroom, providing an affordable option for retirees seeking an artistic and historic small-town vibe.

8



## Affordable Living in Las Cruces, New Mexico

Las Cruces combines affordability with a warm climate and stunning natural surroundings. The nearby Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument is a playground for hiking and photography enthusiasts. The city's flourishing arts scene includes the Farmers & Crafts Market, a local favorite held twice a week. With a reasonable cost of living and abundant sunshine, Las Cruces is an attractive option for budget-conscious retirees. 3-4 bedroom homes in Las Cruces range from \$250,000 to \$350,000, offering a cost-effective choice for those looking to retire in New Mexico.

7



### Wine Country Living in Fredericksburg, New Mexico

Fredericksburg charms with its rich German heritage and scenic Hill Country setting. The town is renowned for its vineyards and wineries, such as the popular Becker Vineyards, offering tours and tastings.

Main Street is lined with boutique shops and Bavarian-style architecture, reflecting its cultural roots. For retirees seeking tranquility and a touch of European flair, Fredericksburg provides an idyllic escape. 3-4 bedroom homes in Fredericksburg range from \$350,000 to \$610,000, making it a desirable destination for wine lovers and those seeking a peaceful lifestyle.

6



### Mountain Retreat in Prescott, Arizona

Prescott offers all four seasons, a rarity in Arizona, set against a backdrop of pine forests and granite mountains. Its historic downtown features the famous Whiskey Row, once a lively hub of saloons and now home to shops and eateries.

Outdoor enthusiasts can explore the Thumb Butte Trail for panoramic views. With a mild climate and a wealth of activities, Prescott is ideal for active retirees seeking both adventure and community. 3-4 bedroom homes in Prescott range from \$400,000 to \$750,000, offering options for retirees desiring a scenic mountain retreat.

5



### Coastal Beauty in Port Aransas, Texas

Located on Mustang Island, Port Aransas is a coastal gem offering pristine beaches and a laid-back atmosphere. Retirees can enjoy fishing excursions, dolphin watching, or simply relaxing by the Gulf of Mexico.

A hidden treasure is the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, where one can observe a variety of bird species in their natural habitat. The town's friendly vibe and seaside charm make it a perfect spot for those seeking relaxation by the water. 3-4 bedroom homes in Port Aransas range from \$550,000 to \$700,000, providing a beautiful coastal lifestyle for retirees.

4



### Artistic Community in Taos, New Mexico

Taos captivates with its unique blend of Pueblo culture and artistic spirit. The town is home to the historic Taos Pueblo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that's been continuously inhabited for over a thousand years. Art lovers will appreciate the myriad galleries and the annual Taos Fall Arts Festival.

Surrounded by the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Taos offers breathtaking scenery and a culturally enriching environment for retirees. 3-4 bedroom homes in Taos range from \$570,000 to \$750,000, reflecting its appeal as a culturally rich and scenic retreat.

3

# Tranquil Desert Oasis in Green Valley,

Arizona

Green Valley is renowned as a retirement community designed with seniors in mind. The town offers a relaxed lifestyle with abundant recreational activities, including over a dozen golf courses and numerous social clubs. Nature enthusiasts can explore the nearby Madera Canyon, a hidden gem for bird watching and hiking. Green Valley's peaceful ambiance makes it an ideal place to unwind and enjoy a leisurely pace of life. 3-4 bedroom homes in Green Valley range from \$280,000 to \$340,320, offering affordable desert living tailored to retirees.



2

# Historic Charm in Santa Fe,

New Mexico

Santa Fe, the oldest capital city in the United States, enchants with its adobe architecture and rich cultural tapestry. Retirees can immerse themselves in the city's artistic heartbeat at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum or stroll through the historic Plaza, which dates back to the early 17th century. With over 300 days of sunshine and a mild climate, Santa Fe provides a perfect blend of history, culture, and modern amenities. 3-4 bedroom homes in Santa Fe range from \$440,000 to \$750,000, making it an attractive option for those seeking both history and a vibrant community.



1



# Serene Mountain Living in Sedona

Arizona

Nestled amid striking red rock formations, Sedona is a haven for those seeking peace and natural beauty. Beyond its stunning landscapes that glow at sunset, the town boasts a vibrant arts scene with over 80 galleries showcasing local talents. For a unique experience, visit the Chapel of the Holy Cross, a spiritual landmark built into the buttes. Sedona's mild climate and numerous hiking trails offer retirees an active yet tranquil environment to enjoy their golden years. 3-4 bedroom homes in Sedona range from \$800,000 to \$1,750,000, reflecting the high demand for a slice of this stunning desert paradise.

An aerial photograph of a suburban town in Connecticut, showing a mix of residential houses, commercial buildings, parking lots, and a train track. The background features rolling green hills under a clear sky. A large, bold, white serif font is overlaid on a black background across the top and middle of the image.

# THE 30 BEST SUBURBS TO LIVE IN CONNECTICUT

## Best suburbs to live in Connecticut

Cities may have the nightlife, but the convenience and affordability of the suburbs are becoming hot as the millennial generation moves into its homebuying phase. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic shook up workplace norms and superheated the housing market, folks have been flocking away from major urban centers.

In Colorado, for instance, lesser-known suburbs outside of Denver such as Boulder have become magnets for young parents, ranking among the biggest destinations for out-of-state millennials who chose to move in 2023. And companies are taking note of the trend as well: Many are establishing satellite offices and new headquarters in less urban areas.

Stacker compiled a list of the best suburbs to live in Connecticut using data from Niche's 2024 Best Places to Live. Niche ranks places to live based on an array of factors, including the cost of living, educational level of residents, housing costs, and quality of schools.



### #30. East Granby, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 2,232
- Population: 5,148
- Median household income: \$112,857
- Median home value: \$289,200 (78% own)
- Median rent: \$1,089 (22% rent)
- Top public schools: Allgrove School (grade A), Academy of Aerospace & Engineering (grade A minus), Tariffville School (grade A minus)
- Top private schools: The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Suffield Academy (grade A+), Westminster School (grade A+)



### #29. Rocky Hill, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,926
- Population: 20,682
- Median household income: \$86,410
- Median home value: \$275,600 (68% own)
- Median rent: \$1,579 (32% rent)
- Top public schools: West Hill School (grade A), Rocky Hill High School (grade A), Academy of Aerospace & Engineering (grade A minus)
- Top private schools: Choate Rosemary Hall (grade A+), The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Miss Porter's School (grade A+)

## #28. Byram, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,911
- Population: 5,285
- Median household income: \$92,500
- Median home value: \$853,500 (37% own)
- Median rent: \$2,489 (63% rent)
- Top public schools: Greenwich High School (grade A+), Glenville School (grade A), Central Middle School (grade A)
- Top private schools: Rye Country Day School (grade A+), French-American School of New York (grade A+), Hackley School (grade A+)



## #27. Newington, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,904
- Population: 30,458
- Median household income: \$100,239
- Median home value: \$266,200 (78% own)
- Median rent: \$1,401 (22% rent)
- Top public schools: Webster Hill School (grade A), Academy of Aerospace & Engineering (grade A minus), Moser School (grade A minus)
- Top private schools: The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Miss Porter's School (grade A+), Avon Old Farms School (grade A+)



## #26. Collinsville, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,841
- Population: 3,750
- Median household income: \$101,336
- Median home value: \$367,400 (75% own)
- Median rent: \$1,530 (25% rent)
- Top public schools: Canton High School (grade A), Canton Intermediate School (grade A minus), Cherry Brook Primary School (grade A minus)
- Top private schools: Miss Porter's School (grade A+), Avon Old Farms School (grade A+), Westminster School (grade A+)



## #25. Granby, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,723
- Population: 10,971
- Median household income: \$115,989
- Median home value: \$310,200 (92% own)
- Median rent: \$1,292 (8% rent)
- Top public schools: Canton High School (grade A), Academy of Aerospace & Engineering (grade A minus), Canton Intermediate School (grade A minus)
- Top private schools: The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Suffield Academy (grade A+), Westminster School (grade A+)

## #24. Milford City, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,671
- Population: 50,664
- Median household income: \$104,503
- Median home value: \$361,900 (77% own)
- Median rent: \$1,783 (23% rent)
- Top public schools: Joseph A. Foran High School (grade A minus), West Shore Middle School (grade A minus), Jonathan Law High School (grade A minus)
- Top private schools: Hopkins School (grade A+), Hamden Hall Country Day School (grade A+), Bridgeport International Academy (grade A+)



## #23. New Canaan, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,670
- Population: 20,574
- Median household income: \$214,977
- Median home value: \$1,264,400 (81% own)
- Median rent: \$2,477 (19% rent)
- Top public schools: New Canaan High School (grade A+), Center for Global Studies (grade A+), West School (grade A+)
- Top private schools: Greenwich Academy (grade A+), Brunswick School (grade A+), Pierrepont School (grade A+)





## #22. Weston, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,643
- Population: 10,339
- Median household income: \$204,792
- Median home value: \$839,900 (97% own)
- Median rent: \$3,501 (3% rent)
- Top public schools: Center for Global Studies (grade A+), Weston High School (grade A+), Weston Middle School (grade A)
- Top private schools: Pierrepont School (grade A+), St. Luke's School (grade A+), Greens Farms Academy (grade A+)



## #21. Darien, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,447
- Population: 21,742
- Median household income: \$232,523
- Median home value: \$1,471,700 (87% own)
- Median rent: \$2,469 (13% rent)
- Top public schools: Darien High School (grade A+), Tokeneke Elementary School (grade A+), Middlesex Middle School (grade A+)
- Top private schools: Greenwich Academy (grade A+), Brunswick School (grade A+), Pierrepont School (grade A+)



### #20. Southport, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,442
- Population: 1,515
- Median household income: \$156,406
- Median home value: \$885,100 (84% own)
- Median rent: \$3,121 (16% rent)
- Top public schools: Center for Global Studies (grade A+), Fairfield Ludlowe High School (grade A), Roger Ludlowe Middle School (grade A)
- Top private schools: Pierrepont School (grade A+), Greens Farms Academy (grade A+), Bridgeport International Academy (grade A+)



### #19. Wethersfield, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,437
- Population: 27,192
- Median household income: \$108,656
- Median home value: \$286,000 (80% own)
- Median rent: \$1,244 (20% rent)
- Top public schools: Glastonbury High School (grade A+), Buttonball Lane School (grade A), Hopewell School (grade A)
- Top private schools: The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Miss Porter's School (grade A+), Kingswood Oxford School (grade A+)



### #18. Pemberwick, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,420
- Population: 3,212
- Median household income: \$122,546
- Median home value: \$819,700 (66% own)
- Median rent: \$2,291 (34% rent)
- Top public schools: Greenwich High School (grade A+), Glenville School (grade A), Western Middle School (grade A)
- Top private schools: Rye Country Day School (grade A+), French-American School of New York (grade A+), Greenwich Academy (grade A+)

### #17. West Simsbury, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,163
- Population: 2,796
- Median household income: \$175,045
- Median home value: \$457,700 (90% own)
- Median rent: \$2,176 (10% rent)
- Top public schools: Simsbury High School (grade A), Henry James Memorial School (grade A), Central School (grade A)
- Top private schools: Miss Porter's School (grade A+), Avon Old Farms School (grade A+), Westminster School (grade A+)





### #16. Fairfield, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 1,007
- Population: 61,737
- Median household income: \$149,641
- Median home value: \$627,100 (83% own)
- Median rent: \$1,977 (17% rent)
- Top public schools: Center for Global Studies (grade A+), Fairfield Warde High School (grade A+), Sherman School (grade A)
- Top private schools: Pierrepont School (grade A+), Greens Farms Academy (grade A+), Bridgeport International Academy (grade A+)

### #15. South Windsor, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 988
- Population: 26,719
- Median household income: \$126,996
- Median home value: \$291,400 (85% own)
- Median rent: \$1,595 (15% rent)
- Top public schools: Pleasant Valley School (grade A), Orchard Hill School (grade A), Philip R. Smith School (grade A)
- Top private schools: The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Suffield Academy (grade A+), Kingswood Oxford School (grade A+)





### #14. Glenville, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 964
- Population: 3,112
- Median household income: \$197,619
- Median home value: \$986,600 (72% own)
- Median rent: \$2,453 (28% rent)
- Top public schools: Greenwich High School (grade A+), Blind Brook High School (grade A), Blind Brook-Rye Middle School (grade A)
- Top private schools: Rye Country Day School (grade A+), French-American School of New York (grade A+), Hackley School (grade A+)



### #13. Greenwich, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 935
- Population: 63,455
- Median household income: \$180,447
- Median home value: \$1,377,000 (67% own)
- Median rent: \$2,122 (33% rent)
- Top public schools: Greenwich High School (grade A+), Center for Global Studies (grade A+), International School at Dundee (grade A+)
- Top private schools: Rye Country Day School (grade A+), French-American School of New York (grade A+), Hackley School (grade A+)

## #12. Wilton, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 919
- Population: 18,486
- Median household income: \$209,635
- Median home value: \$768,400 (90% own)
- Median rent: \$2,039 (10% rent)
- Top public schools: Wilton High School (grade A+), Center for Global Studies (grade A+), Middlebrook School (grade A)
- Top private schools: Pierrepont School (grade A+), St. Luke's School (grade A+), King School (grade A+)



## #11. Farmington, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 817
- Population: 26,559
- Median household income: \$106,773
- Median home value: \$339,200 (74% own)
- Median rent: \$1,567 (26% rent)
- Top public schools: Farmington High School (grade A+), East Farms School (grade A), West Woods Upper Elementary School (grade A)
- Top private schools: The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Miss Porter's School (grade A+), Avon Old Farms School (grade A+)



### #10. Glastonbury, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 816
- Population: 35,061
- Median household income: \$130,294
- Median home value: \$355,500 (81% own)
- Median rent: \$1,524 (19% rent)
- Top public schools: Glastonbury High School (grade A+), Buttonball Lane School (grade A), Hopewell School (grade A)
- Top private schools: The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Miss Porter's School (grade A+), Kingswood Oxford School (grade A+)



### #9. Riverside, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 769
- Population: 9,093
- Median household income: \$250,001
- Median home value: \$1,626,900 (82% own)
- Median rent: \$2,218 (18% rent)
- Top public schools: Greenwich High School (grade A+), Center for Global Studies (grade A+), International School at Dundee (grade A+)
- Top private schools: Rye Country Day School (grade A+), French-American School of New York (grade A+), Greenwich Academy (grade A+)



## #7. Cos Cob, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 743
- Population: 7,243
- Median household income: \$185,125
- Median home value: \$1,138,300 (66% own)
- Median rent: \$2,412 (34% rent)
- Top public schools: Greenwich High School (grade A+), Center for Global Studies (grade A+), North Mianus School (grade A+)
- Top private schools: Rye Country Day School (grade A+), French-American School of New York (grade A+), Greenwich Academy (grade A+)



## #8. Westport, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 755
- Population: 28,016
- Median household income: \$206,466
- Median home value: \$1,150,400 (85% own)
- Median rent: \$1,956 (15% rent)
- Top public schools: Staples High School (grade A+), Green's Farms School (grade A+), Coleytown Elementary School (grade A+)
- Top private schools: Pierrepont School (grade A+), St. Luke's School (grade A+), King School (grade A+)



## #6. Simsbury, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 739
- Population: 24,467
- Median household income: \$134,688
- Median home value: \$352,800 (78% own)
- Median rent: \$1,632 (22% rent)
- Top public schools: Simsbury High School (grade A), Henry James Memorial School (grade A), Latimer Lane School (grade A)
- Top private schools: The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Suffield Academy (grade A+), Miss Porter's School (grade A+)



## #5. Avon, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 738
- Population: 18,821
- Median household income: \$130,268
- Median home value: \$383,800 (84% own)
- Median rent: \$1,485 (16% rent)
- Top public schools: Avon High School (grade A+), Avon Middle School (grade A), Roaring Brook School (grade A)
- Top private schools: Miss Porter's School (grade A+), Avon Old Farms School (grade A+), Kingswood Oxford School (grade A+)

#### #4. Old Greenwich, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 708
- Population: 7,060
- Median household income: \$240,417
- Median home value: \$1,632,000 (83% own)
- Median rent: \$3,501 (17% rent)
- Top public schools: Greenwich High School (grade A+), Center for Global Studies (grade A+), International School at Dundee (grade A+)
- Top private schools: Rye Country Day School (grade A+), French-American School of New York (grade A+), Greenwich Academy (grade A+)



#### #3. Glastonbury Center, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 578
- Population: 7,959
- Median household income: \$104,557
- Median home value: \$360,900 (69% own)
- Median rent: \$1,657 (31% rent)
- Top public schools: Glastonbury High School (grade A+), Buttonball Lane School (grade A), Hopewell School (grade A)
- Top private schools: The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Miss Porter's School (grade A+), Kingswood Oxford School (grade A+)



## #2. Weatogue, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 505
- Population: 2,671
- Median household income: \$154,716
- Median home value: \$367,700 (82% own)
- Median rent: \$1,953 (18% rent)
- Top public schools: Simsbury High School (grade A), Henry James Memorial School (grade A), Latimer Lane School (grade A)
- Top private schools: The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Miss Porter's School (grade A+), Avon Old Farms School (grade A+)



## #1. West Hartford, Connecticut

- Overall Rank: 100
- Population: 64,088
- Median household income: \$124,150
- Median home value: \$370,500 (69% own)
- Median rent: \$1,608 (31% rent)
- Top public schools: Conard High School (grade A+), Hall High School (grade A), Bugbee School (grade A)
- Top private schools: The Loomis Chaffee School (grade A+), Miss Porter's School (grade A+), Avon Old Farms School (grade A+)



# 15 FAIRYTALE CASTLES AND HISTORIC MANSIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands' historic palatial estates are snapshots of a nation balancing wealth and practicality with an eye for design. The properties, many built by 17th-century merchants, reflect the Dutch ability to take trade profits and turn them into orderly, elegant retreats. They're not Versailles, nor do they try to be. Dutch architecture favors precision over excess, creating spaces that celebrate structure and proportion.

Buitenplaatsen, the country estates of wealthy Amsterdam merchants, are particularly revealing. Their gardens are rigidly geometric, their facades perfectly symmetrical, their interiors tasteful rather than gaudy. Het Loo Palace embodies this aesthetic while taking a cue from Louis XIV with its axial symmetry and formal gardens. Kasteel de Haar, on the other hand, goes full theatrical with neo-Gothic spires and a moat — more stage set than medieval stronghold but undeniably striking.

The materials often tell a story, too. Dutch brick dominates the scene, practical and locally sourced, but it's dressed up with Delft tiles or wrought-iron flourishes. These estates speak to a culture that values detail over flash and function over frivolity, where every cornice, gable, and garden path is an intentional part of the whole.



## 15

**HEESWIJK  
CASTLE**

Kasteel Heeswijk is a medieval fortress turned 19th-century romantic showpiece, situated near the rerouted River Aa in North Brabant. Built atop an 11th-century motte, its architecture carries the scars and styles of centuries. The original foundations — three-meter-thick walls and fragments of tuff and bog iron — suggest a utilitarian start, designed more for survival than aesthetic charm.

The 15th and 16th centuries gave the castle its recognizable semi-circular shape, complete with two stout corner towers and an overhanging turret. Enter the 19th century, and the romantic revivalists took over. Baron Andreas van den Bogaerde van Terbrugge added the Iron Tower, a gallery, and an armory — elements that elevated the castle's profile without betraying its medieval DNA.

The outer bailey, with its alternating brick-and-stone stripes and stepped gables, is a textbook example of Dutch Renaissance design. Its aesthetic precision contrasts with the rugged older sections, creating an architectural dialogue that's as layered as the castle's history.

Now a museum, Heeswijk Castle keeps its architectural evolution front and center. Restored to its 19th-century heyday, the armory moonlights as a wedding venue, while the cellars and carriage house host events, proving that even castles can multitask.

# 14

## DUIVENVOORDE CASTLE



Dating back to 1226, Duivenvoorde is the aristocratic wallflower that refuses to fade into history. Its mix of Gothic and Renaissance elements makes it less a cohesive vision and more a scrapbook of noble eccentricities. Set in lush grounds near Voorschoten, the castle has managed to remain in the same family for eight centuries, like an heirloom too precious (or cursed) to let go.

The castle's origins are medieval, with thick walls designed for defense rather than comfort. The Van Duivenvoordes — later Wassenaers — held the fort for five uninterrupted centuries. Architectural refinements over time softened its fortress-like austerity. By the 17th century, Johan van Duvenvoorde embraced the family's lineage by rebranding as Van Wassenaer, pairing genealogy with a touch of PR flair.

Step inside, and the Roman plaques in the entry hall demand attention. One dates back to Emperor Septimius Severus, but its older reverse text suffered a mutilation to fit a later inscription — historical recycling at its finest. These artifacts, likely dug from Dutch soil rather than maritime legends like Brittenburg, anchor the castle's sense of permanence.

The south wing remains a private residence, while other sections emulate a “lived-in” 18th-century home, not a sterile museum. With asymmetric terraces and light-filled interiors, the castle resists complete restoration to 1717 aesthetics, choosing instead to embrace its patchwork past. It's a house where history lingers without smothering.



# 13

## DOORN HOUSE

Huis Doorn, nestled in the town of Doorn, is no ordinary Dutch manor. Its layers of history, from medieval origins to its peculiar role as the refuge of an exiled Kaiser, make it an architectural and cultural enigma. Originally built in the 13th century, the house has undergone multiple rebuilds — the 14th century added fortification, the 18th century embraced restraint, and the 19th century delivered the stately manor we see today.

When Wilhelm II, the last German Emperor, bought the estate in 1919, it became a curious blend of imperial splendor and rural seclusion. Within its walls, Wilhelm recreated a pocket of Prussia, complete with marquetry furniture, courtly tapestries, and military memorabilia, including snuffboxes and uniforms of Frederick the Great.

# 12

## DE HAAR CASTLE



De Haar is Dutch decadence turned up to eleven. The largest castle in the Netherlands, De Haar owes much of its present grandeur to architect Pierre Cuypers (of Rijksmuseum fame) and the deep pockets of Baroness Hélène de Rothschild, whose marriage into the Van Zuylen family funded its late 19th-century resurrection.

The original 14th-century structure fell into ruins by the 17th century, only to be rebuilt in 1892 by Cuypers as a Neo-Gothic fantasy. The restoration wasn't a mere touch-up — it was a complete reinvention. Cuypers combined medieval nostalgia with modern ingenuity, equipping the castle with electricity, central heating, and an industrial-grade kitchen crowned by a six-meter-long furnace.

Inside, wood carvings, reminiscent of Catholic cathedrals, envelop spaces filled with Rothschild treasures — Japanese porcelain, Flemish tapestries, and even a shogunate-era carriage. The castle's park, designed by Hendrik Copijn, features formal French gardens and transplanted mature trees.



# 11

## TWICKEL CASTLE

Anchored by a moated Renaissance-style core dating to 1551, Twickel Castle represents a number of architectural eras, each wing and tower a memento of different owners. Built just outside Delden, Twickel is less a single castle and more an entire universe of curated grandeur, from its heraldic entrance to its sprawling estate of farms and gardens.

The entrance boasts an early Renaissance façade, crowned by a steep gable, while a pair of sandstone bay windows flaunt coats of arms. The south tower, with its pyramidal roof, and the 19th-century north wing, designed by English architect Robert Hesketh, showcase the gradual layering of styles from medieval pragmatism to Victorian aesthetics.

The gardens chart the history of landscape design, from Baroque geometric layouts to 18th-century English picturesque romanticism. Hugo Poortman's late 19th-century additions, including a formal garden around the orangery, add a theatrical flourish.

Twickel's estate expands well beyond the castle's shadow. Its farms, marked by iconic white shutters with black edges, form a patchwork across the surrounding countryside, and its citrus collection, housed in the orangery, contributes to the Dutch National Plant Collection. Managed by a foundation since 1953, the estate balances preservation with accessibility, offering everything from tearooms to hiking trails.

9

**CLINGENDAEL  
ESTATE**



Clingendael, just outside The Hague, is a layered estate that blends Dutch Baroque design with a touch of Japanese elegance. Built between 1643 and 1660 for Philip Doublet III, the manor shares architectural cues with Hofwijck, the nearby home of Doublet's brother-in-law, Constantijn Huygens. Its modest beginnings as a stately country house grew over the centuries under new owners.

In the 19th century, Baron Willem van Brienen expanded the estate, merging it with neighboring Oosterbeek. His son added a racecourse and formal gardens, but it was his daughter, Margu rite — known as Lady Daisy — who left the most enduring mark. Inspired by trips to Japan, she created the Japanese Garden, importing lanterns, bridges, and plants to craft a serene space now considered a national treasure.



10

**SOESTDIJK  
PALACE**

This mid-17th-century palace once hosted Louis Napoleon, the French-appointed King of Holland, and later became a royal residence for the House of Orange. The design is unashamedly French Baroque, with symmetrical wings that radiate majesty, even if it's more bureaucratic than romantic. The surrounding parkland makes you wonder if Louis XIV himself had a hand in this corner of Utrecht.

Its modest beginnings as a hunting lodge in 1674 were designed by Maurits Post, a favored architect of the Dutch Golden Age,

whose portfolio also includes Huis ten Bosch and Noordeinde Palace. Commissioned by Stadtholder William III, the lodge initially reflected the restrained elegance of the period.

The palace expanded in 1816 under King William II, ballooning into its current "T" shape with symmetrical wings. The northern Baarn wing and southern Soest wing added a neoclassical grandeur to its earlier Baroque roots. It's architecture by evolution: a little bit hunting lodge, a little bit French inn, and a lot of 19th-century pomp, courtesy of royal occupants eager to outshine their predecessors.

# 8

## HUIS TEN BOSCH



Huis ten Bosch, or “House in the Woods,” is less retreat, more calculated Baroque showpiece. Built in 1645 on Amalia of Solms-Braunfels’s commission, it showcases a collaboration between architects Pieter Post and Jacob van Campen. Think symmetry, clean lines, and the obligatory grandeur to match the ambitions of Frederick Henry’s widow.

The centerpiece is the Oranjezaal, a cavernous hall whose name only hints at the saturated visual feast within. A who’s-who of 17th-century artists — including Gerard van Honthorst and Jacob Jordaens — contributed to a glorifying tableau of murals celebrating Frederick Henry’s military triumphs. It’s part chapel, part ego monument, with gilded accents to spare.

Further expansions, notably by Daniel Marot in the 18th century, added wings and dining spaces, keeping pace with evolving royal tastes. The palace’s fortunes waxed and waned; it served briefly as an art gallery, housed Napoleon’s brother Louis, and narrowly escaped ruin under Nazi plans in World War II.

Restored in the 1950s, Huis ten Bosch now spans over 100 meters in length, a fusion of Baroque core and later additions. It’s a study in endurance, its clean Dutch design adapting seamlessly to shifting political and architectural fashions while remaining unapologetically regal.



# 7

## AMERONGEN CASTLE

Amerongen has stood on the Utrechtse Heuvelrug since 1286, bearing witness to wars, floods, and the occasional family feud. The castle owes its current form to a fiery mishap in 1673, courtesy of retreating French troops. Rising from the smoldering rubble, Amerongen was reimagined between 1674 and 1680 by architect Maurits Post. Designed for Godard Adriaan van Reede and Margaretha Turnor, the new Baroque mansion ditched the medieval gloom for clean symmetry and stately proportions.

The centerpiece is the central hall, where a grand staircase climbs beneath a painted ceiling by Willem van Nimwegen. Outside, walls older than the French blaze still

frame gardens, where an 1880s orangerie cozies up to a 1728 wooden clock tower — complete with its original mechanism, ticking away history.

In the early 20th century, famed architect P.J.H. Cuypers added ornamentation, blending his signature flair with Post’s original design. During Wilhelm II’s post-abdication stay in 1918, some adjustments were made, including raising walls around the orangerie for added privacy.

Amerongen Castle stands as a study in practical elegance: Baroque with just enough flourish, enduring architecture tempered by its various eras of habitation. No frills, no frippery — just solid, storied design that’s aged with grace.

# 6

## MIDDACHTEN ESTATE



Middachten is a textbook Dutch castle estate: part fortress, part fairytale. Its origins stretch back to 1190, but the current edifice owes its symmetrical charms to the late 17th century. Godard van Ginkel and Ursula van Raesfelt, armed with influence and inspiration from Het Loo Palace, brought in architects Jacobus Roman and Steven Vennecool to rebuild after French troops torched the previous structure in 1673.

The castle's design channels the sober but sophisticated lines of Dutch Baroque, with crisp symmetry and a central block flanked by projecting wings. The sturdy moat is a nod to its fortress roots, but everything else suggests refinement. The gardens, initially styled after Versailles between 1700 and 1725, later flirted with English landscaping in the 18th century. By 1900, Hugo Poortman — trained under Édouard André — revived some of its original French-inspired order.



# 5

## NOORDEINDE PALACE

The working palace of the Dutch monarch, Noordeinde, has been a seat of power since the 16th century. Its sober Neo-Classical façade hides a labyrinth of bureaucratic corridors and reception halls, where history has been signed, sealed, and occasionally delivered with a royal flourish.

Tucked into the urban fabric of The Hague, Noordeinde began humbly as a medieval farmhouse. By 1533, it had been reshaped into a respectable residence by Willem van de Goudt, but the transformation to a palace took off when the States of Holland gifted it to Louise de Coligny, widow of William the Silent, in 1595. Over the centuries, the property morphed into the royal workplace we know today, with architectural revisions charting the changing tastes and needs of Dutch royalty.

The architects Pieter Post and Jacob van Campen, better known for their work on Huis ten Bosch, lent their genius to the palace in the 1640s. Their additions, including elongated wings and a stately H-shaped layout, provided the building with an enduring elegance. Later, a ballroom was tacked on in 1814 during renovations for King William I, who made the palace his winter home. The royal stables, added by King William III in 1876, expanded its footprint further, anchoring its functionality in regal style.

In the 20th century, fire gutted its central section, but restoration in 1984 preserved its role as the monarch's office. A blend of Baroque ambition and modern necessity, Noordeinde is as much a symbol of resilience as it is royal refinement.

# 3

## CATSHUIS HOUSE

Nestled along the leafy route between The Hague and Scheveningen, The Catshuis embodies an architectural evolution as curious as the history it has witnessed. Built in 1651–1652 as Huis Sorgvliet for poet-politician Jacob Cats, the villa started modestly — single-story, unassuming, and partly incorporating a farm's former living quarters. After Cats' death, his name stuck to the place like mortar to brick.

Hans Willem Bentinck, confidant of King-Stadholder William III, took over in 1675, adding aristocratic flair. It was his son who decided this was no ordinary country retreat and crowned it, literally, with a bronze bell tower in 1738.

Fast-forward to 1963, when The Catshuis became the official residence of Dutch Prime Ministers. "Residence," however, is a technicality; since Dries van Agt vacated, it's been less home and more high-stakes boardroom. While recent leaders have opted for their own digs, the building still hosts political tête-à-têtes and official receptions.

Its 1999–2004 overhaul brought the 17th-century villa into the modern age, blending historical charm with tech-savvy infrastructure. Today, The Catshuis stands as a quiet contradiction: a stately home, rich in legacy, but better suited to policy papers than personal effects.



# 4

## LOEVESTEIN CASTLE

Loevestein Castle, perched at the confluence of the Maas and Waal rivers, began its life in the late 14th century as a toll collector's dream. Built by Dirk Loef of Horne between 1357 and 1368, its original design — a square brick stronghold — was less about opulence and more about controlling trade and extracting coin from passing vessels. Dirk's "stone house" became the namesake of this waterbound sentinel.

By 1372, the Counts of Holland had wrestled Loevestein into their portfolio, recognizing its strategic location as a defensive linchpin. The 16th century saw the castle grow teeth: William the Silent ordered expansions to include moats, earthen fortifications, and bastions. This was no longer a mere toll station;

it was a military outpost integrated into the Hollandic Water Line, the ingenious Dutch flood-based defense system.

Loevestein later traded cannonballs for controversies, doubling as a prison for political troublemakers. The most famous inmate, Hugo de Groot (Grotius), escaped in style — smuggled out in a book chest that is now an iconic legend in the Canon of the Netherlands.

Today, the castle's heavy brick walls echo centuries of strategic cunning and storied escapes, standing as a testament to the pragmatic brilliance of medieval Dutch engineering.

# 2

## ROYAL PALACE AMSTERDAM



Built during the Dutch Golden Age, the Royal Palace of Amsterdam is an architectural heavyweight with enough civic and royal history to fill a merchant fleet. Originally constructed between 1648 and 1655 as the Amsterdam Town Hall, it reflects a time when the city was the beating heart of global trade. Architect Jacob van Campen crafted a building as ambitious as Amsterdam's economy, supported by 13,659 wooden piles driven into the marshy soil.

The palace's design channels the classical grandeur of ancient Rome, with its symmetrical facade and colonnaded entrances suggesting that democracy and order reign supreme — even if merchants were doing most of the ruling. Inside, the Citizens' Hall is a jaw-dropping marvel, its marble floors decorated with world maps that reminded visitors of Amsterdam's vast reach.

In 1808, Louis Bonaparte — Napoleon's brother and a reluctant royal — commandeered the building and turned it into a palace. It has since served as a stage for monarchs, from state banquets to Queen Beatrix's 1980 balcony appearance announcing her accession.



# 1

## HET LOO PALACE

If Versailles had a Dutch cousin with a Protestant work ethic, it would be Het Loo. Completed between 1684 and 1686 for stadtholder-king William III and Mary II, the palace stands as a restrained counterpoint to the ostentatious Versailles. Designed by Jacob Roman and Johan van Swieten, Het Loo doesn't try to outshine but rather outclass with its symmetrical, Dutch Baroque architecture.

The central structure is flanked by orderly wings, their rhythms reflecting the hierarchy of spaces within. At the heart lies a no-nonsense courtyard, edged with a wrought-iron grille and softened by box hedges in neat geometric patterns. The palace presents itself as a "Lust-hof," or pleasure house, but don't be fooled by

the humility: its placement "entre cour et jardin" and carefully arranged outbuildings scream intentionality.

The gardens, meticulously designed by Claude Desgotz, echo Le Nôtre's Versailles but with Dutch vibes. No sweeping views to the horizon here; instead, parterres, fountains, and statues are enclosed, private, and practical. The oranges in their wooden tubs nod both to horticultural fashion and William's dynastic brand: the House of Orange-Nassau.

Recent renovations have seamlessly modernized Het Loo, with underground galleries discreetly enhancing its historical charm — a fitting upgrade for a palace that always prioritized understated elegance over bombast.

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