

Connecticut COTTAGES & GARDENS

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Celebrate Connecticut!

ICONIC ARCHITECTURE | HOMEGROWN DESIGN | A POTTER'S MUSE: THE GARDEN

This custom dining table was made by a Brooklyn artisan who crafts furniture out of former railroad ties and other pieces of track; its weight dictated the installation of a steel beam in the floor for support. The custom ebony Windsor chairs are a touch of historic Connecticut. The installation of butterflies is by Paul Villinski. See Resources.



Living

with

Art



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GRUEN

BOOK EXCERPT FROM *LIVING TRADITIONS: INTERIORS* BY MATTHEW PATRICK SMYTH © 2011 BY MATTHEW PATRICK SMYTH AND THE MONACELLI PRESS, A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE, INC., NEW YORK, 2011.



CONNECTICUT COUNTRY WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR?

Why not? If this house took itself too seriously as far as décor goes, it wouldn't suit the couple whose weekend getaway it is. They are light, happy, and fun. They love color. She's a wonderful cook, and they entertain often.

The guiding principle here was comfort, which is as much a psychological issue as a physical one. Here's why: I think every room should function for a single occupant as well as it does for a group. That takes planning. The volumes of this house are generous, so I organized the furniture to create both intimate spots for people to curl up in by themselves and to sit with friends. Adding color, detail, texture, and pattern to the corners ensured that there was

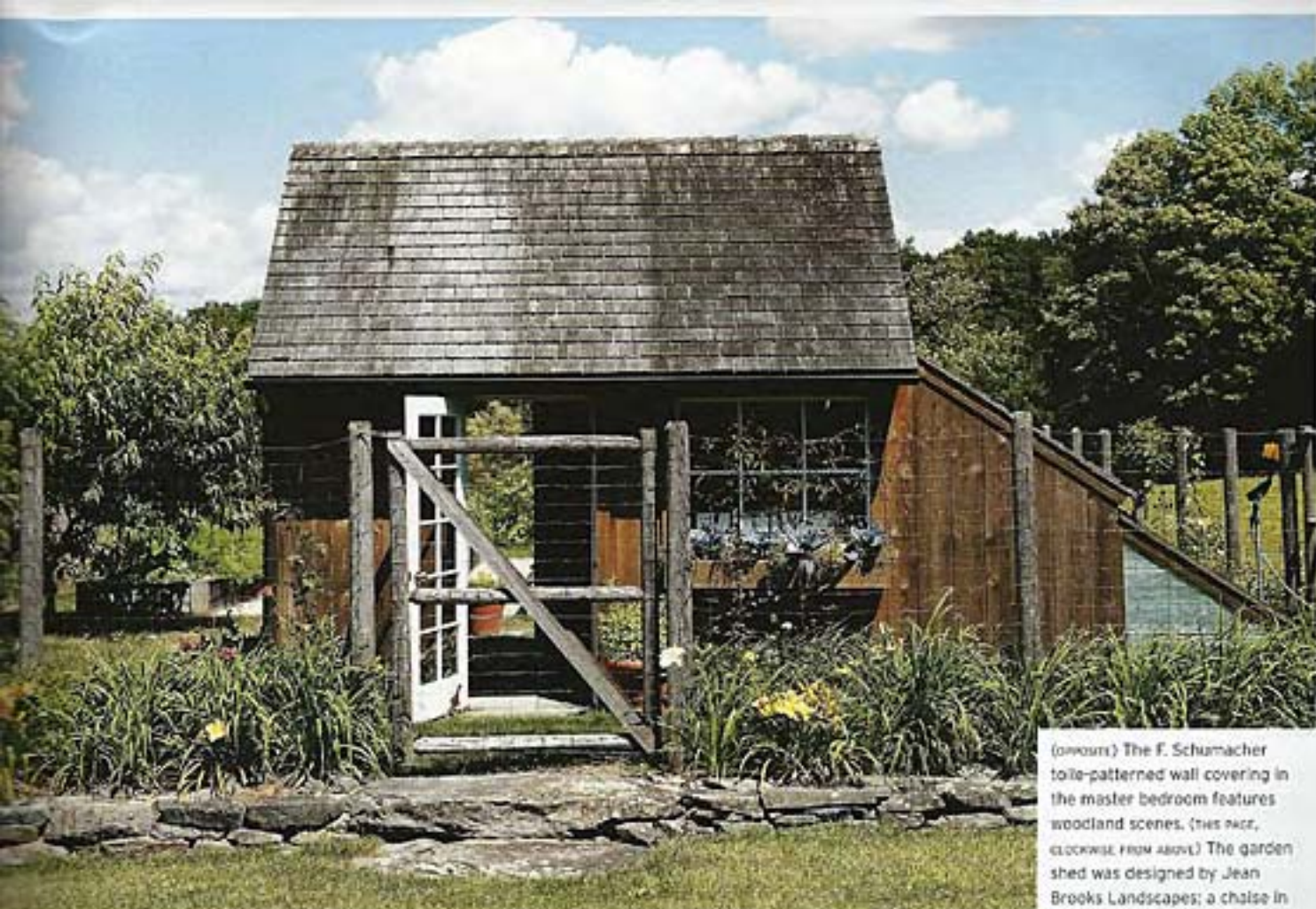
plenty to look at from any vantage point, which also means the far reaches of the room seem not so very far away.

This house has an interesting combination of rustic and modern elements attributable to the husband's love of industrial design. He haunts local antiques shows and flea markets, which adds to the many of the small objects—the mechanical toys, for example—that give the rooms such a sense of whimsy. This client has a family ritual: the Saturday morning of every Memorial Day weekend, we go to the Rhinebeck Antiques Fair. The dealers there are looking for something unexpected. You never know what will strike my client's fancy—last time, he purchased an antique of antique chocolate molds.

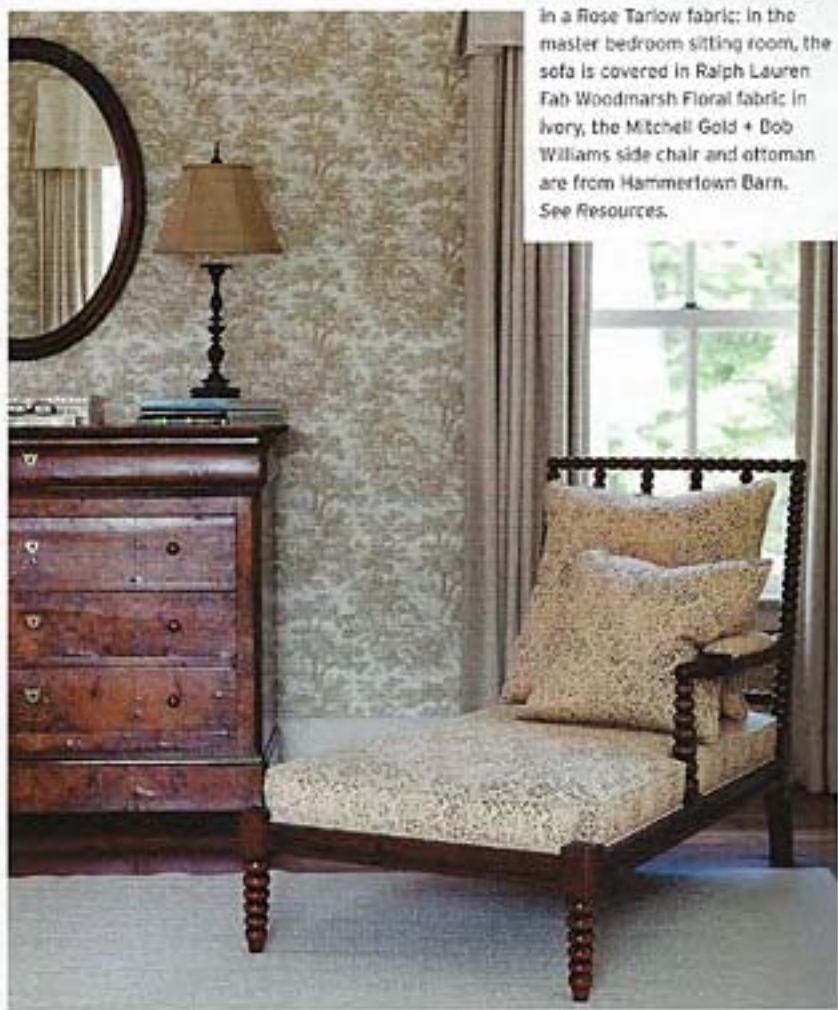
(Above) The house (designed by Martin E. Moore/Coastal Designers & Consultants, Inc.) takes full advantage of its country location with a stunning pool surrounded by rolling hills. (Opposite) Design decisions for this Connecticut farmhouse were driven by the clients' art collection and their desire that the interiors have a true "country" feel. Imagery is balanced by an equally forceful pattern and color used in moderation. The painting is by Carroll Dunham. Gliza-blue ottoman fabric covers an ottoman. The sisal carpet is from Patterson, Flynn & Martin. See Resources.







(opposite) The F. Schumacher toile-patterned wall covering in the master bedroom features woodland scenes. (this page, clockwise from above) The garden shed was designed by Jean Brooks Landscapes; a chaise in the master bedroom is covered in a Rose Tarlow fabric; in the master bedroom sitting room, the sofa is covered in Ralph Lauren Fab Woodmarsh Floral fabric; in Ivory, the Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams side chair and ottoman are from Hammerlow Barn. See Resources.





(top left and bottom right) That the room's rug and wall sculptures mirror each other closely is a case of life emulating art: the rug design preceded the art—an assemblage of rulers by the Salvest—because of a year-long lead-time for delivery. (top right) The large wood sculpture by Bryan Nash Gill. (bottom left) An antique American table stands over an antique American painted chest in the entry hall. The bronze twig mirror is from Lorin Larsh. The carpet is Elizabeth Salms. See Resources.



The upstairs landing displays some of the client's collections, including Robert Rauschenberg on the wall and antique whirligigs on the bench. The custom carpet is by Elizabeth Eakins. See Resources.

