

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

# DESIGN

NEW ENGLAND

## GATHER AROUND

THE  
MAGAZINE  
OF SPLENDID  
HOMES  
AND GARDENS

BEAUTIFUL KITCHENS FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

**MOXIE HILL FARM** reveals itself as the visitor drives up the lane: pool house, entertaining barn, living-dining-kitchen wing, family house, "door yard," garage. Although a large complex, the small units of the design create a human-scaled experience. The ensemble is a contemporary update of a 19th-century Vermont dairy farm.



# Moxie Hill

ARCHITECTURE  
TRUEXCULLINS ARCHITECTURE  
+ INTERIOR DESIGN

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
WAGNER HODGSON  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

INTERIOR DESIGN  
LILLIAN AUGUST  
FURNISHINGS + DESIGN



# *Farm*

A DESIGN EMBRACES THE NEW ENGLAND BIG HOUSE, SMALL HOUSE, BACK HOUSE, BARN TRADITION WITH A FRESH, MODERN APPROACH

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM MORGAN • PHOTOGRAPHED BY JIM WESTPHALEN

**THE TALL BARN** interior brings in a lot of light, while the large space is divided into entertaining zones; white pine walls create a cozy ambiance. Entrance to the farmhouse (FACING PAGE) is through a traditional Greek Revival-inspired doorway.

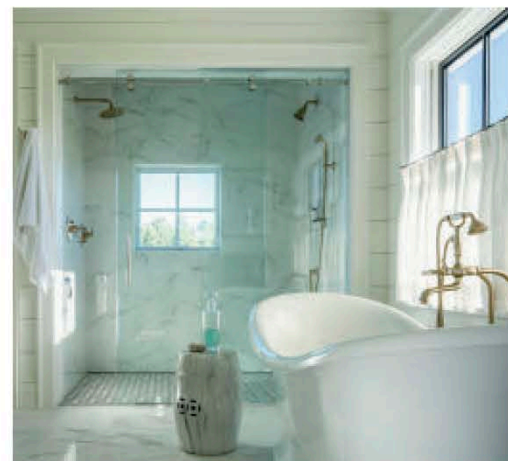
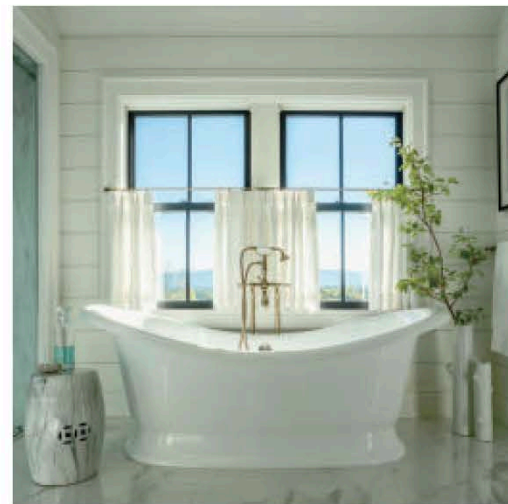




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et in a meadow in Vermont dairy country and named for a beloved Labrador retriever, Moxie Hill Farm is the dream home of a couple who met when he was coaching football for his alma mater, Middlebury College, and she was playing basketball for rival Colby College. (Later, their son shot hoops for Middlebury and one of their twin daughters played basketball for Colby.) The athletic thread extended to their choice of architect to design their house: Lee Grutchfield of TruexCullins Architecture + Interior Design in Burlington, Vermont, stood out not only for his work but also because he had played point guard for Brandeis University. (Grutchfield's father also had an illustrious basketball career at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in the early 1960s.) Coincidentally, Keith Wagner of Wagner Hodgson Landscape

Architecture of Burlington and Hudson, New York, the landscape architect on the job, had played basketball at the University of Vermont.



ding vows for their 25th anniversary. So, while the house sleeps a dozen college-age friends and the barn can handle groups of 100 or more for a party, the library, living, and dining room are friendly, small-scale spaces. Thus, the big farmhouse kitchen feels cozy, serving as the heart of the house while offering views of fields and mountains.

The dramatic 50-by-30-foot barn, with its second-story loft, wet bar, wine cooler, and game area, can absorb a 16-foot-tall Christmas tree or a college weekend party. But with comfortable seating, large fireplace, and 33-foot-high, end-of-wall windows that frame the landscape, it can be a contemplative space as well.

For his part, Wagner respected the understatement of the domestic design with strong outdoor lines, stone walls to define space, and the strategic placement of trees and plants. The whole purpose of the landscape design, says Grutchfield, commenting on Wagner's work, "is not to interfere with the views."

And what views. A native of Maine, the wife misses the seacoast but has found mountain views amazing in their own right. "I love to watch the sun rise in the morning when I am out there with the dogs." And she embraces the changing weather across the Green Mountains, "when you can see snow on the mountaintops in the distance or the flaming colors of fall." ■

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### ► BATH INSIGHT LUXURY WITH A VIEW

The owners of Moxie Hill Farm have a special master suite. The self-contained enclave above the living and dining rooms is reached by its own staircase. Beyond the cozy bedroom and sitting area is a large bathroom (ABOVE AND TOP) designed by Susan DesGrosseilliers, owner of Fixtures Designer Plumbing Showroom in Rockland, Maine. The space reinforces the theme of Vermont farmhouse vernacular enhanced with contemporary, luxurious products and hardware.

Echoing the exterior sheathing, the walls are white clapboard, while the giant walk-in shower has a marble floor and walls and ceiling of porcelain tile that looks like Carrara marble. The same tile is used for the bathroom floor.

California Faucets supplied the bronze-colored hardware; the British-designed Victoria + Albert double-slipper tub, a blend of Volcanic Limestone and resin, was handmade in South Africa. Two-over-two farmhouse windows above the bath frame the spine of the Green Mountains. Once again, everything in the house embraces the views.