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RURAL SPLENDOR

A CREATIVE DESIGN APPROACH HELPS THIS COZY TENNESSEE FARMHOUSE STAND UP TO THE DEMANDS OF COUNTRY LIVING.



FLOWERS
&
GARDEN



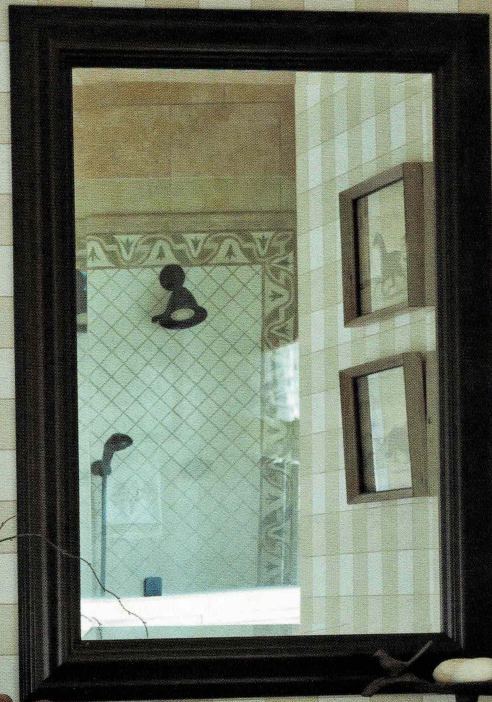
Designer Eric Ross struck a balance between beauty and utility when he started work on this farmhouse in Morrison, Tennessee. Owners Debbie and Joey Jacobs wanted a newly constructed home that would live up to minding a farm and raising cattle. The inspiration started with durable slate floors (designed to camouflage the dirt tracked in with a typical day's work of gardening and tending the herd, and the final look was a fresh blend of American and English country. Collected figurines and framed foliage prints impart a feminine touch that balances nicely with a handsome plaid stair runner. Beige wallpaper adorned with a subdued pattern softens the dark wood and angular lines of the entryway. Creating a lovely link between the two spaces, the designer selected the same slate tile covering and wainscoting for the kitchen (page 51). Just outside, a mix of traditional white and black wicker furniture and cozy rocking chairs offer the Jacobses and their guests plenty of seating along an expansive wraparound porch. Plush ottomans pair with contrasting-print cushions, accentuating the crisp white exterior, a welcoming red front door, and black shutters. Any perch provides a serene view of the rolling green pastures and grazing farm animals beyond. "Joey is an executive who has found working on a farm sort of therapeutic," says Eric. With plenty of functional elements incorporated into this timeless design, this farmhouse offers a tranquil respite from the Jacobses' busy lives.





Elegant ebony furnishings anchor the master bedroom and set the stage for layers of cream and gold. "By mixing different patterns and textures, we created the look of age and stability, which marries perfectly with [Debbie's] collection [of antiques]," says Eric. "The interiors allow [the Jacobses] the ability to display all their cherished old items in the comforts of a traditional, new home."







Accumulated over the years, beautiful antiques and decorations are given pride of place on a bedside table. A wicker armchair topped with an equestrian motif pillow reflects the homeowners' love of the bucolic vista outside their window. Gently echoing the bed skirt, a checked wallpaper was chosen for the adjoining master bath (opposite). Brushed brass fixtures and hardware along with a duo of dark framed mirrors strike a bold contrast with the tan-and-white scheme. A polished brick floor in a herringbone design infuses the space with texture and warmth.



For the homeowners' guesthouse, the designer carried forth the color scheme of chocolate browns, myriad greens, and soft creams that enliven the main house. "I wanted to keep the palette similar so it wasn't disruptive when looking at views of pastureland," Eric explains. A window-side set of distinctive armchairs provides a view of the picturesque countryside and a comfortable reading nook. At the end of the bed, Eric placed a settee he had upholstered in brown-and-white houndstooth, a classic print that befits the homeowners' traditional aesthetic. (Opposite) Tucked into the alcove of a dormer window, a refinished secretary displays more of the couple's sundry keepsakes and a few favorite books.

