· PROJECT HOUSE ·

A Family Retreat

Our latest project house reveal will have you dreaming of a vacation in the mountains with your loved ones.

BY KRISTIN DOWDING

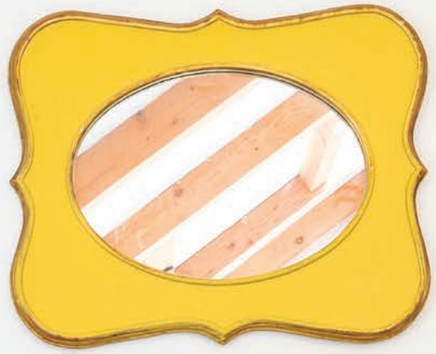
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RIDGELIGHT STUDIO LLC

STYLING BY HEATHER ALTON AND AMY MITCHELL

With modern farmhouse furniture, large wall-to-wall windows and the post-and-beam structure, the dining room is the epitome of American mountain style. Amy opted for chairs with straight lines and cottage colors to blend the two styles for a design that will last. The wall art on the fireplace became a focal point to balance the vaulted ceilings. "I try to inject something unexpected," says Amy. "I didn't want to have one big piece, so I chose a grid."

Our project house in New Hampshire is almost complete, and we couldn't be happier with the way it's taking shape. Partnering with our sister title Cottages and Bungalows, our builder Yankee Barn Homes, our sponsors and a group of talented designers has made this vision of a farmhouse cottage come to life, and we're ready to reveal new spaces.

Designer Amy Mitchell of Home Glow Design was responsible for a mountain-worthy dining room, and she mixed modern shapes with classic colors for the perfect combination in this open space.



"I'm trying to get younger families to purchase furniture from quality American makers."

—Amy Mitchell

FAMILY DINING

"I was going for modern American mountain farmhouse," says Amy. "I needed furniture pieces with a bit of heft to them with clean silhouettes for a good, clean presence." With her mix of wood and upholstered chairs from Gat Creek and Carrington Court, Amy was able to blend American-made farmhouse furniture with cottage-inspired colors and textures. "I'm trying to get younger families to purchase furniture from quality American makers," she says.

(above, left) **The windowsill can be an ideal spot for reading or enjoying the outdoor scenery. A vintage quilt and plush pillows provide comfort and color to make the nook cozy. Yankee Barn Homes chose windows with a clean look that would complement the farmhouse/cottage style of the home.**
(above, right) **The chosen furniture was an effort to put a modern spin on traditional pieces. "The whitewash ash was a different take on a live-edge trestle table, and the chairs by Gap Creek are an updated take on a classic captain's chair," says Amy.**
(bottom, right) **Vintage crates from Vermont Antique Mall provide extra storage space for books and supplies, and they act as rustic art in a space with limited walls.**
(opposite) **VThe multi-pattern peacock chair from Company C. was the color palette inspiration for the loft. Bright hues inspire a fun vibe for a creative workspace.**

To balance out the vaulted ceiling, Amy wanted to feature décor that would bring the eye to a middle point between the floor and ceiling. "I did that with art on the fireplace so not all the furnishings were at ground level," she says. "Putting plates in a pattern on the wall is traditional, but I loved that these were splatter art. It puts a twist on a traditional element."

Because this project home wasn't designed with a specific family in mind, Amy needed to have a design plan that centered around the home's function. "I pictured this as a vacation space meant for gathering and chatting," she says. "I created layers of lighting so the family can play games and converse without having all the lights on," she says.

LOFTY GOALS

Though the dining space is suitable for both eating and entertaining, every family getaway needs a creative space for projects, work or play, and we had designer Heather Alton of New England Design Elements work her magic to turn the upstairs loft into a fun studio.

"I like to be in an open space when I work rather than behind closed doors," Heather says. The loft is a beautiful relaxing space with plenty of windows, but it also serves as a functional room as it leads to the bedrooms at the front of the house on the second floor. This dichotomy meant the layout required careful planning. "It's a difficult room to design because it's mostly stairs, doors and windows," she says.

To overcome this challenge, Heather split the space into three zones with different purposes. "I looked at the function of the space first," she says. "I didn't want anything to block the loft railing, so I avoided putting heavy furniture there." By the process of elimination, she was able to distinguish which elements were needed to make the space functional and inspirational. The chair and table near the railing act as a more serious workspace, while the armchair and windowsill spaces are more comfortable options for reading or other recreational activities.

BOHO FARMHOUSE

The color palette was based on a special find that became the catalyst for not only the color scheme but also the style touches. "I found that bohemian-style wingback chair with the peacocks, so I decorated everything based around that," Heather says. The colorful patterns and textures lend a bohemian vibe to this space for a fun and creative atmosphere, but it's still rooted in farmhouse/cottage style. "Blue and green are natural partners, and the purples I used are warm purples," she says. Little vases of greenery grace the room, adding a natural touch that brings the outside in.

"I really wanted people to see the traditional palette of a post-and-beam house and [combine] it with a vibrant family that would need good, quality décor to live up to their lifestyles with the fresh colors that would make it their happy space," she says.

TO SEE THE GREAT ROOM, CHECK OUT THE HOLIDAY ISSUE OF COTTAGES AND BUNGALOWS.

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128.

(top, left) **Heather envisioned a creative studio/artist's hangout for this loft area. Its openness and small touches of greenery connect this space to the outdoors, making it the perfect spot for quiet activity or contemplation.**

(top, right) **Large windows by Marvin® climb up the walls of the home's structure, allowing plenty of natural light to shine through. Due to the size and quantity of windows, the scenery became a backdrop—almost like wallpaper—and the interior furnishings are a mix of deep blues and purple to complement the greenery, both outdoors and in.**

(opposite, bottom) **Though chandeliers from Golden Lighting hang from the ceiling, Amy included table lamps to add more intimate lighting to the space in the event of a small family gathering. These lamps from Modern Lantern were the perfect fit in style and function.**

FOR MORE ON FARMHOUSE-STYLE WINDOW OPTIONS, VISIT AMERICANFARMHOUSESTYLE.COM.

TOP 3 *Farmhouse* WINDOW STYLES

We partnered with Marvin® for the windows, as they have multiple styles that complement the historic yet modern look we were going for. We asked Marvin® to provide insight into which options work best with farmhouse style.

1. **DOUBLE HUNG.** "The double-hung window has two sashes, or operable panes, that can open from the bottom and top of the window. It offered great ventilation in original farmhouses (and still does today for those who prefer to keep the air conditioning off)," says Kris Hanson, Director of Group Product Management.
2. **AWNING.** Similarly, the awning windows are hinged at the top of the frame and also open outwards. Most importantly, they come with the option of simulated grids on the windowpane. "Marvin® offers many different divided lite patterns on our windows, which allows fans of more modern farmhouse style to choose different operation styles and still keep a historic look," says Kris. "The divided lite, or grid pattern, mimics the look of the individual panes of glass that were used to make a window before more efficient practices, like double-paned glass, became the norm."
3. **CASEMENT.** With sashes that are hinged on one side of the frame, casement windows are another great farmhouse choice for their large size options, clean sight lines and ability to add divided lite patterns.