

# simple addition

With one  
new great  
room, a

historic  
farmhouse  
gains light,  
views, and a  
comfortable  
gathering  
place

PRODUCED BY LINDA WHITMARSH

PHOTOGRAPHED BY GRIDLEY & GRAVES

WRITTEN BY SAXON HENRY STYLED BY JAMES LELAND DAY





UPPER BUCKS COUNTY, PA



**T**he very first moment that Arthur Mazzei and George Kuebrich spotted this secluded 1830s stone farmhouse in Upper Bucks County, Pennsylvania, they knew they'd found a gem. The old house clings to a hillside, affording panoramic views; and a 200-acre wildlife preserve envelopes the site, protecting it from development on all sides.

**These pages** In the great room, beige walls and white woodwork whisper classic style. **Above** The addition is punctuated by a cupola topped with copper roofing and an antique lightning rod.



Rug: Michael's; End ottoman: Michael's; Gold Pillows: Hable Construction; Yellow throw, blue bowl (on top of books on ottoman), box (on mantle): Stella; Leather boxes (on floor) and green vase (on ottoman) and gold fork (on wall): Doug Trump and available through Spheris Gallery.







Though many of the home's features were less than ideal, the couple saw great potential, explains Mazzei, a sales associate with Kurfiss Real Estate in New Hope, Pennsylvania, who'd seen enough properties to know they'd stumbled upon something special. Deciding to live in the home before renovating in order to gain a clear perspective of the direction they should take, they developed a five-year plan and set to work on the grounds, building exterior staircases and stone walls, and adding to the abundant plantings.

**A**fter living in the home for a while, Kuebrich and Mazzei approached architect Jim Gray of Kaufman & Gray in New Hope to design an addition. Gray persuaded them to embrace a plan that included a gallery and a great room with an abundance of windows and a fanciful cupola.

"When they said that they wanted something magical, I felt I could design an addition with more whimsy," says Gray. "The gallery was added to



**"The great room is a truly exciting room to be in," says Mazzei.**

give the original home and the new addition some breathing room. The flat roof of the gallery made room for a second-story terrace off the master bedroom—a true bonus," says Mazzei.

The standing-seam copper roof was chosen over wood shakes in order to achieve a cleaner and purer architecture, explains Gray. "I thought the main house with all of the exposed stone had enough texture to it," he says. "I didn't want to take away from that, so I thought the clean lines of the stucco and the copper roof blended well without interfering with the original structure." The stucco was painted in a soft vanilla color to match the tones in the home's stone exterior and the masonry of a nearby barn.

Architectural elements, gathered by Mazzei from a demolished building, were embedded in the stucco to give the addition added personality.

Inside, the couple combined comfortable chairs and an ottoman by Mitchell Gold with antiques and accessories they'd found during travels to Europe and jaunts to stateside antique shops and flea markets. The wide-plank cypress floor in the great room echoes the feel of the pine flooring found in the rest of the home. Bricks were used for flooring in the gallery to complement the stone wall that was once the southeast-facing exterior wall of the home. Radiant heat was installed in both of the floors, and the timber framing was left exposed in the great

**Opposite** An antique parsonage table in the new great room holds books, accessories, and one-of-a-kind antiques.

**Above** Comfortable seating makes for an inviting atmosphere. **Below** Colorful pillows and a throw combine to create a festival of color on the toile sofa.







**Above** In the gallery, an antique lantern bought at a flea market in France tops a farm table. **Below** The new addition, gracefully nestled next to the original farmhouse, is embraced by outdoor spaces. See *Resource Guide* for details.

**“When they said they wanted something magical, I felt I could design an addition with more whimsy,” says Gray.**

room, providing support for the roof while adding character to the room.

**F**or the walls, Mazzei and Kuebrich chose a rich green in the gallery and a subtle beige in the great room, pairing the colors with white woodwork to achieve a classic look. Both rooms, says Mazzei, have become the most lived-in spaces in the home. During the day, the antique farm table in the gallery is a

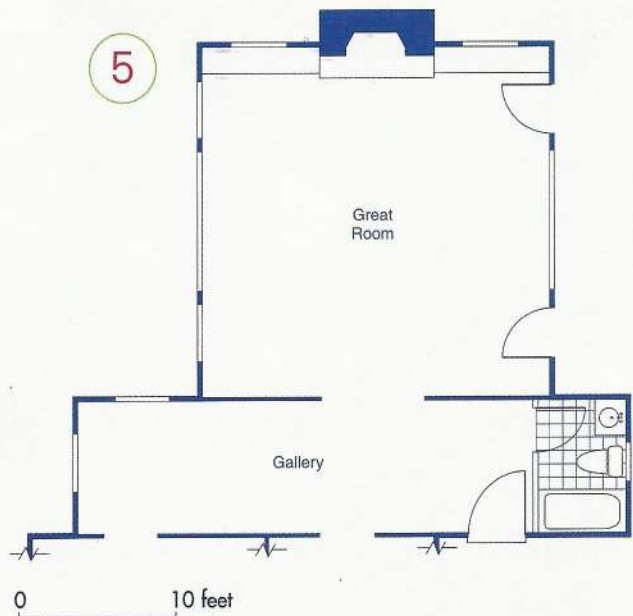
favorite spot to grab a quick meal or to set up computers for a few hours of work. The great room is preferred during evenings when they watch television or read and spend time with their dogs, Mavis and Spartacus.

“The great room is a truly exciting room to be in,” says Mazzei. “Since we’re surrounded by glass on all sides, everything swirls around you—whether it’s a snowstorm or lightening. It’s just spectacular.”



Pillow (on chair in gallery): Hable Construction. Throw (on ladder in gallery): Stella. Yellow box (on desk in gallery): Latco. Print (on desk in gallery): Emily Mason and available through Spheris Gallery. Throw (on roof deck): Stella. Folding stools and tote bag (on patio): Hable Construction.





**1. The great room's** muted hues welcome accent pieces in a variety of colors. **2. Exposed and unpainted,** the roof timbers lead the eye upward, making the room feel even more spacious. **3. Like a fireplace flue,** the cupola's awning windows draw stale warm air up and out. **4. A verdant hillside** forms the back wall of an "outdoor room" artfully paved with Pennsylvania bluestone. **5. The new gallery** serves as a hospitable transition space between the original farmhouse and the great-room addition.