

special issue!

OCTOBER 2005

cottagelivingTM

COMFORT **SIMPLICITY** STYLE

RELAX IN STYLE

**58 PAGES OF
DECORATING
MADE EASY**

**We built our
Idea House
to inspire you**

SEASONAL SHORTCUT

**3 easy fall
window boxes**

BEFORE & AFTER

**Small changes =
big curb appeal**

BONUS

**Pull-out guide
to choosing
paint and fabric**



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PAINT Benjamin Moore Paints
STAIN ON SHINGLES The Flood Company
LIGHT FIXTURES Circa Lighting
WINDOWS & DOORS (not front door) JELD-WEN
DECKING Trex **BAMBOO BLINDS** (on rear porch) Hunter Douglas
GARDENING PRODUCTS Bayer
Advanced OUTDOOR FABRIC Sunbrella **REAR PORCH FURNITURE** Laneventure



WHAT'S COTTAGE

A HOUSE THAT LOOKS LIKE IT BELONGS—now that's a cottage thought! The architects from Historical Concepts in Peachtree City, Georgia, studied other Bridgehampton homes before designing this plan. "That's where the design process always starts," says Joshua Roland, project architect. "We wanted something that would fit within the context of the Idea Home's geographical location." Joshua and his colleagues also designed the house to look as if it had grown over time (they call it "generational architecture") with additions jutting out from all sides. "This approach gives the cottage an immediate sense of history." Take a look at their other trade secrets:



1 A DRAMATIC ENTRY is "kicked up a notch with classical details and climbing vines that grow into the lattice-covered

2 AN OLD FRONT DOOR gives a new house added character. This English pine door was salvaged from

3 OVERSIZE WINDOWS make the house seem larger and flood the rooms with natural light. Working shutters add cottage

4 STONE CHIMNEY and attic dormer add classic details and ornament the roof.

5 CEDAR SHAKES will acquire a rich patina over time and stand up well to harsh winter

idea home breakfast room



PAINT Benjamin Moore
Paints **LIGHT FIXTURE**
Circa Lighting
WINDOWS JELD-WEN
FLOORS Authentic
Pine Floors **WINDOW**
BLINDS Hunter
Douglas **BANQUETTE**
Lee Industries **CHAIRS**
Laneventure **FABRIC**
ON CHAIRS Sunbrella
TABLE & FLATWARE
Storehouse **NAPKINS**
Yves Delorme

PULL IT TOGETHER

Create a kitchen where guests can linger. Comfy seating and a round table accommodate extra friends, and colorful, quirky accessories keep the mood light.



ARMLESS LOVE SEAT (54-202) in Serape Multi (applied on the horizontal) by Lee Industries; leeindustries.com



DINING CHAIR (80000-45) in Coral (285) from the Excursions Cameroon collection by Laneventure; laneventure.com



EMPIRE ROUND EXTENSION TABLE from Storehouse; storehouse.com



PILLOW (38) UPHOLSTERED IN MONTY FUCHSIA CLOTH with Monty Cocoa welt and Monty Igloo cloth with Candice Red welt by Lee Industries; leeindustries.com



ARTISAN SERIES TILT-HEAD STAND MIXER IN TANGERINE by KitchenAid; kitchenaid.com

★ COTTAGE TWIST



COLORFUL VINTAGE BOTTLES on a running shelf reinforce the ceiling height. If you can't find vintage containers, take the labels off imported beer bottles. We wrapped some with newspaper and twine.

WHAT'S COTTAGE

THIS COTTAGE KITCHEN has all the ingredients to make it both hardworking and stylish. Industrial stainless steel appliances are softened with pale blue cabinetry, open shelving, and loads of natural light. The adjoining breakfast room becomes a focal point with colorful furniture that invites you to take a seat. "What's so wonderful about this house is that every corner is utilized," Steven says. "The kitchen and breakfast room (next page) work together as one big space. There's a sofa banquette, where kids can hang out while you're cooking—it's all working."

PAINT Benjamin Moore Paints
LIGHT FIXTURES Circa Lighting
WINDOWS JELD-WEN **FLOORS** Authentic Pine Floors
LARGE AND SMALL APPLIANCES KitchenAid
COUNTERTOPS Vermont Soapstone
SINK & FAUCET Kohler **TEA TOWELS** Yves Delorme
RUG Storehouse



1 OPEN SHELVING
Uncover everyday objects and stack them in plain sight for a user-friendly kitchen.

2 PUNCH OF COLOR Introduce color with small appliances that sit out on countertops, like blenders and mixers.

3 GRID LIGHTING
Say goodbye to recessed lights and install a bold grid of industrial-style fixtures. Steven used 12, yes 12, of them.

4 RUSTIC FLOORS
Keep 'em light. A thin coat of stain brings out the grain and offers a charming old farmhouse look.

5 NATURAL COUNTERTOPS
Soapstone countertops darken over time for more character. Flaws in the stone mask everyday use.

6 GLOSSY CEILING Paint ceilings with a high-gloss finish to reflect light from the large windows and heighten the space.



"START WITH WHAT YOU HAVE"

DESIGNING OR DECORATING A HOUSE can seem overwhelming, but you don't have to start from scratch. "If your mother leaves you with a dull brown sofa," says interior designer Steven Gambrel, "don't look at it as an obstacle. Get excited about it!" In designing our first Idea Home, Steven tried several fresh ideas. He punched up traditional wood furniture with paint and gave classically shaped furniture a modern twist with unexpected fabric combinations. Steven also took an unconventional approach to painting the rooms: "I don't think you have to follow the old rule that trim has to be white and color is saved for the walls."

When designing your own cottage, follow Steven's strategy.

GET GOING

1. DEFINE YOUR LIFESTYLE Think about how you're going to use the rooms in your house. Do you really need a dining room that can seat 12? If not, get creative and give the kids an art room or yourself a much-needed home office.

2. DRAW A FURNITURE PLAN Get room dimensions down on paper. Carry your sketch with you when shopping so you'll know whether you need an 8-foot sofa or two 40-inch club chairs.



3. USE COLOR FEARLESSLY And we're not just talking about paint. Consider the hues of furniture and accessories part of what Steven calls your overall "color story."

4. CAPTURE HISTORY Incorporate a sense of time and place with local materials and historic finds. And don't forget old family photographs—they make great works of art.

PAINT Benjamin Moore Paints DRAPERY FABRIC Sunbrella LIGHTING Circo Lighting WINDOWS & DOORS JELD-WEN ARCHAIRMS Lee Industries COFFEE TABLE (painted for Cottage Living) MIRRORED SIDE TABLE, DRAPERY ROD/FINIAL & RATTAN TRAY (ON COFFEE TABLE) Storehouse FLOORS Authentic Pine Floors HEATING & AIR-CONDITIONING Lennox

Color ...

"It seemed obvious to me that the color would come from the pool and sky, since the living room opens to the backyard," says Steven.

Fabric ...

"I didn't want to use lots of fussy textiles," Steven says. Instead, he chose solid fabrics with contrast cording for hits of color, and saved patterns for

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WHAT'S COTTAGE

TRUTH CONFESSED: This is our editors' pick for Best All-around Retreat in the 2005 Idea Home. Steven designed it as a TV-free zone for children where creativity rules. He says, "The lesson here is how to rethink the plans for your house to work for the way you really live." You can rework your old playroom, or if you're short on space, dedicate a small corner or nook to arts and crafts. "Take a realistic approach. Don't furnish an entire room that you'll never use. Go ahead and make that room into a playroom, if that's what you really need."

WHY IT WORKS

1. SLIDING DOORS on a rolling track lend a farmhouse feel to a space and are fun to open and close.

2. OVERSIZE LIGHTING, like this inexpensive paper lantern, makes a bold statement and sets a casual tone.

3. STRESS-FREE FINISHES, like high-gloss paint on the furniture and walls, are easy to wipe clean.

4. TALL WINDOWS bring in the light and extend a sense of space.

5. A LARGE COTTON AREA RUG feels good under bare feet and adds bright splashes of color.

6. A KID-FRIENDLY SPACE lets children get messy and creative while having fun.

Take it from Steven ...

"A shiny surface attracts attention. If you have an interesting wooden ceiling like this one, paint it high gloss to reflect the light. Of course, if it's riddled with recessed lights and smoke alarms, just keep it flat."

PAINT Benjamin Moore Paints FLOOR LAMPS Circo Lighting WINDOWS & FRENCH DOORS JELD-WEN FLOORS Authentic Pine Floors WINDOW BLINDS Hunter Douglas CONSOLE TABLE & END TABLES (painted for Cottage Living) Storehouse

WHAT'S COTTAGE

BEDROOMS AREN'T JUST FOR SLEEPING ANYMORE. They're the right place to curl up with a good book or lie down for a long chat. Cottage bedrooms celebrate comfort and relaxation without short-changing style. Avoid a drab room by balancing soothing tones with punches of strong color. Steven accented the bold coral stripe on this upholstered bed with an even bolder orange leather on the outside of the wing chair. Then he tempered the oranges with soft gray and blue on the window shades and walls. Accessorizing and planning a bedroom can often become formulaic. Here's how Steven avoids bedroom decorating clichés.

1. USE TWIN STOOLS Instead of a typical bench at the foot of a bed, they provide visual punch but still give you a spot for whatever you need to set there.

2. PAIR BEDSIDE LAMPS that don't match to help break the monotony and symmetry. Complementary shades pull them together.

3. FRAME ARTWORK between panes of glass, allowing your wall color to show through.

4. TRY COMFY SEATING like a wing chair for reading or a wide window seat for lounging. They'll make your bedroom feel more like a retreat.

PAINT Benjamin Moore Paints
CEILING FIXTURE Circo Lighting
WINDOWS JELD-WEN
FLOORS Authentic Pine Floors
FABRICS ON ROMAN SHADES & WINDOW SEAT Cushions Sunbrella
WING CHAIR & BED Lee Industries
BED LINENS Yves Delorme
MATTRESS, BEDSIDE TABLES (painted for Cottage Living) & MAGAZINE STAND Shorehouse
PILLOW INSERTS & MATTRESS PAD Jockey

Color ...

"Choose soothing tones for your bedroom because you wake up there every morning," Steven says. "Save the strong wall colors for a powder room or

Fabric ...

Mix stripes for a modern look. The varying stripes on the bed and rug don't clash, and the widths and colors complement each other. But don't take it too far—keep it solid on

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Don't worry about finding the right size rug for a large room—two can be better than one. Steven used two matching 6 by 9 rugs in a room that normally would need a 12 by 18.

idea home design team

Interior design: Steven Gambrell

Steven established his New York-based design firm, S. R. Gambrell, Inc., in 1995, three years after earning his architecture degree from the University of Virginia. He's known for a fresh, innovative approach to color and says he has a passion for "timeless, comfortable houses that improve with age." As for our 2005 Idea Home, Steven says, "I would love it if people stopped building giant houses that have excess space. What's so wonderful about this house is that every corner has a use."



Architecture: Historical Concepts

Founded in 1982, Historical Concepts designs residential and commercial buildings based on long-standing principles of traditional planning. Led by Jim Strickland, this Idea Home team consists of Joshua Roland, Domenick Treschitta, and Terry Pylant. Says Jim, "The only thing greater than seeing an incredible house rise from the ground is witnessing the creative process that went into it. The design team's passion for traditional architecture and their joy in crafting a cottage that blends seamlessly with its surroundings is evident in the final result."

Construction: Windward Builders, LLC

Joe Larson and Gus Milliard, of Windward Builders, have been working in real estate development in the Hamptons for two years. Looking at the Idea Home they just completed, Joe says, "I would have to say there's one characteristic that 'makes' every room in this house—light. The initial planning and thought that went into how window sizes, shapes, and placement would bring in the light makes each and every room a special experience."

Gardens: P. Allen Smith

"I love the way all of the different garden rooms respond to the various rooms in the house, and how these outdoor rooms make the overall garden feel larger and more accessible," Allen says of the Idea Home garden he designed with colleague Ward Lile. A residential and commercial landscape designer, Allen is also the contributing garden editor for *Cottage Living*. His other ventures include producing two nationally broadcast television programs and writing a series of best-selling books, as well as maintaining his gardening Web site, pallensmith.com.



idea home blue bedroom



WHAT MAKES A GREAT GUEST ROOM



PAINT Benjamin Moore Paints
DRAPERY ROD & FINIAL, QUEEN MATTRESS, BEDSIDE TABLE (painted for Cottage Living), **DESK** (painted for Cottage Living) & **DESK CHAIR** Storehouse **WINDOWS** JELD-WEN **BED** Laneventure **BED LINENS** Yves Delorme **MATTRESS PAD & PILLOW FILLERS** Jockey **SLIPPER CHAIRS & CLUB CHAIR** Lee Industries **FLOORS** Authentic Pine Floors **HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING** Lennox

You know what you love when you visit a friend's house. It may be the plush cotton towels, the lamp on the bedstand, or that big bottle of conditioner—carefully choose each component. Here are a few of our favorites.

- 1 **A CANOPY BED** makes any guest feel like royalty. Choose a bed with an untraditional finish, like bamboo, to add texture to your guest room.
- 2 **ART BY LOCAL ARTISTS** gives a sense of place to any home. Stroll through your local flea markets or town art festivals for inexpensive finds to share with your visitors.
- 3 **A WRITING DESK** gives guests their own space for working (or going ahead and writing that thank-you note for a great stay!).
- 4 **A COMFY CHAIR** is essential in any room, and guests will appreciate having a place to sit and set things.
- 5 **SLIDING CLOSET DOORS** save space. (Here, a regular door would either block the window or stick out into the room.)

Take it from Steven . . .

“ Though it's important to have a furniture plan, don't pass up a piece you really love just because you don't have a spot for it. I mean, you wouldn't pass on a good pair of shoes because you don't know when you're going to wear them. ”



WHAT'S COTTAGE

THE MUDROOM AND LAUNDRY ROOM celebrate real life. In the mudroom, coat pegs and open shelves hold jackets, bags, and hats. There's even a bench to sit on while taking off wet shoes or boots, and cubbies for extra storage. In the laundry room, Steven doesn't hide everyday items—he leaves cleaning supplies and rolls of paper towels (even a vacuum cleaner!) in plain sight where they're handy.



Take it
from
Steven . . .

“Storage doesn't have to stay behind closed doors. Put it front and center. Build big shelves and fill them with display baskets fitted with tags that say ‘paint supplies,’ ‘extra towels,’ ‘dog biscuits.’ That's stylish and functional because you know exactly where things are. So start exposing real life and the way you actually live. Some people may find it scary, but a cottage allows you to express who you really are and what you really do all day.”

PAINT Benjamin Moore Paints
DOOR JELD-WEN
WINDOW BLINDS Hunter Douglas
SINK & FAUCETS Kohler
BEACH TOWELS Lands' End
CAT LITTER & DOG BONES UltraPet
PAPER TOWELS Viva
TOILET PAPER Scott
VACUUM CLEANER NuTone

idea home rear porch



Pull it together

- 1 Outfit an outdoor room with all the amenities of an indoor room: lamps, rugs, comfortable furniture, and a bar.
- 2 Be practical. Use weather-resistant fabric and rugs and lamps that tolerate changes in temperature and humidity.
- 3 Extend the interior outside with complementary fabrics and accessories. On the rear porch, Steven used solid fabrics with contrasting trim—just as he did in the living room. He limited his use of pattern to striped throw pillows.
- 4 Choose colors inspired by nature and the garden.

PAINT Benjamin Moore Paints **DECKING** Trex **WINDOWS & DOORS** JELD-WEN
WICKER TRAY Storehouse **FLOOR LAMP**
& **HANGING LANTERN** Circa Lighting
SOFA, CHAIRS & CHAISE Laneventure
FABRIC Sunbrella **THROW** Yves Delorme
BAR TABLE Storehouse

WHAT'S COTTAGE

FORGET STIFF WOODEN CHAIRS, backless benches, and attempts at reading by bug light. "You've got to be able to use an outdoor room in the same way you use your living room," Steven says. "The only difference is taking the elements of nature into account." Here, weather-resistant fabric covers plush cushions and throw pillows on the furniture. Sturdy floor lamps flank the sofa to create a spot for reading, sewing, or other pastimes. An oversize wooden coffee table has ample room for resting your drink or propping up your feet, and a rug underfoot, unfazed by sand and water, softens the look. "Of course a TV isn't necessary," says Steven. "Out here you're focusing on the landscape, the barbecue, or the kids playing in the yard."

