special issue!

RELAX IN STYLE
58 PAGES OF DECORATING MADE EASY
We built our Idea House to inspire you

SEASONAL SHORTCUT
3 easy fall window boxes

BONUS
Pull-out guide to choosing paint and fabric

BEFORE & AFTER
Small changes = big curb appeal
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. **A 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...
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 Cameron collection by Lane Venture; laneventure.com

EMPIRE ROUND EXTENSION TABLE

from Storehouse; storehouse.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.

PILLOW (38) UPHOLSTERED IN MONTY FUCHSIA

CLOTH with Monty Cocoa velvets 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

for more info find it fast, page 149
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.”
“START WITH WHAT YOU HAVE”


GET GOING

1. DEFINE YOUR LIFESTYLE

Think about how you’re going to use the room and how it will fit in with the rest of your home and your personal style. What activities will take place in this room? Do you need a home office or a place to work? Will you be using it for family gatherings or entertaining guests?

2. CREATE A FUNCTIONAL PLAN

You need to consider the space you have and how you can best use it. Think about the flow of the room and how it will be used. Consider the placement of furniture and how it will impact the overall look of the room. Think about the size and shape of the room and how it will affect the placement of furniture.

3. USE COLOR PANTIES

Choose a color palette that fits the style of your home and your personal taste. Consider the color of the walls, the flooring, and the furniture. Think about how the colors will interact with each other and how they will affect the overall look of the room.

4. FABRIC... WHAT’S COTTAGE

COTTAGE LIVING 2008 IDEAS HOME

This is the cottage in the woods, a place to relax and unwind. It’s a place where you can forget about the stresses of everyday life and just enjoy the simple pleasures of life. It’s a place where you can connect with nature and with the people you love.

WHY IT WORKS

1. SLIDING DOORS

A sliding door will allow you to create a sense of space and to let in natural light. It will also provide better insulation and energy efficiency.

2. OVERSIZED LIGHTING

This is a great way to bring in natural light during the day and to create a warm and inviting atmosphere at night.

3. TEXTURED WALLS

These are a great way to add interest and texture to a room. They can also be used to create a sense of depth and to make a room feel larger.

4. CHOOSING THE RIGHT FLOORING

The right flooring will impact the overall look and feel of a room. Consider the style of your home and your personal taste when choosing flooring. Think about the durability and maintenance required for each type of flooring.

5. A LARGE COTTON AREA RUG

These are a great way to add color and texture to a room. They can also be used to create a sense of depth and to make a room feel larger.

6. RECLAIMED OR REFINISHED FURNITURE

These pieces of furniture can add a lot of character and personality to a room. They can also be a great way to save money and to create a unique and one-of-a-kind look for your home.

Take it from Steven...

A living room should be a place where you can relax and unwind. It should be a place where you can connect with the people you love. It should be a place where you can create memories and create a sense of place for your family. When designing a living room, consider the space you have and how you can best use it. Think about the flow of the room and how it will be used. Consider the size and shape of the room and how it will affect the placement of furniture. Think about the color and texture of the materials you choose and how they will interact with each other. Choose fabrics and colors that fit the style of your home and your personal taste. And most importantly, have fun and enjoy the process of creating a space that is truly your own.
idea home design team

Interior design: Steven Gambrell

Steven established his New York-based design firm, S. R. Gambrel, 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.”

Construction: Windward Builders, LLC

Joe Larson and Gus Millard, 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, pallemsmith.com.

Don't worry about picking 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.

WHAT'S COTTAGE

We're designing a bedroom for my wife, in a small, two-story cottage. It's one of the few places I really enjoy spending time. I like to read on the couch and in the morning, I like to take a leisurely breakfast. The bedrooms are small and cozy, with a spacious balcony that overlooks the fountain. The bedrooms are small and cozy, with a spacious balcony that overlooks the fountain.

1. USE TWIN STOOLS Instead of a regular bed, use a set of twin beds. It's a good idea to keep the bed small so you can fit the small space. Use a small nightstand for the beds. Be sure to use matching nightstands. The Twins 3. FRAME ARTWORK Between the twin beds, use a small frame to hold your favorite artwork.

2. TRY COMING TOGETHER Try a little extra space in the room so you can walk through. Mix stripes for a modern look. The varying stripes on the bed and art don't clash but the patterns and colors complement each other. But don't take it too much further and end up with a large, monochromatic room.

4. TRAVEL LIVING Mix stripes for a modern look. The varying stripes on the bed and art don't clash but the patterns and colors complement each other. But don't take it too much further and end up with a large, monochromatic room.
WHAT MAKES A GREAT GUEST ROOM

You know what you love when you visit a friend’s house. It may be the plush cotton towels, the lamp on the bedside, 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.)

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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 just 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."
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."