

AMERICAN FARMHOUSE

75+ IDEAS FOR COZY COUNTRY DÉCOR

Style

The Furniture Issue

FROM FARMHOUSE TABLES TO WINDSOR CHAIRS AND MORE

DIYs to Ready Your Home for Fall

Expert Advice on Room Layouts



Setting the **STAGE**

Discover how architecture can establish the mood of a farmhouse.

BY ELIZABETH FALKENBERG



This home in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, employs an inventive shingle style architecture with a relaxed touch. The crowning feature is the elongated, open concept veranda, which offers "shelter and shade while not denying a single speck of pleasure from the great outdoors."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID BADER AND MATT MORAN



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The strength of a building lies in its foundation, and the style of a foundation can always be traced back to its architecture. When designing a home to have a farmhouse mood, architect Wade Weissmann prioritizes architectural characteristics that favor practicality, natural materials and elegant simplicity. In his new book *Heirloom Houses: The Architecture of Wade Weissman*, author Steven Stolman catalogs the principles at work in Wade's diverse architectural portfolio.

PLACE AND SPACE

In the early stages of a project, Wade first examines the "contextual layers that encompass and envelop the already existing site." The land, foliage, availability of light and neighboring structures are all insights Wade uses in his designs. The main features of farmhouse design are rural locations, functional porches and the coexistence of formal and informal spaces. Farmhouse homes should take "full advantage of the topography, surrounding views and natural light."

Blending various styles of décor and architecture creates distinctive homes. This room establishes an interaction between the sleekness of the chrome trunk and the rustic feel of the blue dresser.

"An architect is nothing if not a storyteller."

Tip

IF YOU'VE GOT IT, FLAUNT IT. HIGHLIGHT DETAILS LIKE VAULTED CEILINGS WITH TALL VERTICAL PIECES THAT WILL DRAW THE EYE UPWARD, SUCH AS A TWO-STORY LADDER AND LONG PENDANT LIGHTS.



These exposed ceiling beams fashion a visible bone structure for the house, which facilitates an accentuation of the high ceiling and open-concept floor plan. In combination with the unique features like the rolling ladder and modern chandelier, the kitchen design "provides a physical and emotional sense of place."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID BADER



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When Wade designs a one-of-a-kind home, he often builds in small nooks and crannies that add personality to a home. This built-in reading nook is a distinctive and whimsical feature of this home.

Tip

TO HIGHLIGHT AN ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL IN YOUR HOME, MAKE IT LOOK DIFFERENT BY KEEPING THE WOOD UNPAINTED. IT WILL STAND OUT AND DRAW ATTENTION.



HEART AND HEARTH

For Wade, "an architect is nothing if not a storyteller." In addition to designing from the outside in, it's also important to design from the inside out. By starting with the lives of the homeowners, Wade crafts homes that best fit the individuality and stories of his clients. Having grown up in an 1860s farmhouse in Door County, Wisconsin, Wade has used the "welcoming environment" of the family farm in his career as an architect. A farmhouse home should be an answer to the stories, lifestyles and practices of those who occupy the space.

WHERE STYLE MEETS SUBSTANCE

With their roots in practical design, farmhouses should reflect the wisdom of a form-follows-function mindset. The "plain lines, an overall lack of ornamentation or color and purely functional construction" of the farmhouse aesthetic can be both stylish and practical. The portion and scale of Wade's homes reflect the specificities of the homeowners. Traditional building materials will tie a new home together and position it within the vernacular style of farmhouse design.

NEW HOUSE TO FARMHOUSE

To add architectural interest to your home, start with the woodwork.

- 1. CROWN MOLDING.** Add crown molding and casing around the windows. The room-framing effect will also add definition and structure to your space.
- 2. EXPOSED CEILING BEAMS.** Exposed beams instantly register farmhouse style, and function as a textural contrast that provides a sense of rugged timelessness. (For instructions on how to do this yourself, see page 94).
- 3. SHIPLAP.** The rough-sawn pine paneling of shiplap is throughout historic barns and homes. Use shiplap or board and batten to evoke the simplicity and charm of farmhouse architecture.



HEIRLOOM HOUSES: THE ARCHITECTURE OF WADE WEISSMAN BY STEVEN STOLMAN, PUBLISHED BY GIBBS SMITH, © 2018; GIBBS-SMITH.COM.