



[housetour]



# Living Harmony

*Taste and tranquility—ties that bind in an 1810 farmhouse*

**N**ext to a rutted country road and hunkered down on six vestigial acres of an early 19th-century farm sits this Federal-style home. Enchanted by the rural setting, the Walsh-Rothschild clan—a merged family of seven, with five teenage daughters, two dogs, and a cat—fell for the place at first sight.

Unlike so many old farmhouses, the property had been well-maintained throughout generations of owners. Original features like wide-plank chestnut floorboards are still intact despite nearly 200 years of use. Thanks to a prior owner, the aged structure, with its warren of rooms and steep, narrow stairways, now opens out to a gracious open-plan annex with ample living space for the family and their friends.

Airy and with plenty of windows, the generous addition has a kitchen and dining area with a vaulted, beamed ceiling to link it visually to the ancient overhead beams in the original portion. The space transitions into a sunken living room, with additional architectural elements that relate the new construction to the old. The fireplace and

**ELEGANT CONTRASTS** In the light-filled dining area, the eight-and-a-half-foot-long custom cherry table is handcrafted with a raw “live edge,” giving it a primitive yet elegant appeal. A set of tall-backed cream-and-brown slipper chairs have a stylized floral motif. Above the table, an ornate two-toned amber Venetian cut-glass chandelier was customized to Kathy’s specifications.



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**SUNNY SPOT** In the homey living room (opposite), Kathy introduced a ten-foot canvas umbrella, hand-painted in Indonesia as part of a program to provide water to the world's poor. Treasured artifacts make the house a home (left). Kathy Walsh and Trip Rothschild in their light-filled home.



mantel are trimmed with traditional details and flanked by built-in bookshelves. French doors open out to a screened dining portico.

A stairway intersects the addition and leads to the master suite at the back of the house. The layout separates the parent's bedroom from the kids' rooms, with a conjoined common area between. The design appealed to owners Kathy Walsh and Trip Rothschild right away. "Flexibility was a big part of the decision-making process," Trip says about their almost instant decision to buy the house. As a mom, Kathy's concerns were more practical: "My priority was simply having enough bathrooms for five teenage girls." Kathy and Trip are the symbiotic husband-and-wife team behind Homeward Bound, a home-furnishings business whose motto is "interior harmony." With three stores—in Great Barrington, West Harford, and, closest to home, New Milford—their mantra seems to be working.

Art went up on the walls the very day they closed on the house, before any of the furniture arrived. This lively collection of paintings includes pieces



#### FAMILY INFLUENCE

This bright room is a microcosm of Kathy's world: souvenirs from her travels are interspersed with comfortable furnishings like the cushy couch, made from 100-percent organic materials. In one daughter's room, vibrant chartreuse walls are paired with subdued blue accents.



Kathy and Trip have collected during their frequent travels, as well as treasured heirlooms and works by local artists. Kathy's strategy for creating a true haven for her family is to bring in only those things that she really loves. "It's about all the senses," she says, to describe the philosophy she uses to compose a resonant fusion of art, music, aroma, and texture.

As a former buyer for some of the most important New York City retailers, Kathy was sought after for her modern, refined taste. Now she draws on that expertise to produce beautiful environments that she infuses with a social consciousness as well. The plush and soothingly tactile furnishings found throughout her home are high-style and decidedly earth-friendly. Upholstered pieces constructed of organic materials and sustainably harvested woods are chosen whenever possible.

She energizes her décor with a confident composite of old and new pieces, constantly rotating in





#### GOING GREEN

Traditional elements like the raised-panel cabinets and granite counters are balanced with colorful accents to add warmth to the bright, airy kitchen. Woven counter stools add a substantial punch of color to the space.

new favorites from the store and pairing them with mementos from her travels and beloved items like her grandmother's candlesticks that she admired when she was little.

As busy entrepreneurs, Kathy and Trip both have home offices. Hers is an oasis that expresses her personal style and inspires her creativity. The key for her is that it reflects her spirit completely; she achieves greatest productivity in a calm, comfortable place.

The couple's stewardship of the old property led to a few key enhancements that expanded the living spaces to the outdoors. Modern amenities such as a fire pit and hot tub were installed on a new brick patio, now a favorite gathering place for family and friends. While their busy schedules keep Kathy and Trip away much of the time, they are always happy to return homeward—to recharge, reconnect, and enjoy their halcyon days. ■