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## summer pleasures

54 pages of easy living

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carefree style

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see page 133



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# victorianromance

Designer Annie Selke has a passion for all things home related. When the time came to decorate her family's 19th-century country house, she demonstrated that love with a joyous profusion of color and pattern.



OPPOSITE PAGE: "I'm a collector at heart," says Annie of the tag-sale treasures, family heirlooms, and other distinctive finds she displays throughout her house. A few of her favorites: a childhood portrait of her father, glazed pottery from Potluck Studios, a hall table she picked up for \$25 at a flea market. THIS PAGE, ABOVE: Among the improvements the Selkes made to the exterior was a fresh coat of barn-red paint. "It has been this color for more than 100 years," says Annie. RIGHT: The Sweet Pea bedroom is named for the motif on its Colefax & Fowler wallpaper. BEDDING THROUGHOUT: PINE CONE HILL. SEE SHOPPING GUIDE FOR DETAILS.





annie Selke recalls the day she found her dream house. It was a sunny spring morning and she and her family (husband, Whitney; daughter, Charlotte; clumber spaniel, Dash) were driving along the winding country roads near their hometown of Richmond, Mass., when they saw a for sale sign. Curious, they pulled in for a look—and there, at the end of a half-mile-long drive, was a stunning three-story Shingle-style structure with nine bedrooms and outstanding views of the verdant Berkshire Hills. “Some people might have been frightened by the size, but we weren’t,” says Annie. “It was the kind of house I had always wanted—generously proportioned with lots of rooms to decorate.” Annie, who with her husband runs a number of design-driven firms that produce everything from bed linens and upholstered furnishings (Pine Cone Hill) to tableware (Potluck Studios) and rugs (the Dash & Albert Rug Co.), set about reinvigorating the interiors. In came a kaleidoscopic mix of floral wallpapers, punchy fabrics, and painted flea-market furniture. She also transformed the kitchen into a place that is both fresh and elegant. “I like things that are traditional but quirky,” says Annie. “All of the furnishings in this house are period appropriate—but with a current-day twist.”

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Annie imbued the interiors with color and pattern using Pine Cone Hill quilts. A cement dog from the Brimfield Antiques Market stands at the back door. A Louis XVI-style armchair adds an air of elegance to the Briar Rose bedroom. Annie upholstered the Pine Cone Hill love seat and ottoman in a sprightly gingham check. The view from the back porch. THIS PAGE, ABOVE, LEFT AND RIGHT: Annie combined Pine Cone Hill's Annette quilt with Classic Stripe sheets. On the covered porch Annie and Dash occupy a wicker sectional with a Maine Cottage floral print.



## the kitchen is

the heart of this house—the one room where everyone gathers. Annie reconfigured the layout, removing interior walls and installing stainless appliances and, on the other side of the exposed-brick chimney, a work island and writing desk. The floor's check pattern employs cork squares in two shades of brown—hues echoed on the fabrics in the comfy banquette (opposite page). Family breakfasts are enjoyed at a vintage wicker table. Annie's collection of blue-and-white transferware stands out against the creamy white walls. For everyday dining, Annie mixes plates and bowls from Potluck Studios' Classic and Ruffle dinnerware collections. Quilted place mats, also from Potluck, complete the look. "We have a lot of fun testing products at home," the designer says.







"I hardly ever buy new furniture. I don't see the need," says Annie Selke. "Family heirlooms and flea-market finds are much more fun. An old chest, when dressed in a fresh coat of paint, will brighten any bedroom—and make you smile."

OPPOSITE PAGE: Annie used colorful furnishings to bring new life to a third-floor guest room—formerly a maid's quarters—that had been untouched since the 1950s. "Every room should have at least one piece that makes you smile," she says, referring to a polar bear lamp she purchased while attending the nearby Brimfield Antiques Market. ABOVE, RIGHT: Pine Cone Hill's product range includes everything from bold bed linens and pajamas to floral-scented linen water and other housekeeping supplies. RIGHT: In the laundry room, a painted kitchen cupboard functions as a linen press, providing storage—and display—for stacks of spare comforters and sheets. "I like everything to be visible," says Annie of the cabinet's multipaned glass doors. "It makes retrieving what you need easier."

