

# COUNTRY LIVING

DECORATING | ANTIQUES | COOKING | TRAVEL | REMODELING | GARDENS

FEATURING  
**CARLISLE WIDE PLANK FLOORS**  
DECEMBER 2004

THIS PAGE: The renovated barn, now the living room, makes a cozy setting before a crackling fire. OPPOSITE LEFT: In the dining room, old Hitchcock chairs surround a trestle table set for a festive gathering. RIGHT: Stacks of books invite casual browsing. ANTIQUE BARN: THE BARN PEOPLE. ARCHITECT: DEIRDRE O'FARRELLY. FLOOR: CARLISLE WIDE PLANK FLOORS. RUG: PATTERSON, FLYNN & MARTIN. OPPOSITE: VOTIVES: ILLUMINATIONS.

*as newlyweds,* Anne and Jim Hardy left the U.S. for the U.K. when Jim's work took them to London. Fourteen years and two sons later (Will is 12; Ned, 9), they returned to Anne's hometown in southwestern Connecticut to take possession of a 1782 blacksmith's cottage. Like many old structures, it had been long on charm but short on space. So, working with architect Deirdre O'Farrelly, they bought a c. 1850 barn that was shipped in pieces, reassembled and refurbished on-site, and connected to the cottage via a new addition. The cottage itself was honed to its stylistic bones. As Anne explains, "We wanted to achieve a feeling of simplicity and tranquility in this house, using natural materials and a mix of antiques and modern pieces." Designed to unify an open floor plan, the neutral color scheme also provides a soothing backdrop at Christmastime for wreaths, candles, and seasonal blooms. And when the Hardys decorate their tree, the ornaments that they have received as gifts remind them of special friends on both sides of the Atlantic.

