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# BACK TO BASICS

A PENNSYLVANIA FARM  
IS A FAMILY IDYLL THAT  
BRIMS WITH RUSTIC  
REFINEMENT AND  
AMERICANA CHARM.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY RICHARD KEITH LANGHAM ARCHITECTURE BY JOHN MAYFIELD GARDEN DESIGN BY SCHATZI  
McLEAN PHOTOGRAPHY BY FRANCESCO LAGNESE PRODUCED BY CAROLYN ENGLEFIELD WRITTEN BY KATE BOLICK



Hand-troweled plaster and curtains of local Amish burlap keep the dining room rustic. English 19th-c. table. Chairs, Langham and Company, in Jerry Pair leather. English 19th-c. chandelier. OPPOSITE: Chairs, Langham and Company, in Lee Jofa and Old World Weavers fabrics. Custom ottoman in J. Robert Scott leather. Fireplace surround, Stephan Folk Art. OPENING PAGES, RIGHT: Custom table. French 19th-c. toile lantern, Laurin Copen Antiques.



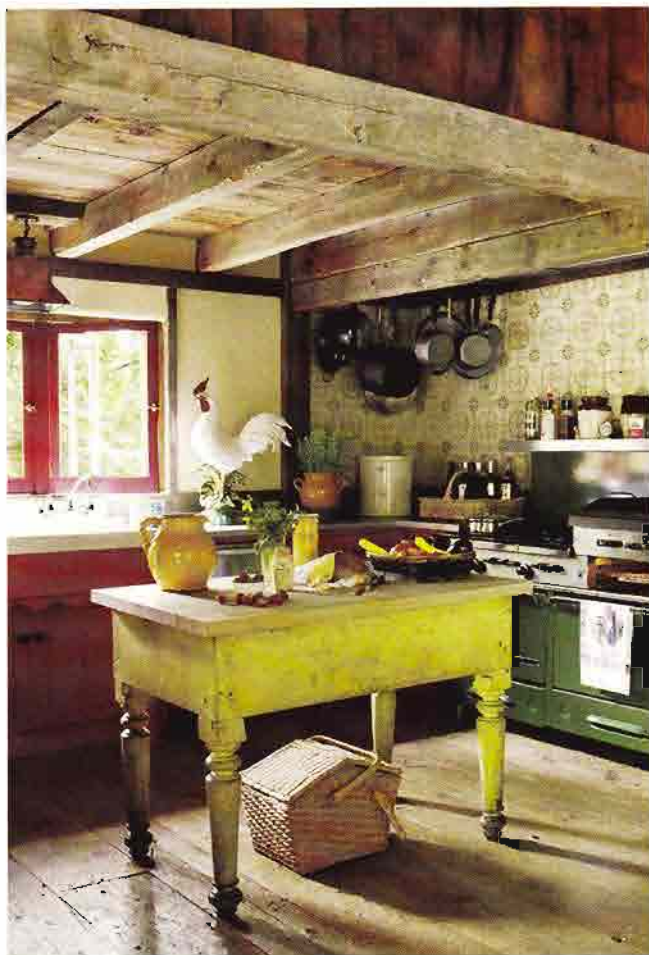
FOLLIN SMITH DIDN'T WANT JUST ANY OLD FARM. AFTER YEARS CLIMBING THE LADDER OF FORTUNE 500 CORPORATE FINANCE, SHE'D DOWNSIZED HER WORKING LIFE TO JOIN HER HUSBAND

and their two children full-time. But her new world, though lovely, was rather quiet. She realized fun would have to be "imported" by enticing friends to come and stay.

"I had seen the famous photograph of the Duchess of Devonshire feeding her chickens while wearing a gown and jewels, and it looked like a good life to me," Smith jokes. Her own 50-

acre idyll in rural Pennsylvania—big 1850s main house, smaller mid-1700s guesthouse, two huge barns, and a swimming pool down the hill—may have been "Chatsworth-Not," as she puts it, but where it lacked refinement she was determined to make "adjustments." Such as chicken coops—though "pretty ones, not smelly ones."

She summoned her A-team: New York-based decorator Richard Keith Langham, a childhood friend (they were married at age five in a self-performed backyard ceremony), and Texas-based architect John Mayfield, a close pal since college. The three are so tight—the men have collaborated before—that decision-making was more like mind reading.



Smith and her husband love to entertain, and after his 50th birthday bash found not a few of their 500 guests camping out on the lawn, they decided to turn the tobacco barn into sleeping quarters for 16—while keeping it as airy and barn-like as possible. For the first floor, the team laid out every room with painter's tape until they found a floor plan they liked, "and then John made me climb 14 feet into the ceiling trusses to plot out the second-floor bedrooms," Smith says.

To achieve a "polished Amish" look, they spent countless hours scouring the countryside, visiting backwoods lumberyards and fallen-down barns in search of antique timber and stone. To maintain the ruts and dents in the "new" flooring, a crew of men waxed six coats by hand.

Pre-dawn hours were logged at the famed Brimfield Antique Show in western Massachusetts, buying up old English and primitive American furniture. Once plastered, the thick walls

drank up light like a sponge; Langham counteracted that with a richly saturated palette of blues and reds. Special decorative flourishes, such as a *fraktur* (Pennsylvania Dutch folk art) motif adorning a fireplace in a nook off the foyer and hand-painted wall patterns in the powder room, add cheer.

For the pool house, Smith wanted "something that could double as a lifeguard stand and a cocktail spot—or a dance pavilion for a hoard." Channeling Thomas Jefferson, Mayfield designed a grand structure, part Monticello and part Jefferson's barn at Bremono, with a proud pediment addressing the lawn. Friends call it Smith's Taj Mah-Pool (not to be outdone by the tobacco barn, which they jokingly dubbed Follin's Folly).

Next up is renovating the main house. "With such a pool house and guest barn, I should at least have a walk-in closet of my own," Smith muses. "Once I have a place to hang my straw hats, then I'll really retire." □

“I'D SEEN THE FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPH OF THE DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE FEEDING HER CHICKENS WHILE WEARING A GOWN AND JEWELS, AND IT LOOKED LIKE A GOOD LIFE TO ME.”



Pelmets play off rustic touches; Izzy, a Jack Russell terrier, looks on. Custom bed. American 19th-c. wing chair in Classic Cloth fabric. Pelmet and curtains in Kravet and Old World Weavers fabrics. Rug, Stark. OPPOSITE LEFT: Wall tiles, Ann Sacks. Vintage range. OPPOSITE RIGHT: Curtains in Pindler & Pindler sheer with Kravet trim. Decorative painting, Two Dudes Painting.

