

# AT HOME tennessee

TWO SISTERS  
CAMP

## Smoky Mountain Getaway

Tennessee's Wine Trail | At Home with Derek Dooley  
Nashville's New Historic Home

\$4.99US AUG 10

08>



0 74820 08646 9



## feature

The farmhouse's kitchen and keeping room provide ample views of the trout stream, lake and pool. Sage green cabinets with an umber glaze work with rich, gray-green soapstone countertops and a custom patina copper vent hood to give this kitchen an elegant countryside feel. The unique floral print drapery fabric in the keeping room was the first textile chosen in the entire home, and the design built on it from there.







## Low-Country Soul

Relaxed, easy, soothing and calm, this Mississippi farmhouse exudes casual elegance and evokes day-dreams of simpler times, when taking in the scenery on the porch with a glass of iced tea and a good friend was all you needed to make the day a great one.

TEXT Cara Sievers | PHOTOGRAPHY Mike Boatman | FLORALS Holliday Flowers



Nestled among the expansive rolling hills of back-country Slayden, Mississippi, is a farmhouse like no other. Just an hour away from Memphis, this enchanting oasis is the epitome of Southern charm and hospitality in homestead form.

About a decade ago, the owners assembled a team of professionals that could turn their farmhouse dreams into a reality. Well-known Memphis architect Brad Shapiro of Shapiro & Company Architects, Inc., along with landscape architect Ben Page of Nashville-based Page Duke Landscape Architects, homebuilders Kircher Belz and Memphis-based interior designer Rhea Crenshaw, collaborated with the owners to erect the home and outlying buildings within 18 months. Gracing 600 acres of lush landscape, complete with a huge lake and custom-designed trout stream, the rural retreat was born. And although it was a brand new build, it instantly had a story to tell—a heritage loomed by an eclectic array of antiques and reclaimed materials.

The farmhouse has a traditional low-country feel with a gorgeous red tin roof and a wraparound porch that surrounds almost the entire home. The exterior is constructed of reclaimed brick from a building that was demolished in downtown Memphis, a material that is repeated throughout the home, along with reclaimed cypress beams and antique pine floors.

"All of that makes it have the feeling that the house evolved over time, and that it wasn't just a new build,"

says Crenshaw. "We really wanted it to feel lived-in and have a soul from day one."

Crenshaw, the designer, is much like the aesthetic in the farmhouse—relaxed, comfortable and laid back. For 25 years, she has been working with clients to help them discover and portray their own individual style. "Every house I do is really very different," she explains. "Unlike a lot of designers who have a very canned look, my

spaces are very much about the individual. For example, with this Mississippi farmhouse, the homeowner and I picked out every little piece and every little detail. They didn't necessarily all go together from the beginning; but as the design evolved, they all found a home."

For this design project, Crenshaw was lucky enough to have a real-life inspiration to help with the collaboration. "I grew up going to my grandmother's farm in Ashland City, Tennessee, just outside of Nashville," she says. "Its interiors felt very similar to this. A lot of the design was a pull from actual experience from childhood and nostalgia."

Crenshaw describes the interior of the farmhouse as very eclectic, warm and comfortable. She and the homeowner traveled to France to purchase much of the furniture, light fixtures and antiques in the home, and they also got

many pieces from local dealers in Memphis, Nashville and Atlanta. The fact that not a single piece of furniture in the house is new (except for the upholstery) makes every room feel worn-in, cozy and welcoming.

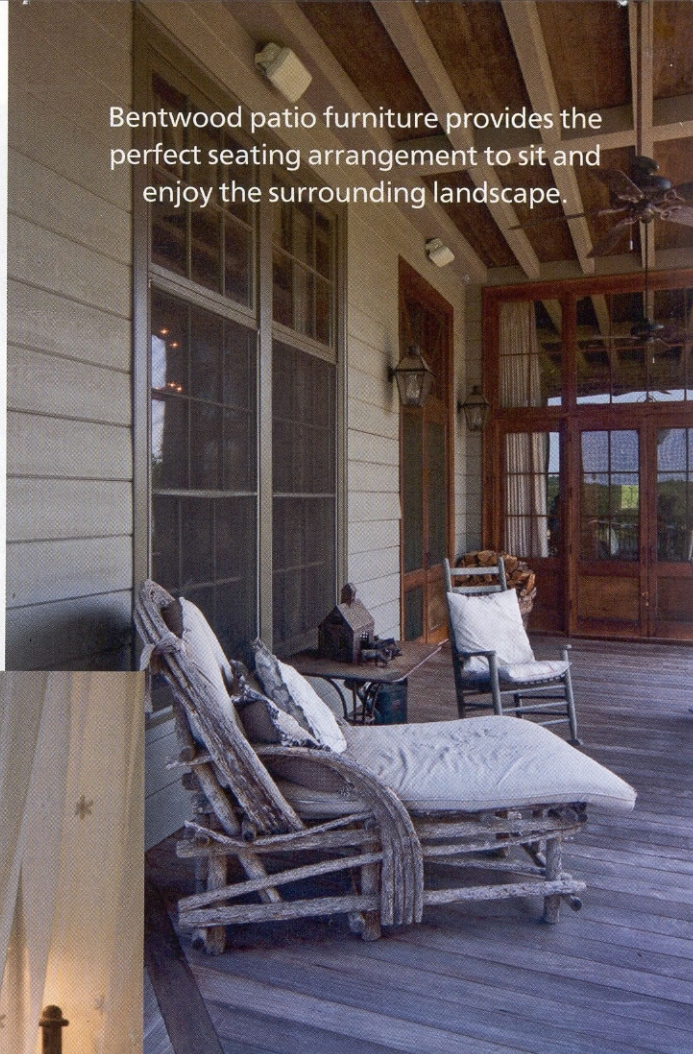
A warm and natural color palette of reds, browns and greens with pops of color here and there, helps to bring the outside in. With 12-foot floor-to-ceiling windows in the kitchen, dining room and living room, the landscape



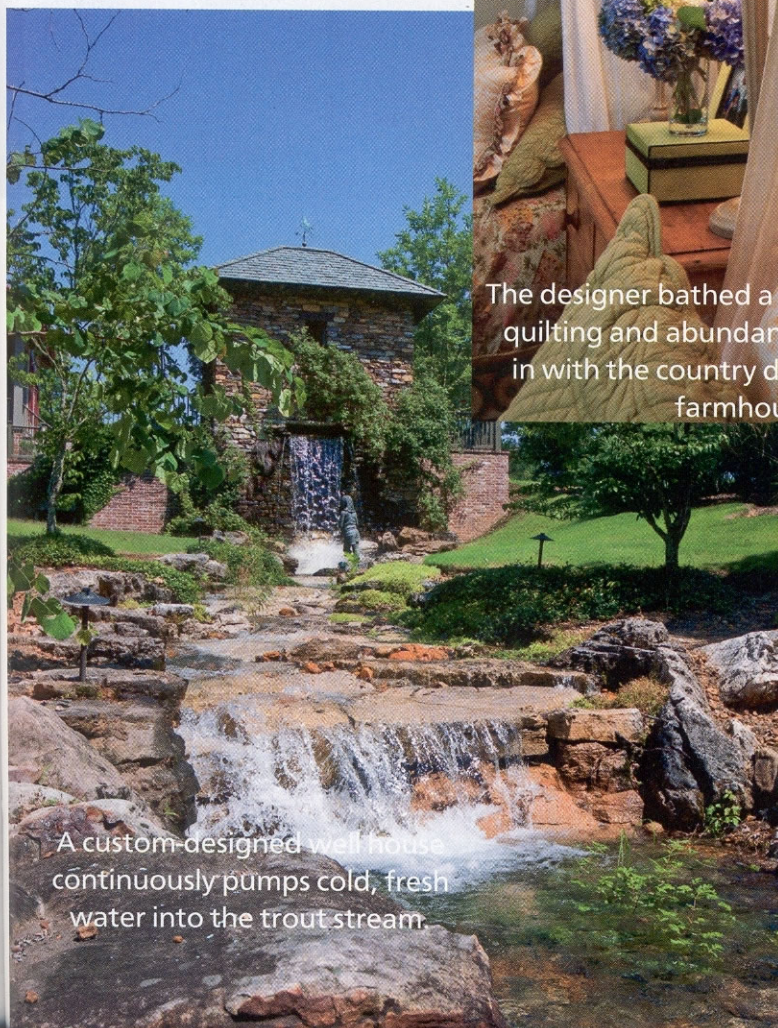




The dining room, built to look like a later addition to the home, combines sophisticated champagne-colored taffeta draperies with rustic and reclaimed cypress siding.



Bentwood patio furniture provides the perfect seating arrangement to sit and enjoy the surrounding landscape.



A custom-designed well house continuously pumps cold, fresh water into the trout stream.



The designer bathed a bedroom in classic quilting and abundant florals to blend in with the country disposition of the farmhouse.



Vignettes throughout the house combine French antiques, cozy fabrics and warm farmhouse flair.





The cream and taupe hues of the master bedroom create a calm haven bookended by beautiful cypress ceilings and antique pine floors, and punctuated by a Louis XVI buffet.

becomes an important element of the interior design. "There's so much glass and the terrain is so beautiful with all seasons," says Crenshaw. "In the summer, you have lush, rolling green hills covered with trees; and in the fall, you can watch the foliage mature into a million brilliant colors."

The home design also incorporates the great outdoors into the dining room, which is made to look like it was a porch brought into the house at a later date. The homeowners wanted it to feel as though the home was once a little house that expanded and evolved as the farm itself grew over time. One wall of the dining room has the same cypress siding that is on the exterior of the home, making it look like an addition. The room's louvered doors, which also are made out of the antique cypress, have a shutter feel, adding to the porch-like ambiance of the room.

The outdoor experience of the farm is a recurring motif in the home's interior design. Many of the treasured relics and paintings are a nod to the wildlife on the land, including deer, wild turkey, bass and trout, and also quail and pheasants that are occasionally released for

hunts. The property also boasts two barns and a riding ring and lit horse-jumping area, naturally projecting the horse theme into the design as well. In fact, one of the only new paintings in the home is a work that was commissioned by local artist Pam Wagner – it features some of the animals on the farm and has become a signature piece of the home. Another custom art piece is the pastoral mural that lines the walls of the master bathroom and mimics the landscape directly outside the window.

The five-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bath retreat also has a separate pool house with a screened-in porch, kitchenette and his and hers bath with an outdoor shower. A beautiful jasmine-draped trellis provides the perfect spot to take in the afternoon breeze. "There's always a breeze at this house. It never seems hot," says Crenshaw. "I guess it blows up from the lake and over the hills and across the acreage. It's a magical place."

See Sources for Details





Whether relaxing on the porch swing or sidling up to the picnic table, the porch provides abundant, comfortable outdoor living space.



One of the many outdoor spaces on the farm, the pool and screened-in porch supply an al fresco experience – whether in shade or sun – that only untouched country can offer.