

in the details



A gracious new home in a bucolic Pennsylvania setting proves that when the right homeowners and professionals put their heads together, magic can happen.



Halfway through the design process, architect Christopher Carrigan flipped the house plan because of how the site sloped; he knew the tweaks would improve the views—a barn recently raised by the Amish, a weeping willow tree, and a fishing pond—from the porches of the 6,000-square-foot home.



farm made
modern

*lesson
number*

10

Consider texture on interior walls. Designer Lisa Furey loves a wide-plank, nickel-gap shiplap because it reads as much warmer than drywall, even when it's painted a crisp white.



opposite: The large arched mirror hanging above the console table turns up the volume on the light wafting in through the front door and transom (shown top). Although it's new, the table mimics the look of reclaimed wood and reflects the warmth of the wide-plank, white oak flooring. **top:** The entry's chandelier and black-and-white runner are whimsical elements that have a pebbly texture to them. **above:** Stone sourced from the surrounding area brings elemental charm to the stoop leading to the mahogany front door, which is a warm contrast to the white exterior. Sconces made of copper and inset with seeded-glass panes follow the exterior's traditional feel.

A home that hearkens back to the old farmhouse style prevalent

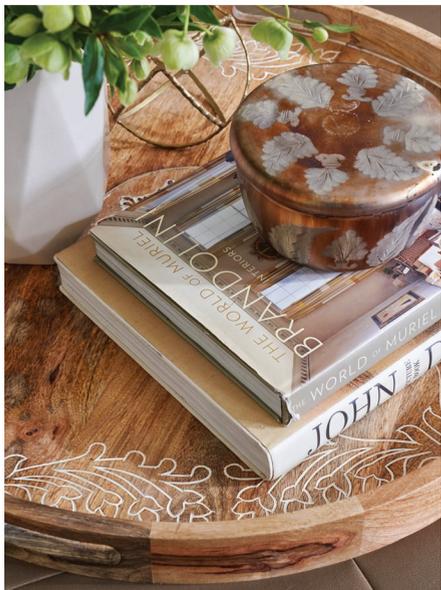
in eastern Pennsylvania is what Jennifer and Sean Bleiler asked architect Christopher Carrigan of Historical Concepts to achieve when they tapped him for the ground-up project near Allentown. "I took my inspiration from the stone houses of Bucks County," he says, "even incorporating stone from the area on the exterior of the home." Interior designer Lisa Furey says one reason the house is so beautifully appointed is the attention Carrigan paid to every detail.

Taking her cues from what she gleaned as she, the Bleilers, and Carrigan hashed out the architectural plans, Furey set about creating a functional, chic environment for the very active family. "We went for homey and durable elements—fabrics and finishes that can take abuse," she says. "Every move I made had a kid-proof and pet-proof focus." To create the farmhouse feel the family wanted, she chose shiplap for walls, introduced reclaimed-wood elements, put iron strapping on shelving, bricked the backsplash in the kitchen, and topped tables with stone.

Adjacent to the expansive great-room that holds the kitchen, dining room, and family room is the cozy sunroom, tucked into a niche near the kitchen. A separate guest wing provides the Bleilers with privacy when they have overnight visitors.

Furnishings throughout the home were chosen to enhance the carefree lifestyle the family desired, whether having a quiet dinner or entertaining a crowd. To achieve this, Furey concentrated on elements that were simple, and she selected restful colors and comforting textures to complement them. About the light-filled, easygoing spaces, builder Keith Hoeng says, "This house is so easy to look at. It makes me wish everyone could put so much thought into things."

For resources, see page 96.



above: A tobacco basket on the wall and the wicker chair add warm counterpoints to the sunroom's white shiplap walls and beaded-board ceiling. As with all the home's furnishings, Furey selected the rug and the fabrics on the settee to be both durable and tasteful. This light-filled alcove is an extension of the great-room, which also includes the kitchen, dining area, and family room. *left:* The round tray on the leather ottoman in the family room echoes wood surfaces in the home. Furey created contrast in every space, here in the lidded bowl with its vintage feel and the modern lines of the white vase. *opposite:* The custom dining table in the great-room was built by a family friend as a gift for the Bleilers. The kitchen island, made of quarter- and rift-sawn white oak, wears a custom brown-gray stain. Many of the other cabinet finishes are also distinctive to the home.





above: The family room is anchored by a fireplace with a surround made of the same Savannah Grey brick as the kitchen backsplash and the mudroom floors. The oversize ottoman makes the room a kid-friendly place to gather. *right:* The teak and all-weather wicker furniture pieces draw the family to the back porch often. The weather-worthy materials are as durable as the PVC decking, which can take a beating from the climate and still look like unblemished wood. *opposite:* Furey fitted the laundry room with rich gray cabinetry, another proprietary color chosen by the designer, and crystal knobs for a hint of glimmer. The tones in the ceramic tile floor are pitch-perfect, with the pattern giving the room the feeling that it was built in a bygone era.









.....

being meticulous

Designer Lisa Furey was intent on helping the Bleilers create a special home in which to live their lives to the fullest. “The ground wasn’t even broken when I signed on,” she says. “We sourced everything with Jennifer and Sean, from the foundation borderline stone to the finishing touches.”

COLLABORATION WINS *All three professionals involved in the design of this home chose the interior window over the kitchen sink that looks into Jennifer’s study as a favorite design element. “That was a way for us to meet the family’s needs and get a great layout without putting the sink on an exterior wall,” architect Christopher Carrigan says. “But you still have a sense that the room is open, and there’s an abundance of light coming in from the office space beyond.”*

TRUST THE PROCESS *“The window frame over the kitchen sink was originally white, and something bothered me about it for months,” Furey says. “I said, ‘Let’s paint it black,’ and it made a world of difference.”*

GO FOR EXCEPTIONAL *Builder Keith Hoeing says this project makes him wish everyone put as much thought into their home’s floor plan: “This one is laid out differently than any other I’ve built. Using an insightful architect means you get something special in the end.”*

.....

opposite: The iron bed and antique bench in the master bedroom are staples of a farmhouse aesthetic. Because the new nightstands are distressed, they feel right at home with the time-honored materials in the room. Antique linens bring a sumptuous feel when layered with new bedding. **above left:** In the master bath, a roomy tub beckons when it’s time to relax. Its old-fashioned shape and the pastoral painting hanging above it are traditional elements in the room; the beaded chandelier and the glass panels on the shower introduce a modern flavor. **left:** The floor in the mudroom is made of Savannah Grey brick, a rustic touch that Furey juxtaposed against the clean-lined cabinetry in a satin finish. She chose semigloss paint for the beaded-board walls to make them more durable and easier to clean.