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HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

52 Pages Of The Rooms We Want Most

**Our Guide To
Living
In The 90s**



THE LITTLE RETREAT

LIVING IN THE 90s

Life in the fast lane includes finding the right exit—like this ideal retreat on the Maryland shore. Welcome to the weekend



A hub of summer activity, this recently built Maryland cottage (opposite and above left) reflects the simple silhouette of a much older boathouse (above right), also on the property. ▶







“We started collecting Americana about five years ago,” says the owner. “It’s become an obsession.” An oval-top table (*left*) supports a weathered birdhouse and a small bird transporter. Beside it, old exercise weights. Paintings by Natalee Everett Goodman of Dorset, Vt. Plate, Marston Luce Antiques.

A soaring roof lifts the spirit, and tall French doors open to the light and the pool

Getting away from it all is getting to be a weekend habit. A country cottage or cabin, informal and RELAXED, offers a quick refresher—a peaceful oasis in our hectic lives. For a shopping center developer, his fashion retailer wife and their two children, greener pastures are but a 90-minute drive from their Washington, D.C., home.

Nestled in a landscape rich with wildlife in Maryland’s Talbot County, their retreat sits on the historic Tred Avon River. Here, escape from workaday cares is found in FAMILY STYLE entertaining.

“It’s paradise,” says the owner. “I want-

ed something like a barn, something that had a rustic, homey, warm, comfortable feeling—something that looked like it belonged on the property.”

So he commissioned Versaci, Neumann, and Partners, Architects, of Washington, D.C., to design a hideaway that mirrored the traditional styling of the 19th-century houses already on the site. Designer Celeste Hart brought her eye for DETAIL to the cozy, airy space. What was the result? A friendly getaway that doesn’t skimp on creature comforts. Inviting and unpretentious, it reflects the family’s country tastes and PERSONAL STYLE. ▶



A harmonious mix of old and new, the living/dining area features cypress siding, slightly gapped to give the impression of age. Contemporary sofas flank a cobbler’s bench. Aqua chairs enliven the antique harvest table. Golden balls from an old pawn shop catch the light from a medley of windows (*right*) and cast a sunny glow. Sofas, Ménage, Inc.; fabric, Karl Mann Associates. Rug, Thos. K. Woodard.







MADE IN
PITTSBURGH

NATIONAL
BISCUIT



“I wanted something like a barn—a rustic, homey, comfortable feeling”

From a distance, it's difficult to tell whether this Colonial-style cottage is old or new, large or small. “Because of the roof line, it doesn't look imposing,” says the owner. “But when you get inside, the volume of space has a big impact.”

The pitched roof soars 16 feet, but beams bring the interior down to human scale. Eight-foot-high French doors and double-hung windows let the family enjoy their idyllic surroundings—and keep an eye on poolside action. A second bath, accessible only from outside, and an adjacent outdoor shower reduce the indoor traffic. The brick floor ensures good looks and easy maintenance, while the painted rough-hewn cypress walls and vintage heart pine beams in the living area provide a PARED DOWN, soothing backdrop for the owners' colorful collection of 18th- and 19th-century American antiques. To complete the rustic look, Celeste Hart chose limestone for the extended hearth and the kitchen counter, which tops a variety of appliances. Neatly designed, this LITTLE RETREAT stylishly proves that good things can, indeed, come in small packages. ■

Editor KIRSTEN HARWOOD
Writer MARY ANN CASTRONOVO FUSCO
Photographer WALTER SMALLING

Antique cupboards flank the streamlined kitchen. The brilliant step-back cupboard (opposite) houses a collection of reproduction Pennsylvania redware. Built in 19th-century Maine, the gray chimney cupboard (above right) works for closed-door storage. The hanging fish—from an old bait shop—is part of the owners' extensive collection of trade signs. Limestone kitchen counter by U.S. Tile and Marble. A bedroom (right) is sunny with floor-to-ceiling windows. Beaded wainscoting covers walls and ceiling. Matching rope beds are dressed with antique quilts, atop linens by Ralph Lauren. Rug, Thos. K. Woodard.

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