



At the end of the day, a pink-gold sun melts over the rolling hills of northwest Connecticut.

Subtle pastel colors with warm like Beccom's Fur and Shaded White create a seasonal backdrop for Heidi's family-friendly decorating style, which marries the weathered finish of a scratched pine table with the strong profile of a secondhand wing chair. "I look for pieces with character, which I lighten up with contemporary patterns and fabrics," Heidi says. During the renovation, Heidi and Rade widened doorways between rooms but kept the common-hall floor plan. "We just love that, because we can be in separate rooms but all be together," Heidi says. Whether they're inside hanging out in the TV room or outside feeding chickens or planting garden beds, the mood is relaxed and light. "This is not the type of house that I'm going to care if the kids and my evening their shoulder chip cracks on the couch," Heidi says. "It's just good and it feels real." *By Rebecca, see page 34.*



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Classic and crisp, a white picket fence defines the backyard of Heidi Hendricks and Rade Churchill's house, which crowns a hill on Connecticut farmland.

Modern Simplicity

A creative couple updates a rural 1929 farmhouse to graciously blend the charms of yesterday and the comforts of today.
 Written by Sarah Egge | Photography by John Gruen | Produced by Anna Molvik



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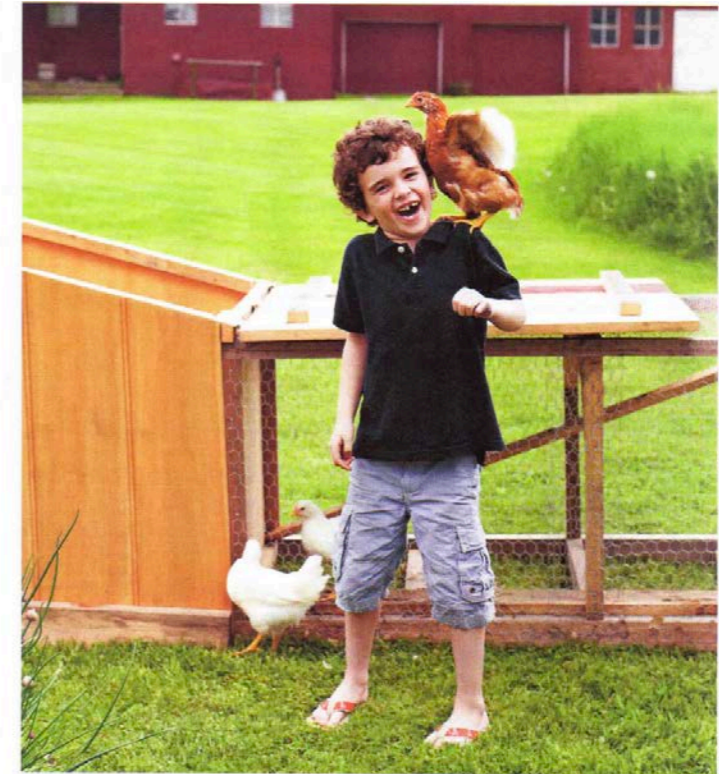


OPPOSITE: Vivid wallpaper sets off one wall in daughter Hollis' room. Twin brass beds accommodate frequent sleepovers. THIS PHOTO: A midcentury modern boomerang table anchors the porch seating area. Various bamboo and wicker pieces are unified with matte black paint and new cushions sewn from all-weather fabric.



Raising Chicks
Thinking about a backyard flock? Get started with these insider tips.

- INVOLVE THE KIDS**
Rufus and Hollis Churchill decorated the coop for their feathered friends, and each day they collect the fresh eggs.
- START RIGHT**
Buy chickens from a reputable seller—a farm-supply store or mail-order hatchery—where you can get advice on choosing hens.
- KEEP IT CLEAN**
Keep the bottom of the roosting area dry and covered with fresh wood shavings or straw.
- WATCH THE DIET**
Suspend feed and water pails from the ceiling, so they don't get spilled but are easy to access. Feed includes chicken grain as well as compost.
- MANAGE THE BOUNTY**
The family has four chickens that each lay on average one egg a day, fewer during the winter.



OPPOSITE: The Hendricks wheeled a "training coop" to a new spot each day for three months to help the chickens learn the yard. ABOVE: Rufus happily fetches eggs and tends the hens. LEFT: Fluffy the chicken helps Heidi garden. "They're a great addition to the family," Heidi says. "You don't need to be an expert—and you get fresh eggs."