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Former Vodafone CEO's Bay Area Home Asks \$19.85 Million

Arun Sarin and his wife purchased the roughly 8,700-square-foot house in Piedmont for \$7.6 million in 2007

BY E.B. SOLOMONT | AUGUST 26, 2021

A Bay Area house owned by former Vodafone Group chief executive Arun Sarin is hitting the market for \$19.85 million.

The roughly 8,700-square-foot house is located in Piedmont, Calif., an affluent suburb of San Francisco. Set on 2.75 acres, the house is set back from the street and features white-oak flooring, a clay-tile roof, custom chandeliers and several gas fireplaces, the listing agents said.

Built in 1958, the house originally belonged to Stephen Bechtel Jr., a former CEO of construction giant Bechtel Corp., according to marketing materials. He led the company, founded by his grandfather Warren A. Bechtel, from 1960 to 1990, according to a Bechtel Corp. announcement of his death on March 15, 2021.

Mr. Sarin, 67, and his wife, Rummi Sarin, 71, purchased the house for \$7.6 million in 2007, property records show. They spent two years renovating the property, installing new mechanicals and doing extensive landscaping, said Mr. Sarin, who was CEO of Vodafone Group from 2003 to 2008, according to SEC records.

"It was a 1960s home that we took down to the studs and rebuilt and brought it to modern standards," he said in an email.

In addition to new electrical systems and plumbing, the Sarins added vaulted ceilings and an attached guest apartment with a kitchenette, according to marketing materials. They also expanded the kitchen and the primary bedroom suite, which now has an office and private deck. The house has a total of six bedrooms, five full bathrooms, African teak windows and doors, a gym, wine room and three-car garage. Despite adding new features, Mr. Sarin said they made an effort to preserve the original design by architect Gardner Dailey, who was known for his modern residential designs. They kept the original pool cabana and tennis court and added a tiered garden with rose bushes and lemon trees.



Robert Canfield Photography

The house has multiple doors to the outside, including french doors in the family room that open to a front courtyard and back deck, said Mr. Sarin. There are sliding glass doors in the dining room and living room that lead to a back courtyard and cocktail terrace.

"Everywhere you go in the house, you have an extra outdoor room associated with an indoor room," said listing agent Michael Dreyfus of Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty, who is marketing the property with colleague Ann Newton Cane. He estimated that such a renovation would cost \$8 million to \$10 million today. According to Mr. Dreyfus, premium properties on an acre in Piedmont can fetch between \$8 million and \$12 million in today's market. Mrs. Sarin described the house as a "sanctuary," but said they purchased another property in Jupiter, Fla., and plan to move to be closer to their children on the East Coast.

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