



THE ULTIMATE **NEW** OLD HOUSE



At the 2014 *Country Living* House of the Year in Rhinebeck, New York, our design team brings old-fashioned favorites like farmhouse architecture and pretty patterns back into fashion with fresh twists on classic style.

There's something so alluring about an old house, from the patina of well-worn surfaces to the romance of its storied past. But along with all that character can come costly repairs, dated fixtures, and awkward layouts. So *Country Living* teamed up with Charles Petersheim, founder of the Eldred, New York-based design/build firm Catskill Farms (see page 61), to create a classic farmhouse that offers both historical and modern-day appeal in the picturesque village of Rhinebeck, New York. "It's

a true celebration of what we love about old houses—simplicity, humility, authenticity—with all the functionality of a new home," says Charles. For an equally fresh take on country style, we asked interior designers Anne Maxwell Foster and Suysel dePedro Cunningham, of New York City-based Tilton Fenwick, to infuse the space with their signature color- and pattern-filled aesthetic. The end result: A cozy, relaxed home that effortlessly blends the past with the present. Come on in!

WRITTEN BY VALERIE RAINS • PHOTOGRAPHS BY MONICA BUCK • STYLING BY RAINA KATTELSON



Coral Buff
Benjamin
Moore

← THE KITCHEN

The brown-and-white palette delivers a distinct visual break from the softer, more feminine hues in the adjacent dining and living rooms.

The Classic: Subway tile—a kitchen staple since its early 1900s debut in New York City subway stations.

The Twist: Maybe we're, ahem, biased, but these two-toned angled rows take the run-of-the-mill tile way beyond basic. "It's a graphic element that makes the whole house feel more modern," Anne says. "The double rows are even more striking."

The Classic: A skirted farmhouse sink—a thrifty way to soften the porcelain apron-front sink and hide unsightly plumbing.

The Twist: Ditch the ditsy prints for a large-scale, paisley-inspired motif with colorful trim along the bottom, and the feature transforms from prim to punched-up, just like that.

BRIGHT IDEA!
Mix hardware finishes like this Moen nickel faucet, brass light, and bronze island bin pulls.

THE DINING ROOM >>

Here, warmer tones prevail, from the dark wood table and the patterned fabric to the peachy glow of the pale coral ceiling.

The Classic: A trestle-base farm table (from Cost Plus World Market)—the anchor to any country dining area.

The Twist: The secret to making it feel less rote? Pulling up seating of a less-pastoral provenance, like these caned-back, rope-carved, limed oak numbers.

The Classic: A colorful ceiling—historically sky blue.

The Twist: Skip the expected and opt for this soft coral hue instead. "It's like rouge for the room," says Anne. "It brightens up everything and helps create a flattering aura."



Acadia
White
Benjamin
Moore



BRIGHT IDEA!

These Lutron sensors turn lights on (and off) when they detect motion.

◀ THE LIVING ROOM

Ivory walls provide a crisp backdrop for the dusty rose and powder blue patterned upholstery. The cool-meets-warm mix is perfect for a room devoted to relaxing.

The Classic: Bespoke upholstery—complete with tufting, tape, and trim.

The Twist: Tight tailoring and clean lines on the pair of L-shaped banquettes bring the throwback upholstery squarely into the present day. As for that tufted ottoman with a ruffle? A subtle stripe and contrasting piping tone down the frills.

The Classic: The gallery wall—a (sometimes) hodgepodge mix that can go one-note fast!

The Twist: A more eclectic assortment with a variety of subject matter and media (architectural drawings, portraits, botanical prints) adds sophistication. The finishing touch to this formula: a three-dimensional object, like this pair of antlers.



Davenport Tan
Benjamin Moore

The Classic: Botanical prints—often collected from antique books.

The Twist: Framed in glossy Lucite and stripped down to only two colors—pale blue and white—these country mainstays read as downright minimalist.

The Classic: Patterned area rugs—a tried-and-true tool in a decorator's arsenal for adding warmth.

The Twist: The geometric lines on this jute Dash & Albert number provide a graphic foil to the feminine motifs that otherwise hold sway.

b USE THE FREE BLIPPAR APP to take a video tour of our House of the Year.



◀ THE GUEST BEDROOM

Cheery and welcoming, lemon yellow is a quintessentially country choice for a bedroom. The blues provide a restful note.

The Classic: Wallpaper.

The Twist: Striped fabric on walls creates an even cozier vibe. The designers had paste-ready backing (try fabricback.com) applied to a fabric from their new collection with Duralee.

The Classic: A wrought-iron bed frame—a standby in country bedrooms since the late 19th century.

The Twist: The matte white finish and extra-tall profile of this Charles P. Rogers bed is a minimalist, but just as charming, take on the traditional archetype.

The Classic: Matchy-matchy fabrics—no doubt they had a place in your grandmother's home.

The Twist: A more-is-more approach to pattern (geometric pillows, herringbone rug) and texture (crewelwork sheets) makes the mélange a lot more interesting.

THE OFFICE >>

With pops of vibrant lime green, ice blue, and glossy aqua, boredom is effectively banished from this work space. The secret to staying this side of circus? Choose hues from the same half of the color wheel.

The Classic: A large round natural fiber rug—a popular floor covering that dates back to the Colonial era.

The Twist: An offbeat area rug featuring multiple Cost Plus World Market rush mats stitched together to create a fun, geometric cluster.

The Classic: The spindle leg table—a country icon that's been making the rounds in dark mahogany for years.

The Twist: The super-shiny, blue lacquer finish catapults this piece to the cutting edge. A gilt-trimmed armchair makes for a pleasant office mate.

Dill Pickle
Benjamin
Moore





← THE MASTER BEDROOM

Here, a wash of blue below the chair rail creates a foundation for this airy space, which sprouts a mix of floral patterns and garden-inspired accents.

The Classic: Decorative paint treatments—gracing children's bedrooms throughout the 20th century.

The Twist: This large-scale stencil treatment, which features 10 different paint colors, looks surprisingly grown up. (You can download a similar stencil at countryliving.com/floralstencil.) Decorative painter Dean Barger based it on a section of the bedspread fabric and juxtaposed its intricate details with a simple strié finish below the chair rail.

The Classic: Combined floral and striped prints.

The Twist: Adding a woven fabric to shake up the formula. On this Charles P. Rogers bed, a revamped 1930s textile design adorns the bedspread, a bolster, and the armchair, but the square pillows feature a more contemporary shape and texture.



← THE BATHROOM

The designers turned up the volume on vernacular design elements with super-saturated hues like sapphire, garnet, and turquoise. "Deep colors work best in small rooms," Anne says.


The Classic: Botanical wallpaper.

The Twist: There's nothing dated about the bold-hued rose blooms and metallic detailing on this pattern designed by stationery company Rifle Paper Co. (for Hygge & West). Paired with blue-painted beadboard paneling, the pattern looks fresh, not fussy.

The Classic: A simple square frame.

The Twist: Shiny red Lucite puts a sleek finish on the ordinary shape and echoes the high sheen of the Moen nickel faucet.

Caribbean
Teal
Benjamin
Moore

 **USE THE FREE BLIPPAR APP**
to pin images from this story on Pinterest.

Meet Catskill Farms!

Eldred, New York-based Catskill Farms is a design/build firm known for its right-sized farmhouses that boast open floor plans, state-of-the-art technology, and all the charm of their 19th-century predecessors. Here, founder Charles Petersheim shares his trade secrets when it comes to designing a modern-day home with time-honored style. (For more about Catskill Farms, go to catskillfarms.com.)

-1-

GET INSPIRED BY THE REGION.

"Houses that look like they belong in their surroundings have long-lived appeal," says Charles. Take the wraparound porch, an icon of rural landscape: It gives this house instant farmhouse cred, extra living space, and lower energy bills.

-2-

DESIGN A SMALLER, SMARTER HOME.

"Historic homes can feel cramped—but the answer is not more square footage, which ultimately goes unused and unloved," says Charles. Instead, he advises opening up the space within a traditionally sized footprint by eliminating certain walls and adding windows.

-3-

CHOOSE SIMPLE, MODEST MATERIALS.

"The essence of a truly great home is not fancy details but soul. We try not to over-adorn," says Charles. Here, he installed shutterless, two-over-two paned windows that flood the interiors with light without complicating the façade. "They're authentically humble, just like you would've found 100 years ago," he says.

-4-

PERFECT THE ART OF IMPERFECTION.

"Old houses have personality because they're anything but perfect," says Charles. One way to rough up a new space? Add salvaged wood, like planked ceilings. "The cracks and nail holes can't be smoothed away. Even when installed perfectly, they'll still be imperfect," he says.

1 PALETTE, 24 PAINT COLORS

From lights to brights, these Benjamin Moore shades give our House of the Year a cohesive feel. Pick just one, or mix-and-match for a smart scheme.



simply white



white dove



acadia white



sail cloth



pale oak



davenport
tan



coral buff



desert rose



genuine pink



old claret



currant red



crushed
velvet



dill pickle



stem green



rosemary
green



caribbean
teal



bashful blue



buxton blue



buckland
blue



naples blue



blue danube



champion
cobalt



graphite



black

Special Thanks

We're indebted to our sponsors and design team for bringing our House of the Year to fruition.

SPONSORS:

Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com

Charles P. Rogers, charlesprogers.com

Cost Plus World Market, worldmarket.com

Lutron, lutron.com

Moen, moen.com

DESIGN TEAM:

DESIGN/BUILD
Catskill Farms, catskillfarms.com

INTERIOR DESIGN
Tilton Fenwick, tiltonfenwick.com

PROJECT MANAGER
Carol Neiley, basicfrenchonline.com

DECORATIVE PAINTING

Dean Barger, deanbarger.com

LANDSCAPING

Adams Landscaping, adamslandscaping.com

For a complete list of contributors, see our resource guide, page 106.