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COME ON IN

HEART & SOUL

*This New England cottage gives new meaning
to the term labor of love.*



**FARMHOUSE
FAVORITE!**
CEDAR SHAKE
SIDING SEAMLESSLY
BLENDS WITH THE
SURROUNDING
LANDSCAPE.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE
Idyllic cottages and
picturesque rivers and ponds
drew Priscilla Caldwell and
her late husband, Will, to the
quaint village of Norfolk, Conn.



BLUE STREAM
Dreamy touches of sky blue, from the
landscape painting to the sofa throw
pillows, add a cozy effect to the living
room. The six-pane doors also have
a hint of the soothing shade; they're
painted Blue Black by Farrow & Ball.

COME ON IN

After falling for the postcard charms of Norfolk, Conn.—a woody village that’s also a hub for artists and designers—Priscilla Caldwell and her husband, Will, decided it was time to carve out their own slice of the simple life. The couple purchased 15 acres on the Blackberry River and began to design their dream retreat. But just as they were finalizing the plans for the home, Will unexpectedly died after suffering a heart attack. Priscilla considered scrapping the Norfolk plans altogether, but ultimately decided on forging ahead. “It just felt

right,” recalls Priscilla. “A way to honor Will’s memory and provide an escape for my then young daughters.”

Carrying on didn’t come without modifications to the house plans. Priscilla, a private art advisor, independent curator and owner of Vail Caldwell Projects, and architect Hope Dana of Platt Dana Architects trimmed away some of the square footage, and formality, of the cottage. “We looked for ways we could use the simple aesthetic I’m drawn to and get creative with affordable materials,” says Priscilla. That mindset led to savvy twists such as painted floors upstairs (they required less expensive

TIDY UP Old-fashioned peg rail keeps the mudroom organized. The hardworking space is also where Priscilla displays her daughter’s many horseback riding ribbons.



IN THE BALANCE

A triptych of lake photographs by David Hilliard establishes relaxing symmetry in the living room. The balancing act continues through to the duo of Mission-style armchairs and turned-wood table lamps. In the foreground, an antique pine tavern table doubles as a desk.

COME ON IN

“
Much of the design was about using
inexpensive materials in clever ways that
belie their humble stature.”
”

PLAYING COOL
The cool undertones of the Carrara marble countertops and the soft gray cabinets (Wevet by Farrow & Ball) give the kitchen a lovely foil to the wood walls and floors. Skipping a backsplash and window treatments adds to the minimalist aesthetic.

IN THE BLACK

The nautical-style lantern and midcentury chairs by Paul McCobb bring eye-pleasing anchors to the combo kitchen and dining room. The colorful painting is by artist Joe Fyfe.

FARMHOUSE FAVORITE!
A SOFT WHITEWASH SHOWCASES THE KNOTTY IMPERFECTIONS OF PINE PANELING.



COME ON IN

wood than stained ones would have) and industrial trough sinks in the bathrooms. "They were a wonderful aesthetic choice, but they didn't break the bank either," she says.

Also central to the design: the wood paneling that envelops the downstairs. Keen to avoid "cold" drywall, Priscilla began riffing on different cabin elements and eventually landed on whitewashed pine planks. "It gives so much warmth and detail, but again it's simple," says Priscilla.

The white paneling also proved a lovely backdrop for Priscilla to

NEUTRAL TERRITORY

In an effort to create a serene master bedroom, Priscilla kept the palette deliberately subdued. What it lacks in color, it makes up with texture. Elements like the corduroy headboard and tactile artwork ensure the neutral scheme still has visual interest.



FARMHOUSE FAVORITE!
TROUGH SINKS ARE A HANDSOME, UTILITARIAN ADDITION TO A BATHROOM.

FINISHING TOUCH

The bathroom is awash in thoughtful finishing touches, including the iron thumb-latch door hardware and wraparound peg rail. But the best in show? The enamel door sign that reads "Beware of dog" in French and once hung at the entrance of Priscilla's grandmother's kennel.

COME ON IN



FARMHOUSE FAVORITE!
SCREEN PORCHES
CREATE DREAMY
ROOMS THAT
ARE AT ONE
WITH NATURE.

layer in favorite pieces, including a triptych photograph by David Hilliard. Now hung over the fireplace, it had reminded Priscilla of Toby Pond, the family's beloved Norfolk swimming spot. As it turned out, Hilliard had also spent time in the area while at Yale Art School. Priscilla explains: "It has good synergy. Like so much about this house, it just feels right." ■

GOING GREEN

The forest green trim (Studio Green by Farrow & Ball) is a straightforward complement to the cedar shake siding. Also a natural fit? The outdoor shower just outside the back door.

SCREEN TIME

The screened porch multitasks as a reading nook, game lounge and dining room. Garden furniture by Munder-Skiles is both pretty and practical.

