



**Fisher Island**  
Seven minutes  
and a world  
away from Miami  
Beach. **M3**

# MANSION

**\$16 Million**  
Former home of  
famed producer  
Robert Evans  
sells. **M2**



HOMES | MARKETS | PEOPLE | REDOS | SALES

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Friday, January 10, 2020 | **M1**



**10**  
Number of  
Crestwood Hills  
homes lost  
in the fire

Most of the destruction from last October's Getty Fire occurred in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Crestwood Hills, which is filled with midcentury homes that had been built as part of a plan to create a cooperative community. Across the canyon from the burned rubble stands the residence halls of Mount St. Mary's University, above.



## RISING *From the* ASHES

Born in 1946 as an experiment in progressive, socially responsible living, Crestwood Hills in L.A. must now work to rebuild from the damage caused by the Getty Fire



**ZACK HOUSE**  
The Zack House, built in 1952, left; midcentury restoration specialist Barton Jahncke inside what's left of the home, below and far left.



BY AMANDA EBERSTEIN

Owner Melanie Regberg says she has decided to rebuild the home. 'I can't imagine living anywhere else.'

At 2 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 28, 2019, Melanie Regberg woke to the smell of smoke. That wasn't necessarily alarming—it was the height of Southern California's fire season, and the scent of brush fires would often travel for miles to her home, perched on a hillside on North Tiger-tail Road in Brentwood, Los Angeles, with unobstructed views over the canyon and straight across to the Getty Center. This morning was different. "I pushed aside my window shade and saw a glow,"

Ms. Regberg says. "I woke my oldest son to start packing, ran next door to tell my neighbor, and by the time I got back, we could see flames." She grabbed her two sons, 4 and 14, her dog, two kittens and any valuables that she could find and got in her car to drive to her parents' house in Glendale, Calif., just north of downtown. "I was having a full on panic attack by the time I arrived," she says. At 3:30 a.m., Ms. Regberg received a call from ADT security that there was smoke in the house and the fire alarms were going off. By 9 a.m., her friend called, sobbing,

*Please turn to page M4*

COUNTING HOUSE | BETH DECARBO

## A Tax Too Far

The latest round of federal tax-law changes might have been the straw that broke the camel's back for wealthy homeowners, who are decamping en masse for lower-taxed states like Florida



There's a way for rich homeowners to potentially shave tens of thousands of dollars from their tax bills. They can get that

same savings the next year and the following years as well. They can cut their taxes even further after they die. What's the secret? Moving to Florida, a state with no income tax or estate tax. Plenty of millionaires and billionaires have been happy to ditch high-tax states like New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and California. President Donald Trump and Carl Icahn both announced in the fall that they'll be making Florida

**\$394,931**

State income tax savings in Florida compared with New York State for residents' making \$5 million

Source: BDO USA  
\*married filing jointly

their primary residence, joining other high-profile executives like financiers Barry Sternlicht, Eddie Lampert and Paul Tudor Jones. A New York couple filing jointly with \$5 million in taxable income would save \$394,931 in state taxes by moving to Florida, according to Taryn Goldstein, head of Florida's state and local tax practice for BDO USA, an accounting firm that provides tax services and financial



An 8,665-square-foot home that's currently on the market on the Venetian Islands in Florida's Biscayne Bay.

advice. If they had moved from Boston, they'd save \$252,500; from Greenwich, Conn., they'd knock \$342,700 off their tax bill. "I have to admit that I was sur-

prised by how much of a financial savings" is achieved by moving to Florida. "It is crazy money," says Connor Lynch, chief executive of Plastridge Insurance Agency

based in Delray Beach, Fla. Escaping state income taxes is a big part of the reason, but the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of

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MICHAŁ CZERWONKA FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (3); JULIUS SHULMAN/© J.PAUL GETTY TRUST, GETTY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LOS ANGELES (ZACK HOUSE HISTORICAL)

DOUGLAS ELLIMAN (2)