

CTC&G

Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

COTTAGESGARDENS.COM | NOVEMBER 2019



A Crafted
APPROACH

LOCAL FLAVOR

**A WEEKEND
RETREAT BOASTS
THE BEST FROM
LITCHFIELD
COUNTY SHOPS**

BY ELENA BOWES
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TRIA GIOVAN

AS SEEN IN
CTC&G
Connecticut Cottages and Gardens

Enjoy The Views A south-facing sun porch has a mix of high and low with a sofa from RH, a tripod lamp from One Kings Lane, leather strap chairs from Hammertown and a coffee table through Montage Antiques. See Resources.



ROBIN AND JEREMY STEIN, OF TEAM STEIN, Sotheby's International Realty, in NYC, had been looking for a weekend place for a long time. Robin grew up in New York State and always wanted to have a getaway located outside of the city. The question was where. "I was pushing and pushing my husband for the last 10 years to find a place, but it was proving quite challenging to find something that fit," she explains. "We knew we didn't belong in the Hamptons. We wanted a rural, country setting with a little slower pace."

A rental in Litchfield County brought this corner of Connecticut, with its low-key vibe and abundance of young families, into focus. Kicking their search into high gear, they bought a four-bedroom, well-proportioned house with some Colonial touches for their family of three. In mint condition, the house needed a design rethink to suit Robin's preferred neutral palette. So she asked longtime friend and designer Brooklyn-based Ashley Bradley to help with the project. The pair had worked together several times in the past. "I trust her taste," says Stein. "Every one of her homes is spectacular."

The first step was addressing the home's colorful interiors. "Every inch had been decorated in floral wallpaper, stripes, patterns and color," says Bradley. "Robin likes any color as long as it's gray, beige, black or white."



First Impressions

(THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM) In the entry, a bronze horse sculpture from George Home and a cowhide rug from ABC Carpet & Home deliver rustic touches; the antique mirror is through Michael Trapp. African mudcloth pillows are through One Affirmation, and a Kelly Wearstler Strada pendant is from Foundry Lighting. **Country Charming** (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP) The home's Colonial touches and well-proportioned rooms appealed to the homeowners. See Resources.



Informal & Inviting
 (LEFT) In the dining room, Thomas O'Brien pendants illuminate a table from Michael Trapp; the chairs are from the clients' grandparents. The leather and cotton braided rug from CB2 is a practical, pretty go-to for Bradley. The oil drum wall sculpture is through Homenature.

Modern & Warm (ABOVE AND RIGHT) Kitchen walls are painted in Farrow & Ball's Skylight. The breakfast nook sports cashmere pillows from RH, black shaker chairs from Serena & Lily, and a pendant light from Circa Lighting. See Resources.





Setting The Mood

(THIS PAGE) Benjamin Moore's Hale Navy sets the stage for film nights in the TV room. Pillows from One Kings Lane adorn an RH sofa. The wing chair is from Hammertown. The rug is through Loloi. **Layered Look** (OPPOSITE PAGE) On the living-room wall, poultry photography by Jean Pagliuso flanks a Quinn mirror through One Kings Lane. The sofa boasts a Rogers & Goffigon fabric; the wing chair wears a Schumacher Mojave Ikat. See *Resources*.

“Ashley and I would take trips to the barn, which was cavernous, filled with rooms of vintage mirrors, lanterns and farm tables from France”

“I’m completely colorphobic,” echoes Stein. “My goal was to neutralize the house, giving texture, to make it cozy and comfortable. I really wanted some modern elements in the house, but I also wanted to feel like it was my country home and to me, that meant adding all those antlers, jute and sisal rugs, bringing in cool, unique antiques to make something stand out and special.”

Having waited so long for her year-round rural retreat, Stein wanted to love every piece she bought for it. “You have to be willing to have empty walls and tabletops for a while,” she says.

While CB2, RH and West Elm provided the basics, the layering was done in local Litchfield County antiques shops. “Ashley is really great at high/low,” notes Stein. “She has such a good eye that she can pick out something that other people might not buy because they think it looks cheap because it comes from a big box store with lower price points. But Ashley is very confident, which I love.”

Once the basics were done, the duo brought in texture by hunting the local shops for just the right chair, table, throw. Beyond the more known shops in the area—George Home, Privet House and Plain Goods—they discovered some lesser known haunts, like Montage, Hunter Bee and the



Millerton Antiques Mall. One of their favorite finds was a teeny gem of a shop called Michael Trapp in Cornwall. “I was so overwhelmed by the things he’d selected, they were so beautiful,” says Stein. “Someone at his shop said, ‘We have this huge barn. Why don’t you come?’ So, Ashley and I would take trips to the barn, which was cavernous, filled with rooms of vintage mirrors, lanterns and farm tables from France. You name it, it’s there. I’m actually sad that we’re done because we had so much fun poking around.”

Bradley pushed her friend into introducing a little color, namely green: “I love to add a little green where we can, especially with this really neutral palette. It’s important to have those green moss balls or a great green plant or one green vase or pillow or something when you have a super neutral palette, just to help punch it up.” The designer also encouraged her friend to go beyond her bohemian comfort zone and add modern touches.

“It’s true, Ashley would push me a little bit. And now, those ideas she had are all some of my favorite things about the house,” notes Stein. 🌟

Chic Retreats A wing chair in the master bedroom (top) wears a Lee Jofa fabric; the dresser is from Michael Trapp. A Visual Comfort sconce illuminates another bedroom (right); the seeded-glass lamp is from Regina Andrew. In a child’s bedroom (opposite page), the window shade is crafted from a Quadrille linen; the ceiling lighting fixture is from Cedar & Moss; and the dresser is from West Elm. See [Resources](#).

