

Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications.

# Beautiful Homes

## Exquisite Details!

### *The Secret to Elegant Rooms*

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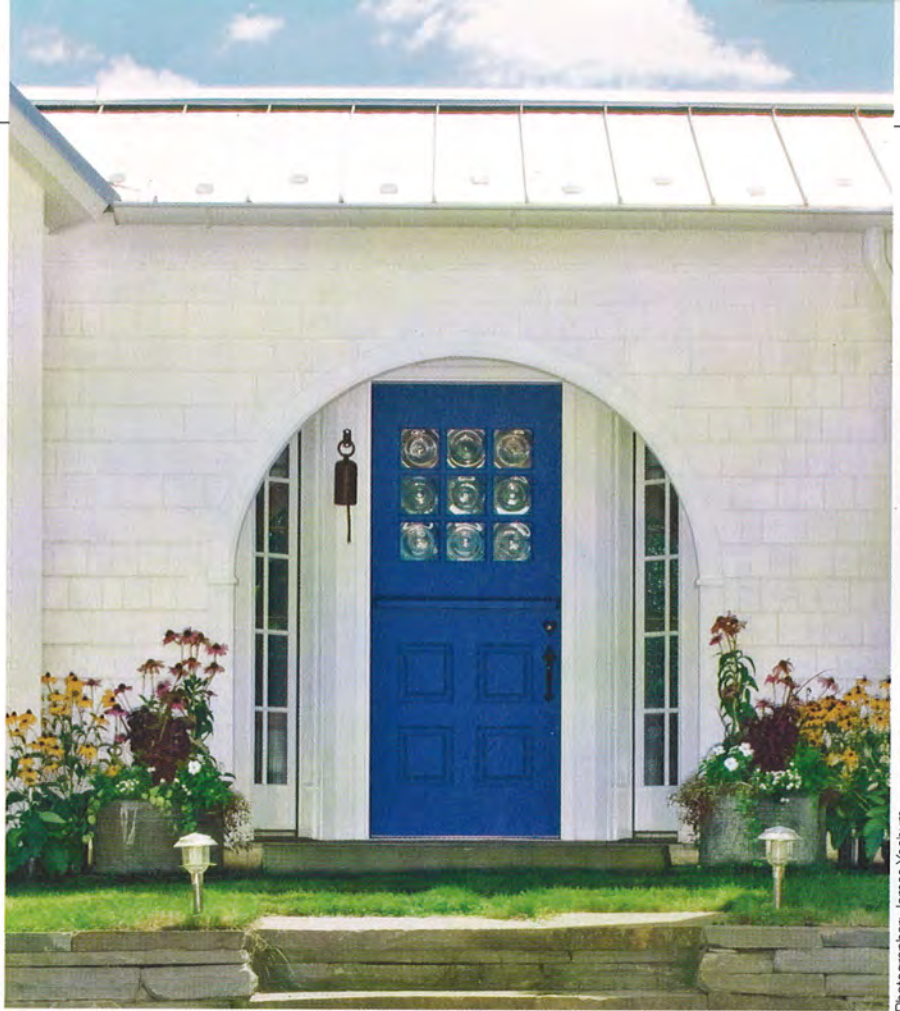
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An active family in Upstate New York finds casual comfort in a traditional-style home.



## on the cover

Classic taste meets modern comfort. See page 20.  
Photographer: **Stacey Brandford**



Photographer: James Yochum

# heart & home



One of the best—or, I should say, one of the most rewarding—things about pulling together an issue of this magazine is spotlighting a house that touches my heart. I grew up on a farm in the Midwest, and the home, *above*, that's the subject of "Perfect Fit," page 34, really resonates with me. Designed by architect Jeff Goulette as his family home in southwestern Michigan, the house is simply delightful—and in tune with its surroundings and local heritage. In a single structure, Goulette has linked and evoked elements of farmhouse, schoolhouse, barn, and shed. The home is finished with salvaged materials and a sense of whimsy, plus a palette that's at once warm and bright. I would be comfortable moving right in or shamelessly building a replica on my own 25 acres if I had them.

That's not to say that the other locations featured in this issue aren't perfect, too. The home on the cover, "Authentic Italian," page 20, was beautifully conceived by designer Philip Mitchell. It's simply and supremely exquisite. As you page through the magazine, I hope you'll find a home that's just right for you, too—and that you'll tear out the photos and show them to an architect someday.

*Grant Fairchild*

GRANT FAIRCHILD

# Perfect Fit

A SHAKER-INFLUENCED FARMHOUSE DESIGNED TO MAXIMIZE VIEWS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE HOSTS WEEKEND GETAWAYS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Writer **Todd Keith** Photographer **James Yochum** Field editor **Gisela Rose**





#### ENCHANTING ENTRY

The front entrance, *right*, continues the home's farmhouse theme and ushers visitors into the kitchen—an architectural detail that makes guests feel at home.

#### SENSE OF PLAY

The entry, *opposite*, reveals a hidden garden.



Five acres of meadows and 20 acres of conservancy-protected woodlands in southwestern Michigan's scenic wine country formed the ideal spot for Jeff and Kelly Goulette's family weekend retreat. When the couple saw the hilltop property, they instantly knew it was where they wanted to build.

Soon Jeff, a Chicago architect, began doodling sketches on cocktail napkins, and significantly—albeit many drawings and plans later—the final design is remarkably consistent with his original renderings. The architectural form of the design, which recalls a series of rambling Shaker-style farmhouse buildings centered around a flower garden, follows the home's function: to provide a comfortable getaway that prioritizes sweeping views, maximizes natural light and warmth, and feels like it has been there for years. "What we wanted was a place where we could spend

weekends in a beautiful setting that also was a great place to host gatherings of our family and friends," Kelly says. "It's an hour and a half from downtown Chicago, so we can do a total reversal from city mouse to country mouse in a short amount of time."

Part of that reversal is the theme presented by the home's exterior. To make the house feel like a longtime inhabitant of the landscape, the 3,500-square-foot structure was carefully planned to suggest that over time, small barns and farm buildings were organically linked, as they were on many 18th- and 19th-century New England farmsteads. Thus, on the east wing, the garage resembles a low-slung shed, while on the west wing, a screen porch is a modern take on a small barn, replete with thoughtful period touches such as a bell, cupola, and weather vane.





**ARTFUL ELEMENTS**

Reclaimed timber beams, vintage cabinetry hardware, stone flooring, and a repurposed antique oak plank countertop imbue the kitchen, *above*, with old-world character.

**WARM GLOW** The house is sited for maximum light in the kitchen/sitting room, *left*, and living and dining rooms (not shown).

“We were inspired by the farm and barn vernacular of the area,” Jeff says. “There’s an old cadence for kids that goes ‘big house, little house, back house, barn’ that helped us focus the design.”

Besides incorporating stylized architectural forms of a bygone era, the wood-frame construction utilizes sustainably harvested cedar clapboard shingles and siding for a secondary “green” theme. A geothermal heating and cooling system, radiant heating throughout the house, R-49 cellulose insulation, roofing and siding made from recycled metal, and engineered flooring fabricated from wood waste are just some of the environmentally friendly approaches in Jeff’s design. A one-room-deep open floor plan that follows the hilltop’s ridgeline draws sunlight into the house, and the south-facing porch and screen porch have passive solar features that protect the main living areas from summer sun yet allow the stone floors to absorb solar heat during winter.

Despite its open plan and lack of width, Jeff designed the home to feel cozy. “We used large dividing beams





**APPROPRIATE PIECES** Painted cabinets and a range that features design cues from a bygone era, *this photo*, give the kitchen a farmhouse feel.

**DINING WITH A VIEW** The large window niche next to the dining table, *this photo*, provides sweeping views and, along with the clerestory windows above, abundant natural light.





## HIGH STYLE TILE

Tile, whether it's used as a rich fireplace surround, a backsplash in the kitchen, or on bathroom walls and floors, can add both fun punches of color and subtle touches of texture.



We love Urban Archaeology's lovely Random Water Blues Block ceramic tile; for more information, go to [www.urbanarchaeology.com](http://www.urbanarchaeology.com). For product inquiries, call 212/431-4646.

## COLOR CONTRAST

The handmade bottle green tiles surrounding the living room's Rumford fireplace, *above*, add a dramatic punch of color to the room's neutral background.

## WOODEN WONDER

The central staircase, *right*, with its built-in seating, is reminiscent of an early-20th-century park lodge.





and columns in an effort to prevent it from feeling overscale inside," he says. From the outside, people think the house is big, "but when they get inside they are struck by how snug and comfortable it is," he says.

Architectural salvage elements throughout the home, such as sinks, 19th-century cabinet pulls and doorknobs, reclaimed heavy timber beams, and an antique fireplace, create a well-worn, comfortable charm. "We made a deliberate effort to link the inside and outside of the home," Jeff says. "Consequently, the exposed salvaged beams make spaces like the living room and the kitchen evocative of a barn but with a warm, domestic feeling."

The unusual entrance separates the two wings of the home and visually sets the scene. "I wanted to introduce an element of surprise so when you walk in, you think you're walking into the body of the house," Jeff says. "Instead, you have a large arched window that looks out onto the garden, which guests didn't even know the house had." To the right is a large archway leading into the kitchen and center of the house. "You transition from a formal entry right into the kitchen to create an informal vibe," Jeff says.

The kitchen, with its salvaged sink, professional-grade range, and 6x6-foot countertop made from vintage

**PURPOSEFUL PORCH** The owner-architect oriented the screen porch, *above*, to shield the home from summer sun while taking advantage of the sun's heat during cold weather.

**ROOM WITH A VIEW** The porch's barrel-vaulted interior, *opposite*, offers a sweeping view of the property's long gravel approach.

## HISTORICAL INSPIRATION

ARCHITECT JEFF GOULETTE TALKS ABOUT THE INFLUENCE OF SHAKER STYLE IN HIS RURAL HOME.

**Q** What inspired the 19th-century farmhouse look?

**A** Kelly and I went to Canterbury Shaker Village in Canterbury, New Hampshire. On the old farmsteads there, the house and outbuildings were linked so the farmer could easily go to each structure during bad weather.

**Q** What are the visual clues on your home's exterior?

**A** The main structure is designed to look like a two-story barn from the approach, and the screen porch on the west side looks like its own little barn with a cupola and weather vane. On the east side, the garage is more shedlike. The links between all the structures make for a nice composition that visually connects the elements.

**Q** How did you design the interior to fit with the exterior?

**A** The main central space revolves around the dining room staircase, which was modeled after a stairway in the historic home of H. H. Richardson, a prominent 19th-century American architect. That and the salvaged beams give the interior a real barnlike feel. And details such as antique Minton English tiles in the upper-level fireplace's plaster surround and William Morris wallpaper give the house an aged feel in keeping with the exterior.





## Points to Ponder

Architect Jeff Goulette designed his home in the Michigan countryside with specific details in mind. Inside and out, top to bottom, the home features spot-on touches of history, whimsy, and reverence.

**CUPOLA** The cupola atop the screen porch, *left*, gives this portion of the home a country schoolhouse feel.

**BELL** A bell tucked under the eave of the screen porch, *below*, reinforces the wing's schoolhouse impression.

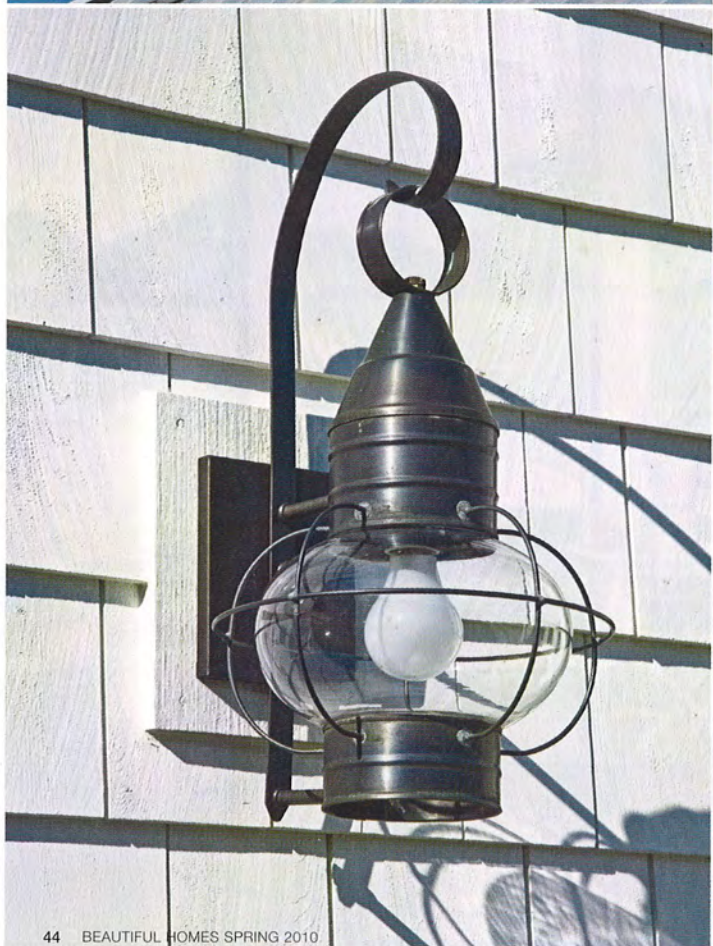
**OUTDOOR LIGHTS** Sconces, *below left*, nod to handheld lanterns and underscore the home's farmhouse inspiration.

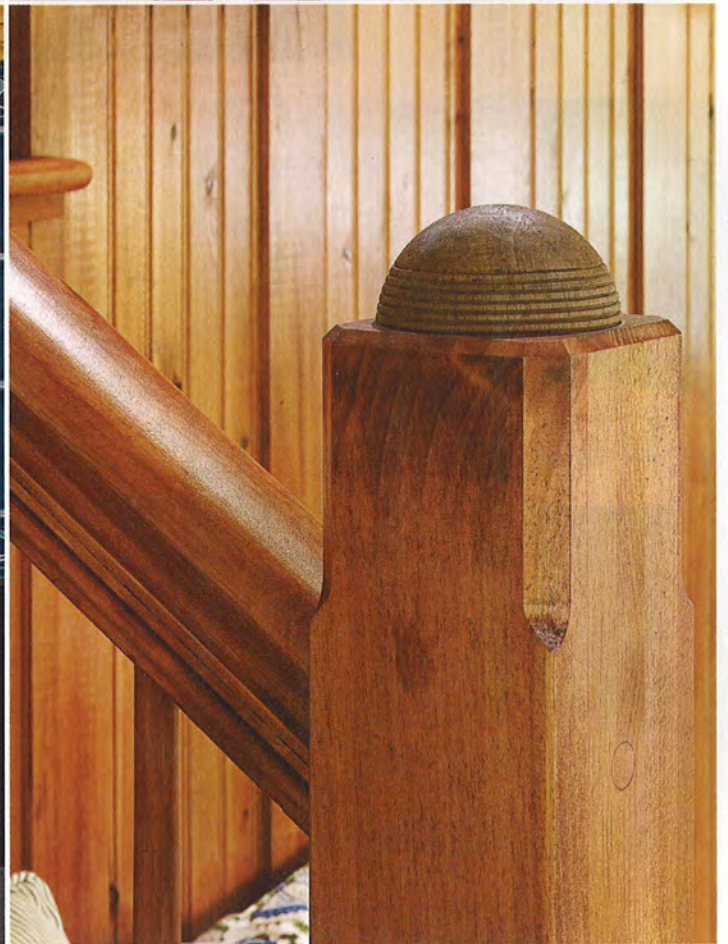
**BEAMS** Jeff used salvage materials wherever possible. Many of the heavy beams and columns, *opposite, top left*, came from a circa-1890 Ontario mattress factory.

**CHANDELIERS** In the kitchen, a pair of fork-and-spoon pendants, *opposite, top right*, add a charming touch.

**NEWEL** A newel on the central staircase, *opposite, bottom right*, features a cap fashioned from an antique croquet ball.

**TILE** The striking tile used for the living room fireplace surround, *opposite, bottom left*, features a flora-and-fauna motif.





#### PRIVATE RETREAT

The master bath's salvaged double sink, faucets, and tub, *right*, contrast with the clean, modern lines of the room's glass-wall shower (not shown).

#### VINTAGE PATINA

Antique Minton tiles in the upper-level bedroom's 19th-century English fireplace surround, *below*, reinforce the home's aged feel.



white oak planks, conveys an authentic ambience. With its architectural details, Kelly says, “people feel like they’re in the heart of the house, like an old New England kitchen.”

An aged patina and small details that imbue the home with special character contribute to the interior’s relaxed atmosphere. For example, a striking central staircase that separates the kitchen and living room and adjoins the dining room holds a small stage for impromptu theatrical fun for the Goulettes’ young nieces and nephews. The staircase newels are topped with antique croquet balls that Jeff cut in half.

The guiding principle for the design was to keep the interior “simple like the exterior and the beautiful Shaker buildings we love by adding warmth through wood and wood tones and stains,” Jeff says. “We also wanted to focus on the art we’ve collected by providing a simple background for colorful contrast.”

Architect **Jeff Goulette**

**RESOURCES ON PAGE 98**

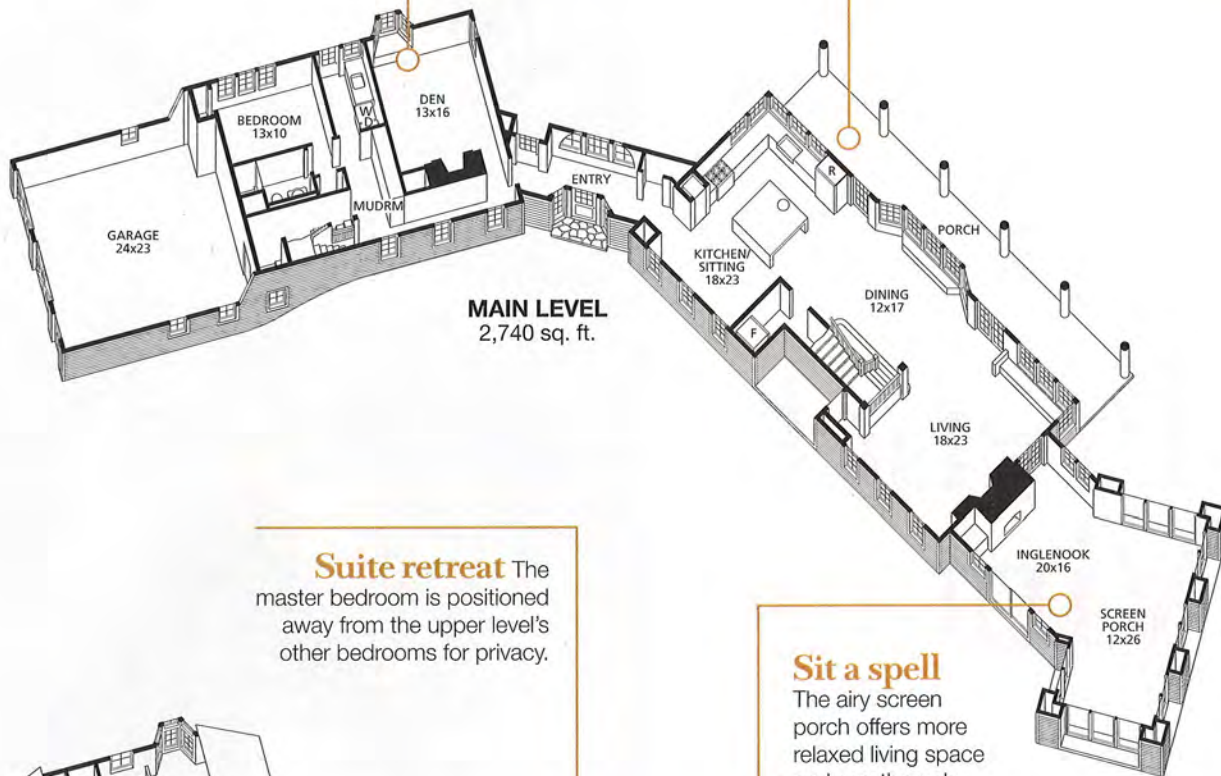


# A place in the country

Architect Jeff Goulette designed his farmstead-inspired residence to take advantage of views of the pastoral Michigan countryside.

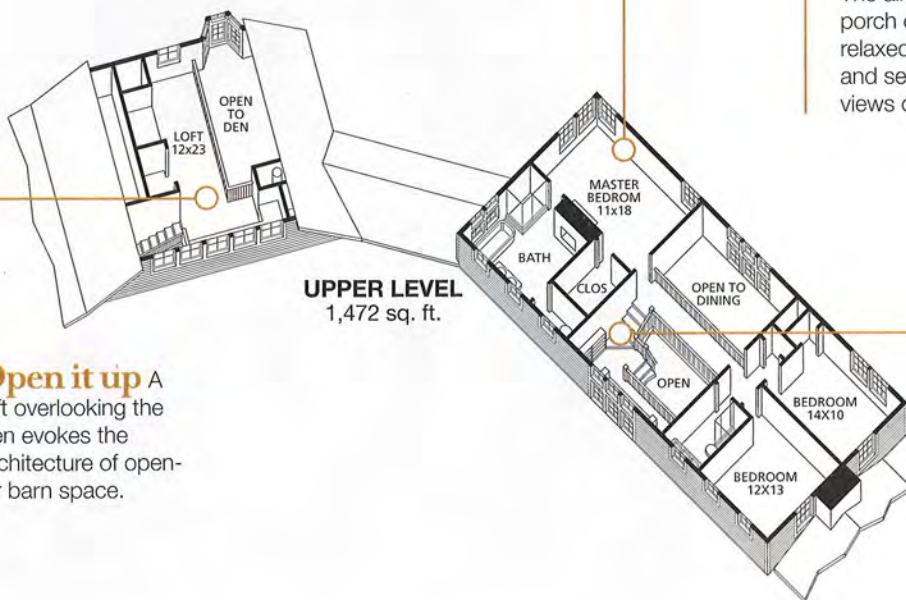
**Peaceful place** The den's two-story bay window with a built-in seat makes for a cozy spot to curl up with a book near the fire.

**Take it all in** The main portion of the house offers nonstop views of the backyard garden and grounds.



**Suite retreat** The master bedroom is positioned away from the upper level's other bedrooms for privacy.

**Sit a spell**  
The airy screen porch offers more relaxed living space and see-through views of the acreage.



**Open it up** A loft overlooking the den evokes the architecture of open-air barn space.

**Curl up** A landing on the staircase features a cozy window seat flanked by built-in bookcases.