

GREAT
COUNTRY
FRENCH
STYLE



Farm Fresh

A CHICAGO COUPLE FINDS
PEACE STYLING THEIR
HOMESTEAD WITH THE DELIGHTS
OF RURAL FRANCE.



LEFT WITH WINDOWS ON ALL FOUR SIDES, THE BELVEDERE ATOP THE ROOF COMMANDS AN EXTRAORDINARY VIEW OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.

OPPOSITE THE HALLWAY IN THE GUEST WING IS DECORATED WITH ANTIQUE FARM PARAPHERNALIA, INCLUDING A HORSE-HEAD SIGN PROBABLY ONCE USED TO ADVERTISE A HARNESSMAKER'S SHOP.







“It’s a folly I carried around in my head,” says Suzy Stout, explaining the French stone farmhouse situated next to a pond that she and husband Sam dreamed of having one day. Inspired by the desire to step back from a world that was “too much with us,” the dwelling they built near Chicago reflects Suzy’s vision of a home that included “the romance, softness, and spirituality of the past ... a truly enlightened farmhouse.”

Designed with the help of architect Michael Graham, the “big ‘small’ house,” as she calls it, is a little French, a little Midwestern, and a lot of fun—it’s actually a cluster of barn-like structures that look more like a farm complex than a single residence. Painted white, set against green meadows and blue sky, the house, guest and master bedroom wings, and garage are postcard perfect, as are the interiors designed with French antiques, pieces acquired from hither and yon, and the colors and patterns found in Provence.

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OPPOSITE “WE WANTED THE POND BECAUSE WE LOVE LISTENING TO THE FROGS AND ALL THE POND NOISES,” SAYS SUZY. IT’S STOCKED WITH FISH FOR EXTRA ENJOYMENT.

ABOVE THE CLUSTER OF BUILDINGS INCLUDES THE 3,500-SQUARE-FOOT HOUSE WITH TWO WINGS, AND AT LEFT, A GARAGE WHOSE ARCHED ENTRY LEADS INTO THE INNER COURTYARD.

PAGE 220 BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE BELVEDERE AND HIGH-PEAKED CEILING IN THE ENTRANCE HALL ARE AN ANTIQUE LIGHT FIXTURE AND RUSTY STEEL CHANDELIER.

PAGE 221 A PAIR OF ANTIQUE COLUMNS SEPARATES THE ENTRY HALL FROM THE LIVING ROOM. SUZY BOUGHT THE BENCH OFF THE BACK OF A TRUCK AT A FLEA MARKET.







Relaxed and gracious, the living room embodies the spirit Suzy set out to instill. Floored in mellow old pine, the room is wrapped in soft, mossy green walls that lead up to a pitched ceiling. Large windows and French doors are left uncovered. "I wanted every bit of the view to be a part of this room," she says. There are lots of flowering plants, and the furniture is upholstered in a mix of sage chenille and toile patterned with an old-fashioned pastoral scene. "It's a very undecorated room," she adds. "I think people often mistakenly think that it is great decorating if they get a fabulous fabric, a wonderful drapery design, or an incredible rug. Certainly those things are important, but more important are proportions and accessories."

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ABOVE THE LIVING ROOM'S CAREFULLY DESIGNED UNDECORATED LOOK IS EMPHASIZED BY THE SHINY BARE FLOOR AND ANTIQUE WOOD FIREPLACE MANTEL.

OPPOSITE ADDING A QUIRKY, AND VERY SOPHISTICATED, SHOT OF ELEGANCE TO THE COUNTRY-FRESH ROOM IS THE SPARKLING CRYSTAL CHANDELIER.







BREAD

BREAD

BREAD

BREAD

BREAD



OPPOSITE THE KITCHEN'S WORK AREA EXHIBITS EXQUISITE ATTENTION TO DETAIL: BLUE CUPBOARD INTERIORS COMPLEMENT THE TILES; DRAWER PULLS MIX SHAPES AS WELL AS MATERIALS; THE STOVE HOOD GRACEFULLY DRAWS IT ALL TOGETHER.

RIGHT OPPOSITE THE KITCHEN'S WORK AREA, FAMILY AND FRIENDS LOVE TO GATHER AROUND THE FIRE. CHECKED LINEN DRAPERIES AND OVERSIZE FLORALS ON THE FURNITURE COZY UP THE LARGE ROOM.





