HEART & SOUL

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





COME ON IN

fter falling for the postcard charms of Norfolk, Conn.—a woodsy 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."

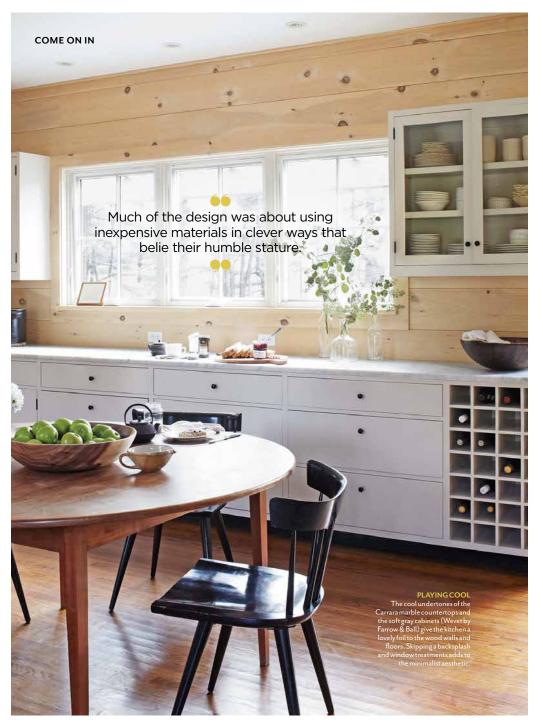
Carrying on didn't come without modifications to the house plans. Priscilla, a private art advisor, independent curator and owner of Vail Caldwell Projects, and architect Hope Dana of Platt Dana Architects trimmed away some of the square footage, and formality, of the cottage. "We looked for ways we 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

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{TIDY UP} Old\text{-}fashioned peg rail keeps the mudroom organized. The hardworking space is also where Priscilla displays her daughter's many horseback riding ribbons. \end{array}$





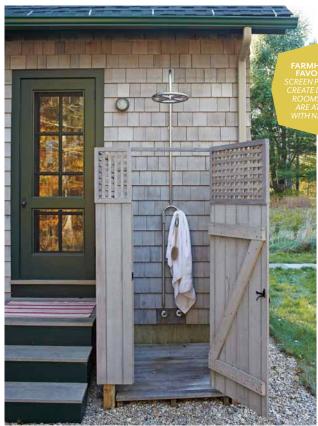
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layer in favorite pieces, including a triptych photograph by David Hilliard. Now hung over the fireplace, it had reminded Priscilla of Toby Pond, the family's beloved Norfolk swimming spot. As it turned out, Hilliard had also spent time in the area 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.

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

