

NEW YORK

# luxe.

interiors + design®



# BARN RAISING

TWO RUSTIC 18TH-CENTURY STRUCTURES COMBINE TO CREATE A LIGHT-FILLED, ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOME FOR MODERN-DAY LIVING.

WRITTEN BY CARA GREENBERG PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF MCNAMARA STYLING BY ANNA MOLVIK



**ARCHITECTURE** Kate Johns, Kate Johns, AIA  
**HOME BUILDER** Gary Lowe, Gary Lowe Construction LLC  
**BEDROOMS** 3 | **BATHROOMS** 5 | **SQUARE FEET** 7,278



In the living room, the neutral linen sofas are both from Design Within Reach, and the lamps, as well as the large-scale coffee table, are from Armani Casa. The sconces that flank the windows are from PW Vintage Lighting in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.



A view of the Catskill Mountains and 240 rolling acres is what persuaded homeowners Michael Schrom and Patti Matheney—he directs television commercials, and she is a former food stylist—to buy a picturesque Hudson Valley property in the mid-1980s. For three decades, they made do with a small stone house dating back to the Colonial era. As charming as it was, the owners craved more space and light, and dreamt of one day salvaging and restoring an old barn to integrate with their existing home.

By the late 2000s, the couple's beloved stone house was long overdue for a full-on remodel. "We knew we wanted to save the stone house and that we wanted a renovated barn space, but we were having trouble imagining how to connect the two," Matheney says. Enter architect Kate Johns, who is well versed in creating a modern feel in historic spaces. Johns

The barn space is very much a great room which serves as a living area, dining area and kitchen. Light enters via clerestory windows along the roofline, as well as through an enormous wall of windows centered along the wall to the right and the glass-enclosed sun room to the left.



Above: The centerpiece of the open kitchen and dining room is the custom black walnut dining table complete with vintage Nakashima captain's chairs that easily seat a crowd. Right: A La Cornue stove adds character to the space, while the cabinets are a mix of natural oak and painted wood that the architect says helps the room look less uniform.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 265

immediately endorsed the owners' concept of joining a salvaged barn frame to their existing home. "A barn connected to the house makes sense in winter," she says. "It's something you see a lot throughout the region."

With a lead from Michael on a barn—built in 1790—near Saratoga, two hours north of their Columbia County property, the renovation began. "It was perfect," says Johns. "It had a massive swing beam that spanned its entire width. You could come in, turn a wagon around, and go back out again." The barn was dismantled and then transported to Berkshire Barns, a barn restoration company in Massachusetts, to replace the rotten timbers and part of the roof. It was then moved to the couple's property, where Gary Lowe, the general contractor who oversaw the project, took over.



Both the homeowners and architect Kate Johns were inspired by a series of Belgian design books when it came to creating the interior aesthetic, which Johns considers spare, simple and calm, using rustic materials and pale colors. The custom white-oak shelves were built by Vormer Cabinetry.



The couple owned the 200-acre farm for 30 years before adding the 18<sup>th</sup>-century barn to the property. *Opposite:* The sun room allows light to flow in thanks to the floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook a small pond. Classic and contemporary furnishings include hide chairs and a Gae Aulenti coffee table, all from Design Within Reach.





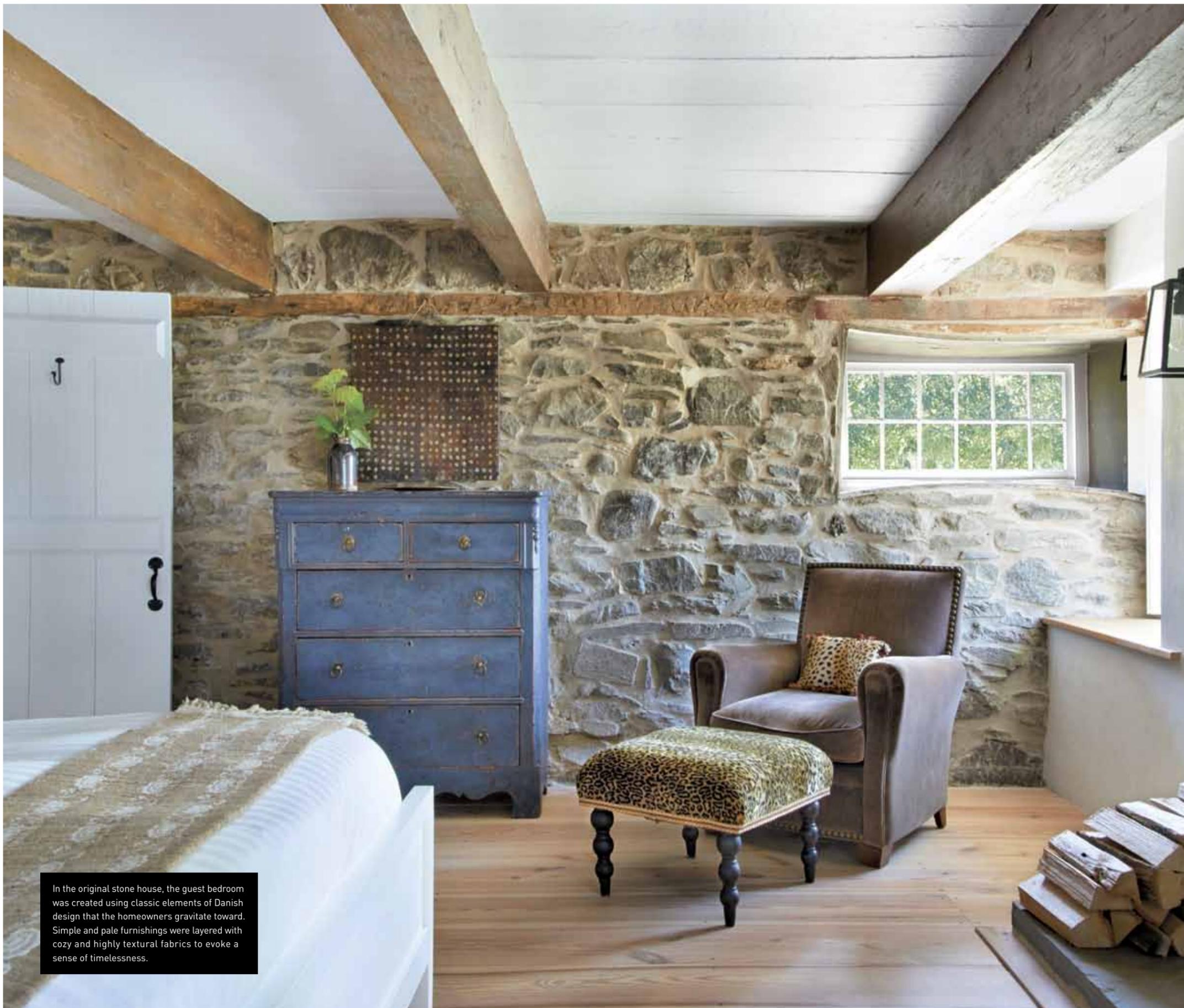
The wooden bedside table in the master bedroom was built by Chris Lehrecke, a furniture designer and craftsman with a shop in Hudson. The lamp was purchased at Moss in Soho.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 266

The linchpin of Johns' design concept is a two-story 1,570-square-foot connector that bridges the old stone house on one side and the newly restored barn on the other and contains a structurally elaborate yet visually simple double-sided staircase linking the two elements. In addition, Johns meticulously lined up door openings to create exceptionally long sight lines, so you can see right through from one end of the house to the other, and she designed a clerestory along the barn's roofline, which soars to 27 feet at its peak. "Functionally and emotionally, that's a very important part of the project," she says. "The idea of opening up the new space to the old and really connecting them was paramount. I wanted to make sure the old stone house didn't feel neglected."



In the master bedroom, the barn structure stands out against whitewashed walls and pale wood floors. Homeowner Patti Matheney added a four-poster black walnut bed built by Lehrecke and swathed in plush bedding from Traditions Linens.



In the original stone house, the guest bedroom was created using classic elements of Danish design that the homeowners gravitate toward. Simple and pale furnishings were layered with cozy and highly textural fabrics to evoke a sense of timelessness.



The wood-paneled and whitewashed master bathroom adds to the historic charm of the home and is centered with an oval soaking tub from Kohler. The hardware is by Barber Wilsons.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 270

The original house now holds two guest bedrooms, a wine cellar and a cozy library, while the barn space contains the living and dining areas, as well as an open kitchen with an oversize marble island and a banquet table that can seat 20 people. “The room is just what we wanted,” says Johns, “an open, expansive two-story gathering space with light coming from many different sources.”

The owners also had a desire for greater energy efficiency. “The house had a 19<sup>th</sup>-century addition with no foundation,” recalls Michael. “The insulation was stuffed with newspaper, and in heavy rains, water came up through the floors.” Now, the house runs entirely by a geothermal energy system and a 40-kilowatt solar field, producing as much energy as it consumes. “For us,” says Patti, “that’s one of the most important parts of the story.” **L**

KATE JOHNS, AIA  
architecture historic preservation



**KATE JOHNS AIA**

---

8 PARK ROW  
CHATHAM, NY 12037  
PHONE 518-392-7909

---

KATEJOHNSAIA.COM

REPRINTED FROM



**luxe.**  
interiors + design®

For more information about *Luxe Interiors + Design*™, visit us at [luxesource.com](http://luxesource.com)

Content for this brochure has been reprinted and/or repurposed from Luxe Interiors + Design™ magazine with the express permission of its publisher. © 2014 SANDOW. All rights reserved.