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# annie's halls

For her Victorian farmhouse, Pine Cone Hill owner Annie Selke mixes treasures from far-flung places with an easy, fall-where-it-may attitude

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURA MOSS

"My style is traditional with a twist," says Annie, with her spaniels Daisy Mae and Dash.



"I've been evicted from my seat so many times because a dog had its eye on that spot too," laughs Annie about her pooch-friendly pieces. She custom super-sized the blue velvet sofa and Lisimore ottoman (both from her line with Lee Furniture) to create an intimate seating area in the large space.

"This is the home I've always wanted—it has the perfect mix of formality and plop-down-anywhere comfort."

**annie selke** is standing in the corner of her sun-drenched kitchen, trying to ever-so-quietly open an unmarked paper bag without attracting any attention. With a quick glance over her shoulder, she slowly begins inching out a plate of the warmest, gooiest-looking pecan buns ever made, instantly filling the room with the sweet scent of baked honey and maple. "If they didn't hear me, they're definitely going to smell this," she says, just as her two white Cumber spaniels come bounding through the door to form a united pastry roadblock around her feet. "I don't know why I even try to trick them," she laughs. "This is their home turf as much as it is mine."

Annie, the owner of three successful home furnishing firms—Pine Cone Hill (bed linens and furniture), Potluck Studios (tableware) and Dash & Albert (rugs)—knew she'd found the perfect home the moment she saw it six years ago. "I got all tingly while coming up the drive," she says of the stunning three-story, nine-bedroom farmhouse in the Berkshires that she shares with her husband, Whitney, and teenage daughter, Charlotte. "The linen maker in me couldn't wait to decorate all those rooms!" ▶



"Our home tells our family's story," says Annie, whose dressing area is filled with scarves she bought in India.



## mixing patterns

- Choose a muse for the room (a favorite carpet, wallpaper, paint, pillow), and use its design elements to guide you.
- Pick a variety of patterns (stripes, plaids, florals), and repeat each design or color at least once in the room.
- Use shapes with different proportions: large, medium and small.
- Include simple white or cream pieces to separate and highlight the patterns.

Family breakfasts (and impromptu office meetings) take place around the white wash plank table that Annie designed. The banquet seats are upholstered in her favorite coffee-and-cream ticking stripe fabric, which complements her blue-and-white transferware and Cornish Blue pieces. "I'm a collector at heart," she says. "Flea markets and eBay are like my playgrounds."



Built in 1886, the house was in dire need of updating—especially the kitchen. Walls came down, pipes were gutted, appliances installed and a breakfast nook built, revealing a bright space where friends and family often hang out. Even the floors were replaced with soft cork tiles. "It's so much easier on the feet," says Annie.

Her goal was to be period-appropriate without feeling dated. A particular favorite spot among guests is the pink and green Sweet Pea bedroom, page 35, nicknamed for its Colefax & Fowler wallpaper. "Pairing the demure wallpaper with hot pink damask bedding creates the best of both worlds," she says. "That's what I love—classic ideas with a modern spin." **wd**