



REVISED TRADITION

Upstate New York • 1,250 square feet/116 square meters • design budget: not disclosed

The simple clapboard village house in the Hudson River Valley serves as interior designer Matthew P. Smyth's weekend retreat. His goal in decorating the house was "to blend, but not to match" the "careful mix of periods and styles," which were selected to complement one another and create an overall sense of relaxation.

Smyth set up distinctive contrasts throughout the house where textures and patterns abound. When glazed cotton confronts leather, for example, or when geometric patterns are positioned close to solids, the result is a pleasing and eye-catching mélange. Basic wools, cottons, and linens were selected for upholstery, "to highlight the shape and design of the piece," explains Smyth, who used one floral-print chintz on a sofa to set it all off.



Colors throughout the interior are "soft and soothing," according to Smyth, and show off the forms of the juxtaposed American, English, and Continental furniture and objects that were bought at flea markets, country antique shows and auctions, or are hand-me-down family pieces. The mix represents a fresh approach to traditional design, which Smyth feels is a very new American concept.







Antique hickory floorboards were recycled for use as kitchen countertops. A country-style ambiance is created through selected styles of furnishings, which convey a sense of true Americana.



