



Barn RAISING

OLD BARN TIMBERS AND A WORLDLY MIX OF
COLLECTIONS GIVE A NEW CONNECTICUT
COLONIAL HOME A UNIQUE STORY.

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THIS PHOTO Scott and Pam Bowman's great-room is designed to bring people together with its warm tones and casual furniture. "It's just a happy, comfortable space," Pam says. "In the morning, we sit here and drink our coffee. Later in the day, we hang out here while dinner is being prepared."
OPPOSITE A decorative painter gave the built-ins flanking the fireplace an aged finish; wire in the cabinet doors added textured detail.



home design ideas. “Whenever we saw a layout or finish idea that we liked, we thought about how we could apply the idea to our home,” Pam says. “We all share creative design solutions with each other.”

Throughout the house, cigar-barn boards with black and wood tones bring richness to the floors. The kitchen opens to a great-room, creating a spacious hub that sees a lot of living. The vaulted, wood-wrapped ceilings and heavy timbers, plus a stone hearth and backsplash, give the rooms old-house style, but the open plan tells a modern story. “The great-room sums up who we are,” Pam says. “Overnight guests are comfortable here. Dogs hang out with us here. When we make dinner, this is the room we hang out in. It’s our most special room.”

One unique inspiration for the home is the couple’s love of foreign art and artifacts. They first fell for the look when they lived in Guam as newlyweds and traveled to Asia and Europe. “The mix of traditional New England with highlights from Europe and Asia make this home very personal for us,” Scott says. “It’s



WHERE MOST PROPERTY HUNTERS SAW ONLY THE DATED 1970s ranch house and algae-filled frog pond, Scott and Pam Bowman saw the opportunity to build the house of their dreams: a classic two-story Colonial with a rich history, one that had evolved over generations. Or at least looked and lived as if it had. So the New York couple bought the Litchfield County ranch, then razed it. “It was always the property, not the house, we responded to,” Pam says. “It was amazing, and we knew someday we would be able to build when the time was right.”

Six years later, they met a barn builder who took on the task of erecting a garage and pool house into a hill on the land, using materials from a reclaimed barn. The Bowmans were so happy with the finished product they asked the builder to bring a barn aesthetic to their home. “We thought the beams and rough timbers would warm up a Colonial and give it some history,” Pam says. “It’s very comforting to be surrounded by the wood. It makes us feel good.”

During the construction, the couple spent weekends with friends in the neighborhood and borrowed many



all about the richness of the cultures we have experienced on our travels to England, Hong Kong, China, Bali, and more. Our story is represented in our home, in what we hope is a traditional and understated manner.”

To make sense of the many style influences, they hired interior designer Karen Davis of Davis Raines Design. “We knew our style and knew what we wanted, but we couldn’t get there on our own, yet didn’t want it to look like a designer helped,” Pam says. “Karen’s talented eye made it look effortless, collected—and she was so good with color.”

“That’s the fun part,” Davis says. “The color palette, paint, wood finishes, textiles and lighting brought the

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT Modern blue lamps add a pop of color to an Asian console table. **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT** Pam Bowman strolls with the family labradoodles, Teddi and Cashew. **ABOVE** A new dining table with a seating bench is pushed up to a built-in window seat in the great-room. When the Bowmans entertain, they can pull the freestanding bench to the fireplace for additional seating. **LEFT** The garage and pool house, the first structure built on the property, was built from a 1780s barn from Morris, Connecticut, that was disassembled, accounted for, cleaned, and reassembled on site. The two-story Colonial was inspired by the barn aesthetic.



LEFT Oversize English seltzer bottles on an American blanket chest are Scott's finds. **BELOW** A combination bar and butler's pantry features custom cabinetry, a zinc countertop, and even a humidor. **OPPOSITE** Old and new pieces mix it up in the dining room. An organic wood slab table from Crate & Barrel was chosen for its organic feel. The hutch is antique and keeps tableware close at hand. Colorful glassware adds sparkle to the tabletop. "This room gets such pretty light that it's nice to add colored glass to amplify the effect," Pam says.



looks together. The Bowmans have incredible pieces to work with that they collected from their travels. I took inspiration from the ceramics, artwork, and wood carvings, then highlighted those pieces that reflect the family. These details connect the different rooms of the house."

Over time, Pam and Davis chose additional furnishings with authentic country origins—some antiques, some reproductions. The Asian pieces punctuate the furniture groupings, giving pause to those who pass by. It's a riveting decorating story Pam and Scott will continue to write with new travels and experiences. "We look forward to spending more time here and in each season. It's always new and fresh and continues to evolve," Pam says. ☞





ABOVE A big apron-front sink delivers classic country style while appliances with modern convenience, such as the warming drawer built into the island, blend with the wood and stone finishes. The island is topped with chestnut, which wipes down and cleans up beautifully. **OPPOSITE** For visual continuity, the Bowmans' mason suggested using the same stone as the great-room's fireplace surround for a backsplash behind the range. He went a step further and gave Pam that bit of stonework as a birthday present. The family didn't need island seating, so they built open cubbies to hold green ceramics and cookbooks. The earthy green is a natural complement to the rich, dark wood. "Litchfield County has great antiques shops," Pam says. "It's fun to have something you're always looking for. For me, it's the green ceramics."



OPPOSITE TOP The Colonial cannonball bed frame was custom-fabricated to resemble one Pam found in a magazine. The blue fabric headboard is accentuated with nailhead trim. The bentwood settee at the foot of the bed is a new buy from One Kings Lane. Interior designer Karen Davis chose fabrics for the room that give it a masculine American look. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM** Pam picked up the red leather chairs in France and shipped them stateside, where they lived in New York for a while before moving to Connecticut. Pam likes the curtain panels, because they look like blue and white cherry blossoms. Scott found the art over the desk—one section of a triptych—at an antiques shop. **LEFT** The blue and white bathroom is a lesson in repetition, color, and scale. Davis found the bold Les Indiennes wallpaper, inspired by Pam's collection of blue and white ceramics from China. The patterns are different, but the color brings them together.

“BEING HERE, OUT OF THE CITY, FEELS IMMEDIATELY DIFFERENT. IT’S ONE BIG DEEP, RELAXING BREATH.”

—HOMEOWNER PAM BOWMAN





LEFT An earthy slate floor is a no-stress stone surface for the casual mudroom entrance. The built-ins were designed and painted to look like old found cabinets. Scott, Pam, and daughter Dylan each have two drawers and two cubbies to store shoes and outdoor gear. **RIGHT** A three-car garage is tucked into a hill and under the barn pool house. **BELOW LEFT** Labradoodles Teddi and Cashew get comfortable on the mudroom bench, one of their favorite hangouts. Pam commissioned the landscape of her dogs playing in the snow and hung it above the bench seat.



Secrets to Authentic Style

To give their new home a storied style, Pam and Scott Bowman and their design team incorporated these concepts.

REPURPOSED: Working reclaimed materials into the home's backgrounds establishes a link to the past and the region. Posts and beams from old barns create a rustic framework; old slate shingles underscore the mudroom floor.

EVOLVED: Interiors came together over the course of a few years to give the team a chance to find the pieces that fit well with the spaces and how the family wanted to live in their new home.

PERSONAL: Collections from the couple's years of travel were important, so these pieces guided decorating choices. For instance, the color palette and fabric selections are inspired by blue and white ceramics found in Asia.

BLENDED: New furnishings were selected for their ability to bridge the rustic backdrops and antiques. Upholstery with classic silhouettes is covered in natural linen and leather; new wood pieces are given instantly aged finishes.



ABOVE The Bowmans use this relocated and reassembled barn as a pool house, but it's also an all-season, casual hangout for their teenage daughter and her friends. The striped sofa is a pullout, making the reclaimed factory trolley on wheels a smart choice for a coffee table. **RIGHT** The pool is intentionally low profile to blend in quietly with the bucolic surroundings. **OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT** The art above a vintage sideboard looks like an old game board, but it's actually a drawing of a formal English parterre garden. The floor lamp's shade is refashioned from an old wine barrel

