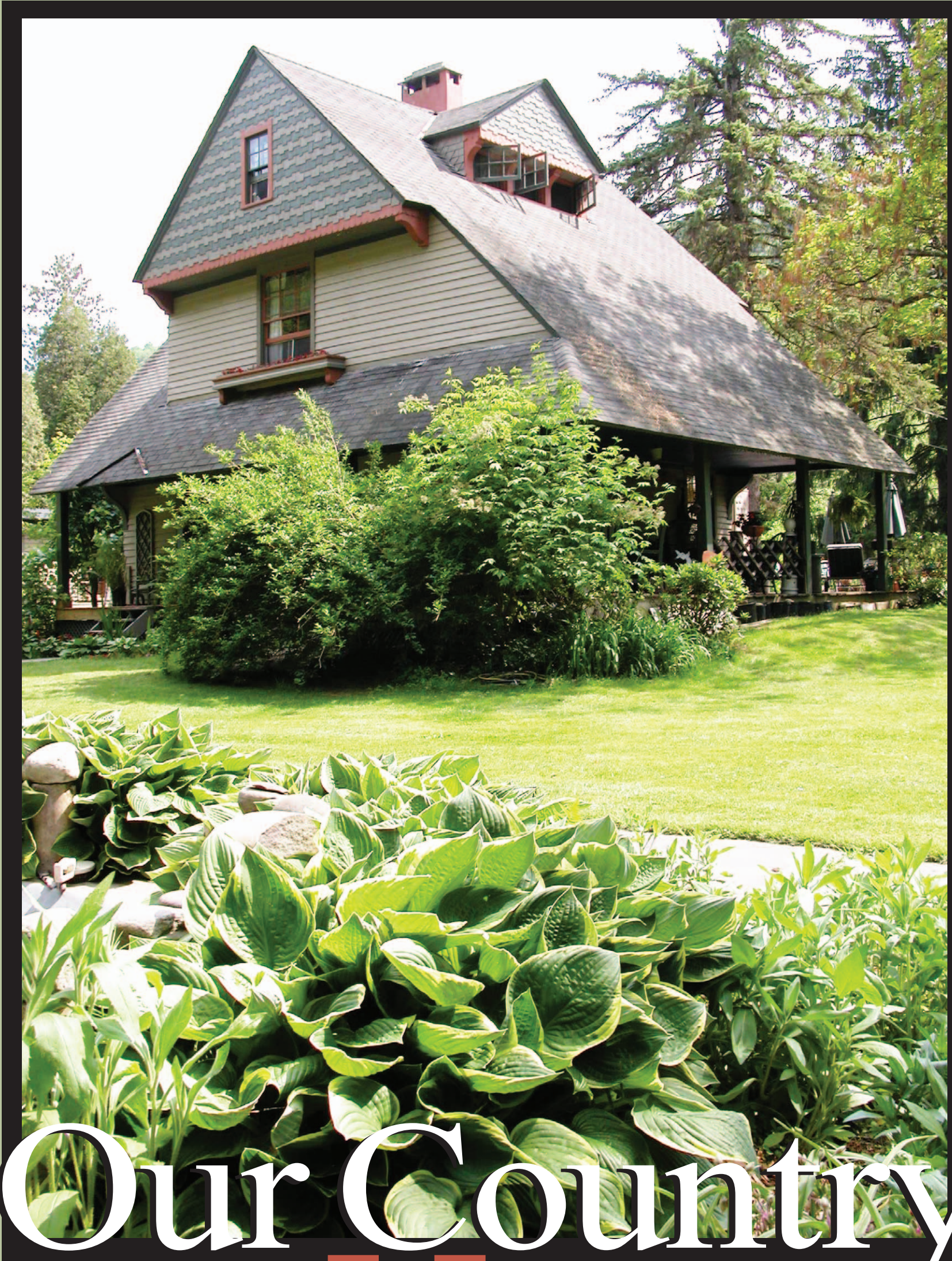


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Summer 2005



# Our Country Home

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MLS 5090 \$249,000



# Our Country Home

## Summer 2005

**B**ackyard barbecues, Sunday afternoons lounging by the river, farmers markets, gallery openings and gardening—summer life in our region certainly offers an abundance of choices.

But whatever you enjoy doing this summer, the feeling of kicking off your shoes at home in the shade will be hard to beat. The natural world around us is teeming with life, and our homes are often the best places to sit and watch the wonderful landscape.

This issue of “Our Country Home” presents features on people who’ve found unique ways of enjoying their homes, and it offers practical information in case you’d like to sweeten the feeling you get when you hang your hat.

The summer will likely offer

opportunities to enjoy your friends’ homes, and probably a few chances to show them the living spaces you’ve created to fit your lives, and we hope this section presents some ideas for making the most of such occasions.

We get to know people better while walking through their homes, talking to them while they’re in their own element. We get to listen to their music, look at the colors they’ve chosen, enjoy the foods they like, see examples of their style. Experiencing others’ homes can inspire us to try new things in the dwellings we have chosen, and your home might inspire others to branch out and make new decorating and design choices.

We sincerely hope this summer offers time to enjoy some of our region’s many beautiful country homes, and that this section plays its part in the fun.



Charlie Buterbaugh



TRR photo by Charlie Buterbaugh

With a new gable (right) matching the original, the addition at Don and Edith Downs’ home in Long Eddy, NY presents a union of old and new architecture.

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A view of the restored house at “The Cottages,” owned by Don and Edith Downs. (TRR photo by Charlie Buterbaugh)

THE RIVER REPORTER

Our Country  
Home

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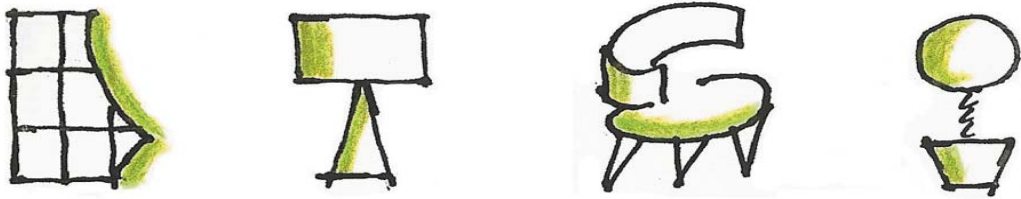
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# 'The Cottages' are family's river dwelling

Where small town and river bear the same name

By CHARLIE BUTERBAUGH

**B**efore the Upper Delaware completes a straight, lazy course by Long Eddy, NY, the trees on the eastern bank open to a path to "The Cottages," two three-story Victorian houses built around 1875.

The natural tones coating the 130-year-old siding and trim are barely visible from the river; this time of year it's easier to see the Delaware from the two surviving houses (originally there were three). This arrangement with nature is preferred by Don and Edith Downs, who wouldn't have bought the property if not for its riverside location.

"That is why we're here," said Don, an architect with a particular interest in creating living spaces to fit a homeowner's lifestyle.

In 1995 he and Edith bought the historic property and began bringing one of the cottages back to life.

The house's original style, which Don describes as "simplified Queen Ann," couldn't accommodate visits by the Downs' extended family.

So with the help of a local carpenter, Ted Perzanowski, Don built a large addition, a grand room with exposed structure just below its high ceiling, and he expanded the kitchen.

"We meshed because he was open-minded to new ideas," Don said of Perzanowski.

The new spaces provide refreshing contrast with the original small, formal rooms of the house.

"Your way of living has to dictate what your buildings are. And so to try to shoehorn your living into a *style* just doesn't come out very well," Don said.

Below the grand room's ceiling and skylights hangs an old canoe. Opposite the large fireplace are tall windows that look out at the river.

"It's more of a winter room than a summer room. We spend most of our time outside in the summer," Don said.

While the modern grand room—complete with radiant floor heating—presents a variation in design indoors, from the exterior of the house, matching gables make it

look like the addition has always been there.

Surprisingly, Don produced few drawings to guide his restoration work.

"Basically, we got the dimensions and worked it out. That's the ultimate way of doing something," he said. "When you draw, you're proposing what you think it's going to be, but it doesn't always work out that way."

Don, Edith and Perzanowski had some good ideas about what they wanted and they came together and determined how to do it the best.

"I don't draw unless I have to. I'd rather make a model," Don said.

They have restored the house with the intention of making it a place for family and friends to gather, recommending the estate's original purpose. The early owners and their families

Continued on page 7



Contributed photo

Don and Edith Downs' old canoe hangs in the grand room of the addition they built at "The Cottages."

*"Your way of living has to dictate what your buildings are."*



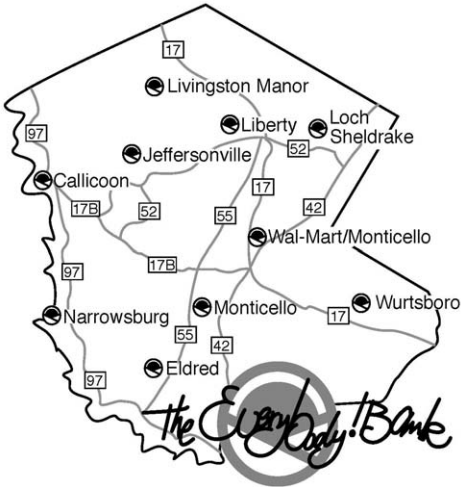
Don Downs' whimsical decorative style is evident in and outside "The Cottages."

TRR photo by Charlie Buterbaugh



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## 'The Cottages' are family's river dwelling

Continued from page 5

used to get there by train. The Erie Railroad runs between the estate and the hamlet of Long Eddy.

"We're constantly thinking about what happened here before, and that gives continuity," Don said. "We're doing similar things they did."

"It's nice to know you live in a house where certain things happened, and then the rest of it you make up," he laughed.

The house is now a weekend destination for Don and Edith's children and grandchildren.

It is a place where canoe trips end and evening bon fires begin. Groups affiliated with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy hike several miles to "The Ledges," a vista overlooking the river, and return to lounge on Don and Edith's wrap-around porch and new deck.

The bees that have nested in the catalpa tree next to the deck don't mind the crowds, and the people return the favor. This is just one example of the respectful relationship with nature that characterizes life at "The Cottages."

"I don't feel like I own the land. I feel like I'm using it. I'm a steward,"

Don said.

But respect by no means translates into a dispirited, drab feel inside the house. Don and Edith's process of restoration has involved as much play as work.

Don has satisfied his appetite for whimsy with things like bright ceilings, old pieces of architecture like painted columns, and masks and neon signs (one in the kitchen reads "plant on premises") that contrast with the house's originally formal rooms and traditional tin ceilings.

In front of the fireplace is a piano frame that has been converted into a couch.

"Everything has another use," said Edith, who seems to appreciate her husband's quirky domestic designs.

In the loft above the grand room is a fantastical playroom for the kids, and next to it is a room for Edith, the doorway into which is shaped like a keyhole. The juxtaposition of imaginative decoration and tradition runs throughout the house.

Don said "Edith puts up with" his decorative tastes, "and she keeps me in check."

Walking up the stairs to the third-

Continued on page 9



TRR photos by Charlie Buterbaugh  
Don and Edith Downs sit in the new grand room. The exterior of the addition is shown below.





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## 'The Cottages' are family's river dwelling

Continued from page 7

floor bedrooms, Edith said, "This is another whimsy hall."

They have made use of the old china cabinets left behind by early owners. All of the windows are original, except for the ones in the expanded kitchen. When the original pocket doors on exterior walls are opened, it seems as if there's no barrier between inside and out.

"This siding has been on these houses for over 130 years. I don't think vinyl would last that long,"

Don said. Then he enjoyed a moment of his own sarcasm. "The ultimate compliment I got on it was when somebody said, 'it looks almost as good as vinyl.'"

Some of the projects inside remain unfinished, such as the face of the chimney in the new grand room, which Don wants to fill with river stone. But this suits Don and Edith just fine.

"It will always be a work in progress," Edith said.



A view of the front of the house.

*"It's nice to know you live in a house where certain things happened, and then the rest of it you make up."*



The window-level counter in the new kitchen simplifies service to the back deck.

TRR photos by Charlie Buterbaugh

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# Apéritifs, the perfect before-dinner fare

**S**ometimes with socializing, less is more.

One great way to gather your friends for some fun, and yet keep the planning and preparation simple, is to host a before-dinner party with apéritifs.

Most simply, apéritifs are before-dinner drinks, but they can be paired with an appetizer for some savory fare before your friends head to dinner, the gallery opening in town or the movies.

And "apéritif" is simply fun to say.

Prepare an environment for your guests to have a relaxing, tasteful experience before graduating to the next chapter of their evening. After all, isn't life largely about enjoying ourselves, our loved ones, good food and drinks, and our homes?

You can even enjoy apéritifs in your home with just your partner.

Traditionally, in the South of France, the ideal apéritifs are champagne; kir, which is made by adding cassis or blackcurrant liquor to white wine; or pastis, licorice liquor. It is hospitable in France to invite guests over for an aperitif before heading out to town to dine or before serving your home-cooked meal. Although champagne, kir and pastis are the most classic choices, apéritifs can also include sherry, martinis, brandy, or any creative cocktail of your choice.

Making an appetizer to accompany the apéritif is wise, but not required. An appetizer does not have to be laborious or gourmet, although it can be if you are talented in the kitchen. You can choose to serve something as simple as an assorted cheese plate with dry sausage and olives. Or, for a more extravagant appetizer, prepare a traditional French spread such as salmon mousse, tapenade, cod crème, or crab with lemon on top of bread or crackers.

Fancier yet are:

- Smoked salmon roulade garnished with crème fraiche and lemon juice.
- Tiger prawns wrapped in bacon and fried in a pan.
- Open-cup mushrooms stuffed with duck mousse.
- Pan seared foie gras with fig preserve.

Bon Apéritif!



TRR drawing by Melinda Leone

## Foie Gras with Fig Preserve

Simply slice the foie gras no less than an inch thick. Lightly coat each side of the foie gras with flour. Heat a pan thoroughly on medium-high heat. Add oil to the hot pan and place the foie gras in the oil. Sear until crisp on both sides, but be sure to leave the inside a bit pink. Remove from pan and place on plates. Pour fig preserve (or other preserves such as plum) into the pan until it heats through. Drizzle the preserve over the foie gras. Serve with a sweet white wine.

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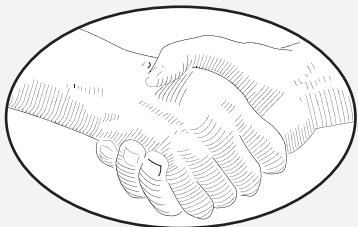
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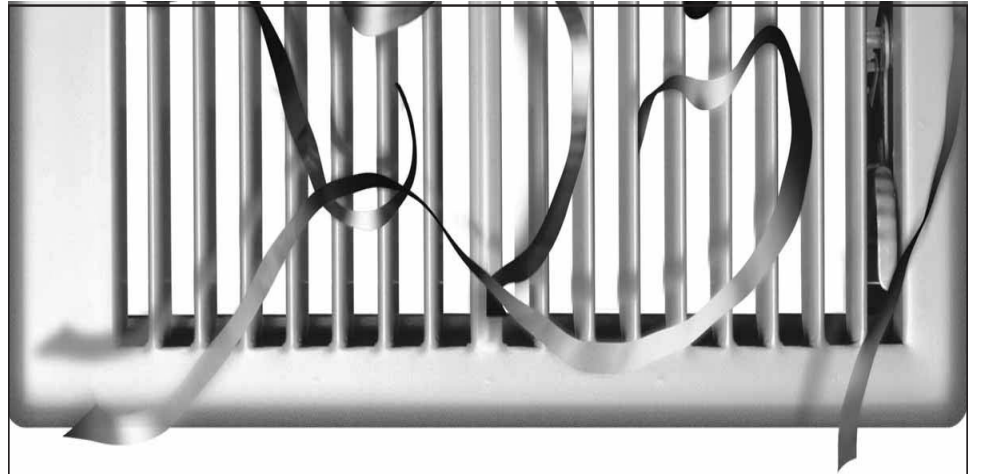
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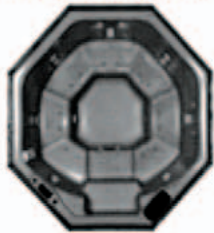
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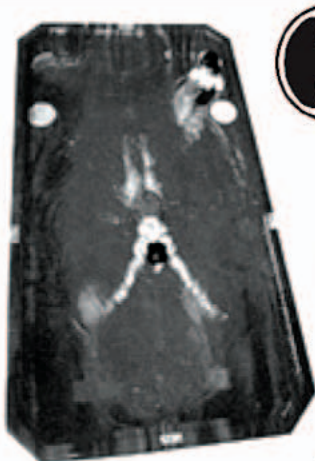


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# From hometown picnic to country kitchen

**M**illie, a talented, intuitive cook made no attempt to disguise the fact that she considered people like me—who need recipes to produce anything in the kitchen—an inferior lot. I'd circumvented this problem in the past when I really loved something she'd made by dogging her every move and taking notes. But it never occurred to me (or anyone else for that matter) to document her fabulous recipe for chicken and potatoes, probably because she only ever made it at the church picnic when there were too many other things going on.

The church's annual picnic was a hugely popular event, largely due to its reputation for excessive quantities of exceptionally good food and old-fashioned hometown fun. A huge, three-day affair employing the whole congregation in one capacity or another, the picnic occupied the church's entire parking lot with an assortment of tents, games, stalls, a band rotunda, raffles, crafts, flea-market items, drink stands, kiddie rides and tons of great tasting food. Beginning with Friday's fish fry, the feasting continued through Saturday with pierogies, potato pancakes, chili, hamburgers, cabbage and noodles, spare ribs, kielbasa, sausage and peppers, baked goods, and on into Sunday, culminating with the picnic's much anticipated chicken and potatoes dinner.

Millie had been responsible for the Sunday chicken dinner for 25 years. Always a spirited, crowded and noisy event, the dinner provided a last opportunity to reminisce, gossip, swap picnic stories and catch up with

old friends—all conducted over heaping portions of what everyone agreed was the best chicken and potatoes in the county, if not the entire country. For the frazzled picnic committee it was very often also the first chance they'd had to sit down in days, and at that point the only thing they usually agreed upon was that eating Millie's chicken and potatoes made all their hard work worthwhile.

So the year she came down with the flu right before the picnic, the committee was temporarily sidelined. No one else knew the recipe. Suggestions were made about substituting something else or even canceling the dinner entirely, but in the end Millie's husband Pete was coerced into stepping in for his wife, though he didn't know much about cooking. With Millie on the phone coaching him, Pete did the best he could, but it was probably inevitable that, with Millie sounding as bad as she did and Pete's hearing problem, the poor man would get some of the figures wrong. When he ran out of chicken halfway through the dinner but still had 17 extra pans of potatoes ready to go, the committee decided it was time to have everyone write their recipes down.

Millie finally relented and recorded her famous recipe but then got all funny about it and refused to give it to anyone. I had to beg and grovel to get a copy, which she finally allowed, but then there was the problem of downsizing it from "enough to feed half a town" to "enough to feed a regular family," which believe me, wasn't easy.

## Sharing the repast

with Pauline Glykokokalos



### Oven Roasted Chicken and Potatoes

#### Ingredients (serves 4)

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 4 chicken thighs (with leg still attached) | 1/4 cup lemon juice       |
| 4 large Idaho baking potatoes              | 1 1/2 tablespoons oregano |
| 3 tsps salt                                | 1/2 cup vegetable oil     |
| 2 tsps coarse black pepper                 | 1-2 cups water or stock   |
|  | 4 tsps crushed garlic     |

#### Method

Wash chicken and trim off excess fat without removing skin. Peel potatoes and cut lengthwise into 4 large wedges. Make a marinade of lemon juice, oil, pepper, salt, crushed garlic and oregano. Dip chicken and potato wedges in marinade to cover completely with seasonings. Arrange chicken and potatoes in an appropriately sized baking pan and pour over any excess marinade. Add enough water or stock to cover almost half the chicken and potatoes. Bake uncovered in a 350 degree oven for about 1 hour until chicken and potatoes are golden brown and crispy.

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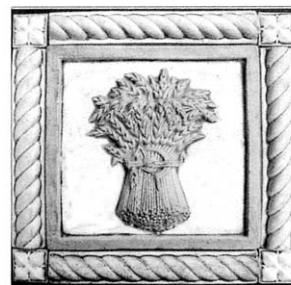
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# Fields of color — a life transformed

By LAURIE STUART

**W**hen Liza Phillips needed a new rug for her living room in 1999, she did what everyone else does.

She went shopping.

Her search took her to a small Tibetan rug store in Greenwich Village. Karma, the proprietor, showed her his wares. When she wasn't wild about any of the designs, he showed her a swatch rug of three-by-three-inch individually labeled colored squares and invited her to design her own.

Karma, in both physical form and future destiny, was put to work.

Phillips, a visual artist and graphic designer living part-time in Lava, NY, took up Karma's challenge and designed her first rug. Her design was sent off to the family's rug factory in Katmandu, Nepal for manufacture. Pleased with Phillips' eye, use of color and geometric designs, Karma invited her to create rug designs for his customers. They entered into an informal partnership, and her rugs sold well.

And while Karma promised Phillips a percentage of the sales of the rugs she designed, because of the cultural tradition of barter, he sometimes was unsure about the final rug price. He agreed to simply manufacture the rugs, and the partnership was transformed. Phillips was launched into an entrepreneurial adventure that she hoped would alter her life.

"I decided that I could make a go of it and simply have him manufacture the rugs for me," Phillips explained.

Through Karma, she established a direct relationship with the factory in Katmandu and now sends her designs to Karma's brother, Sonam, by email. She chooses her colors off of the swatch rug and uses Adobe Illustrator to create the digital images.

"I even have the colors programmed in the swatch palette of the software," Phillips said.

## A business venture: a change of life

For the artist in Phillips, designing rugs gave her a new opportunity to express her creativity and sense of design.

"It provides a different creative outlet from painting. My painting is full of ideas about where I have been and where I am trying to go. Rug designing allows me to indulge my sense of color and play.

"As a child I experienced oriental and patterned rugs as games to be discovered and played. Some had obvious rules: only step on the solid squares (a leaping game) while others were far more complex."

But the manufacture and design



TRR photo by Laurie Stuart

Liza Phillips stands by the swatch rug, "a delicious collage of tufted squares so vibrant and tactile that I couldn't stop thinking about it."

of the rugs go beyond artistic expression and branch into the world of business and commerce. In 2004, Phillips officially launched Color Field Rugs.

If Phillips can make a go of this new business, it will give her the means to alter her part-time, New York City based life to be at her country house and studio in Lava on a full-time basis.

It's a plan that Phillips is addressing with a systematic method.

"I see myself as a businesswoman. It is a pleasure designing things and I am trying to have a successful home-based business so that I can spend more time here."

To become more versed in small business, Phillips enrolled in a series of business seminars at SUNY Binghamton and sought advice from experts with experience in creating home-based businesses.

"I'm building this up slowly. I had a

Continued on page 19



Contributed photo

Factory workers in Katmandu, Nepal work on vertical looms. The rugs are hand-knotted at 60 knots per inch. Their completion can take up to three months.



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## Fields of color — a life transformed

Continued from page 17

good first year just in Internet sales and ads in magazines. My rugs are for sale locally through the River Gallery in Narrowsburg."

To jumpstart her business to its fullest potential, Phillips, with the assistance of her husband, Francis Cape, built and staffed a booth at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair held at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City this past May. The four-day show has an audience of interior designers, architects and retail store buyers.

Her rugs were met with great enthusiasm and interest.

"Francis and I thought we would be able to walk around and spell each other in the booth, but from

morning to night we were busy," Phillips said with apparent excitement. "Although it's really intangible at this point, if this show really pans out, we're going to have trouble keeping up with it. There will definitely be enough work for a good while."

So Phillips is diligently working through the pile of business cards that she received and is sending out brochures and responding with more information about her rugs.

And she's learning more about the rug-making trade all the time.

"Someone asked how much it would be to add silk in with the wool, and I didn't know how to price it. Fortunately, I met a woman at the show and called her and she gave me the formula



Contributed photo

Liza Phillips' Color Field rug company uses Himalayan wool, exceptionally rich in lanolin oil, which is important both for the absorption of the dyes as well as the plush texture for which Tibetan rugs are famous. The traditional method of the hand carding and hand spinning of the yarn has been employed in making Tibetan rugs since the 11th century.



Contributed photo by Liza Phillips

"String Game," a hand-knotted, hand-scissored rug, is made of the finest quality wool by Tibetans in Nepal. Some rugs in the Color Field Collection look to game design for inspiration, echoing the layout of a ball court or a puzzle in which shapes and lines need to be matched. Other company rugs find inspiration in architecture, nature and fine art—particularly that of the Color Field painters, whose celebration of pure color is the foundation for contemporary design today.

where you determine the percentage of silk in the rug and multiply it by a certain cost."

Actually, the Tibetan rug economy has many sides, some of which are not limited to rug design, wool spinning or knots per inch.

There is a whole socio-economic aspect at work. According to Phillips, Sonam's factory has a guarantee that there is no child labor.

"This is a big concern," she said, "because a lot of school children are being sent to Katmandu to avoid being conscripted by the Maoists. And that can lead to child labor because they have to work. They have day care centers for the children of the factory women."

To learn more about the rug industry there, she and Francis are plan-

ning their first trip to Katmandu to tour the factory first-hand. "We had planned to go before, but the country is often on the brink of civil war and it didn't seem safe," she said. Now, with a scaled-down trip limited to Katmandu and India, Phillips will be able to see how her designs are implemented to create rugs. She will be able to immerse herself in the culture, whose economy depends on her ingenuity and commitment to good business practices.

What happens in the future depends on a lot of things, but for Phillips and her Color Field Rugs company, the future seems simple, plush and well designed, just like her rugs.

Color Field Rugs maintains a website at [www.ColorfieldRugs.com](http://www.ColorfieldRugs.com).

## Caring for a fine wool rug

There are three main things you can do to maintain and keep rugs looking their best:

### • Frequent vacuuming to remove soil and dirt

Vacuum regularly to help keep soil from becoming embedded in the rug. This will help maintain the appearance of your rug and prevent it from looking dull and faded. Light traffic areas should be vacuumed twice a week, and moderate-to-heavy traffic areas should be vacuumed more frequently. Be sure to make several passes over heavy traffic areas to ensure that all dirt is removed.

### • Periodic professional cleaning

No matter how careful you are with spills and vacuuming, all rugs need to be professionally cleaned periodically. Professional cleaning will help maintain a fresh, bright look.

### • Prompt removal of spots and spills

Immediate attention to spots and spills will make removal easier. Depending on what caused the spot or stain, removal of spots can be simple or require several applications. Gently blot the spot

being cleaned. Never use a circular motion, scrub or brush because this will destroy the texture of the rug. Avoid saturating the rug.

Following is a general spot removal procedure: If you know what caused the spot, begin at the appropriate step; otherwise begin removal with Step 1.

Supplies to have on hand:

- White paper towels or white terry towels
- Dish washing detergent or mild laundry detergent that contains no lanolin or bleach
- Household ammonia
- White vinegar
- Isopropyl rubbing alcohol
- Brick or heavy book wrapped in plastic to be used as weight

### General Procedure

#### Step 1: Unknown and Greasy Spots

- Remove solid materials with a spoon and dull knife.
- Blot the spill with clean, white towel. Press down to remove as much liquid as possible.
- Apply detergent solution (1 teaspoon mild non-bleaching laundry detergent with two cups water).
- Blot the stain with white cloth or paper towel.

• Wet the stained rug fibers with clear lukewarm water to rinse.

• Cover the area with towels and apply pressure to blot.

• Repeat above until all traces of detergent are removed.

• Place white towels over area with weight, such as a brick, to absorb excess moisture.

• Change towels and repeat until the rug is dry.

If stain remains, proceed to Step 2. For coffee or tea stains proceed to Step 3.

#### Step 2: If Stain Persists

(Do not use on coffee or tea stains. For these stains follow Step 3 to neutralize the ammonia.)

• Mix 1 teaspoon non-bleaching, non-sudsing household ammonia with 1 cup warm water.

• Apply ammonia solution, rinse and blot as instructed in Step 1.

• Do not dry with paper towels. Proceed to Step 3 to neutralize the ammonia.

#### Step 3: For Coffee and Tea

• Mix equal parts of white vinegar and water in spray bottle. Apply vinegar solution, rinse and blot.



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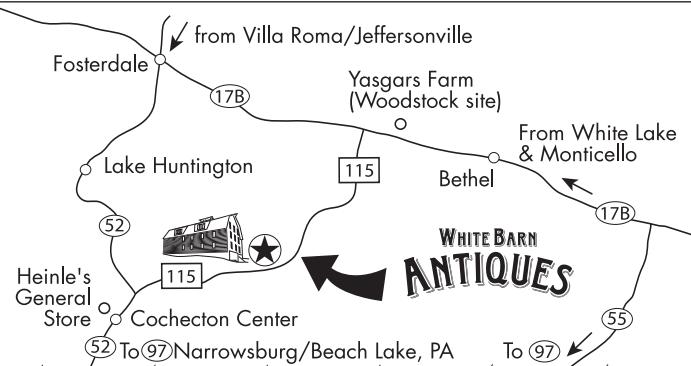


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# Creating an arbor for shade and style

By ROSEMARY MANDEVILLE

**W**ouldn't it be nice to pull into your driveway, get out of your car and walk through a vine-covered entrance that invites your arrival at home?

How about a cool drink out back in the shady recesses of a grape arbor, where you've placed a comfortable chair or two, and perhaps a small table?

If you can dream it, you can achieve it. Arbors don't have to be complicated to build or difficult to install. Even if you're not handy with tools, readymade wood or vinyl models can be purchased and simply anchored to the ground with stakes.

In just one weekend, you can be well on your way to a more welcoming landscape.

Outdoor structures and ornaments—fencing, bridges, statuary and arbors—bring a sense of permanence to your outdoor living space, so some thought needs to go into their appropriate location, material and style. If these aspects aren't taken into consideration, chances are your structure will look jarringly out of place or make you feel uneasy for no reason that you can exactly put your finger on.

The first decision to make is where to place your arbor. It can serve several different purposes in the structure of the landscape.

Placed at the curbside or driveway, it will define the boundary between public and private spaces. Walking through such an arbor will give you a sense of transition, of having "arrived."

Within the yard itself, an arbor can mark the entrance to another "room" within the garden or frame a view of an enticing path beyond.

An arbor doesn't have to lead anywhere, though. Placed at the



1. Honeysuckle
2. Rugosa rose
3. Boxwood
4. Siberian iris
5. Coreopsis moonbeam
6. Japanese garden juniper
7. "Bloodgood" maple

TRR drawing by Rosemary Mandeville

end of a path with the backside latticed in, and with the addition of a bench, it can become a leafy retreat on a hot, sunny day. Build it a little larger and put a table for two under it, and it almost becomes a second home.

Whatever you decide would work best in your garden, it's important to know what purpose the arbor will serve so that it doesn't look like it was set down for a moment and forgotten.

The next consideration is the style of arbor. Whether your house is rustic, contemporary or Victorian, choose a style and materials that reflect the overall feeling of your property. Whenever possible, copy the shapes and materials that are already used elsewhere on the site: If your home has wrought iron railings or fence, use the same for the arbor; if the arbor is used to mark the entrance to a shady woodland path, perhaps a rustic twiggy structure would be more appropriate.

With a very modern home, a six-by-six-foot timber frame with one-inch pipe forming the lattice sides might look most at home. Whatever style or materials you choose, make sure that the structure looks and is sturdy, and that its proportions appear generous.

You don't want it to look like it will fall over in the next wind.

To some degree the arbor's size depends on where it's to be placed and what its function will be. While an entrance to a small interior garden might be slightly smaller, an entrance arbor should be substantial enough not only to make a statement, but also to support the considerable weight of climbing plants.

## Choosing plants for your arbor

Once you've installed your new arbor, it's time to choose plants that will highlight the new space. Poets have immortalized the romantic image of the rose-covered arbor, but think twice about the "rose-covered" part of the fantasy in regularly traveled areas. There's nothing romantic about catching an arm or ankle with a thorny branch while on your way to the front door.

That being said, there is a wide variety of vines that have less prickly personalities and lots of color.

Clematis is often a show-stopper, available in a wide variety of colors, with flowers ranging from saucer-size

to tiny, and blooming from early spring to fall, depending on variety. Consider planting a summer bloomer with a fall bloomer to extend the season of color. Clematis climb by twining their leaf stalks around a support, so you may have to cover the arbor with a mesh to give the clematis something it can grasp.

Honeysuckle has a long season of bloom and is attractive to hummingbirds. Avoid the invasive Japanese honeysuckle with small white flowers and opt instead for the trumpet honeysuckle (*L. sempervirens*) and its hybrids. It climbs by twining its whole stems around a support of just about any thickness.

That's by no means the end of the possibilities for climbers. You could also try morning glories, hardy Kiwi vine, grapes or a combination of two or three vines.

To visually anchor your arbor, you'll need to plant lower-growing shrubs and flowers. Select plants that look good for much of the season and are suitable for the amount of sun or shade available.

Continued on page 27

*In just one weekend, you can be well on your way to a more welcoming landscape.*



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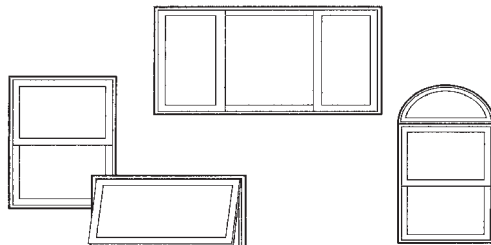


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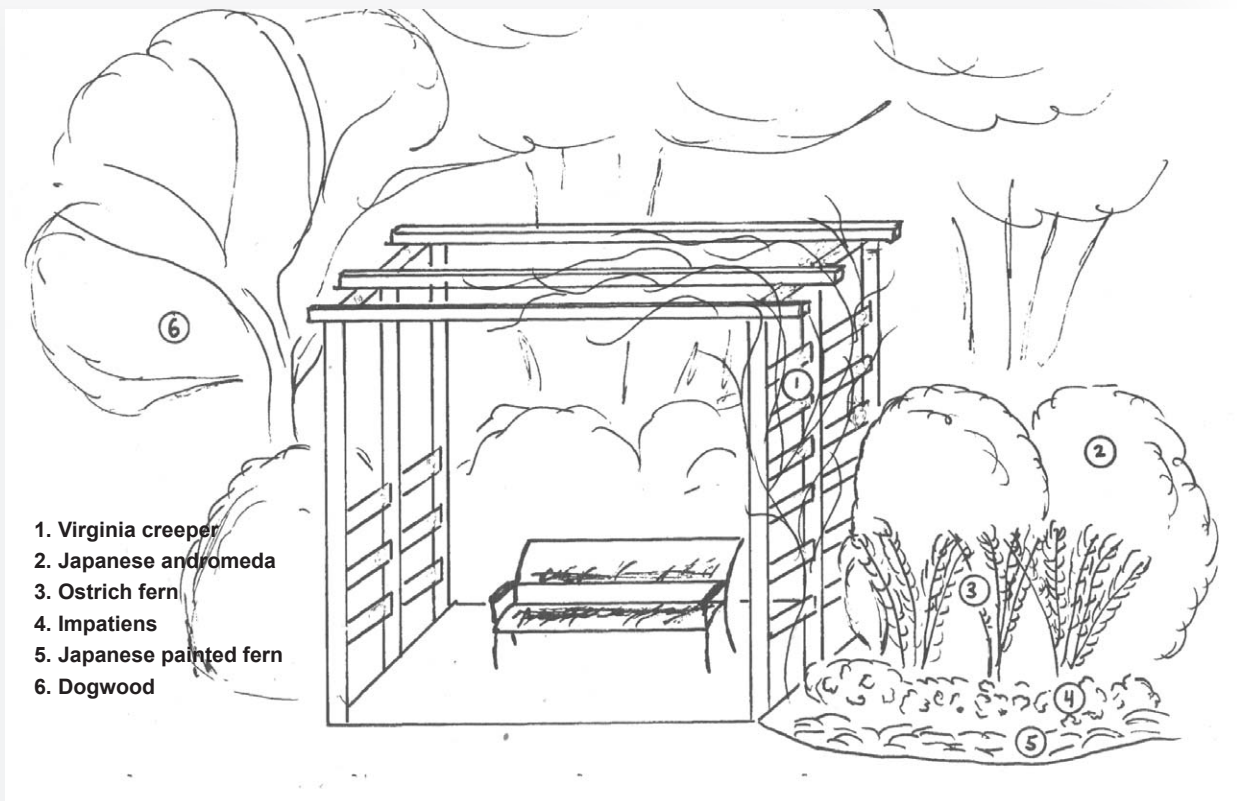
## Creating an arbor for shade and style

Continued from page 25

Creeping phlox, candytuft or low-growing junipers can fill the lowest level, while Hosta, lady's mantle and shasta daisies look good together, perhaps backed by boxwood for winter interest. Fill in with annuals to have color all summer.

With this finished project, you've managed to increase the beauty and usefulness of your landscape while increasing your property value—not bad for one or two weekends' work.

Rosemary Mandeville is a horticulturist and owner of Jeffersonville Horticultural Services in Jeffersonville, NY. She can be reached at 845/482-3683.



1. Virginia creeper
2. Japanese andromeda
3. Ostrich fern
4. Impatiens
5. Japanese painted fern
6. Dogwood

TRR drawing by Rosemary Mandeville

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# Rocklin turns deer fencing into an art

By CHARLIE BUTERBAUGH

**M**any people approach the challenge of guarding a garden from hungry deer plainly: there are thousands of deer, and a sensible, store-bought fence will keep the white-tailed grazers from eating the precious rhododendrons.

But Raymond Rocklin of Beach Lake, PA is anything but plain.

A sculptor who gained prominence among other New York City artists during the Abstract Expressionist movement of the 1960s, Rocklin can give his imagination tangible shape through numerous forms of three-dimensional art.

He can find a creative opportunity where others find a tedious chore, and the latest example of his resourceful imagination is his invention of a unique style of deer fencing.

The idea came naturally, and Rocklin couldn't resist following through.

On the days he's not teaching sculpture at the City University of New York, Rocklin sets out to create metal and wood sculptures in the workshop he had designed for himself.

Even though his bones aren't as strong as they used to be, he still works with a drive he describes as "compulsive." With his slightly hunched, yet sturdy frame, he bends and welds metal forms based on the designs he sketches, and over the past two years he has made a collection of delicate sculptures that now stand around the garden in front of his house, where he lives with his wife, Carol.

The row of sculptures holds a six-foot high mesh barrier, which disappears between the wispy rods and strips of forest-green metal. Some resemble pine trees; others look like stems and curling leaves of flowers. A few look like tall reeds shooting out of water, while many present abstract forms with clusters of swirling circles, straight and curved lines and ornery vines.

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Carol and Raymond Rocklin

TRR photos by Charlie Buterbaugh

Sculptor Raymond Rocklin has met function with a healthy dose of form in creating a unique deer fence at his home in Beach Lake, PA.



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## Rocklin turns deer fencing into an art

Continued from page 31

Rocklin bends metal rebar to make the stems and arms of the sculptures, and he welds strips and other pieces to create the varied parade of forms.

Many of the metal sculptures Rocklin has created over his decades as an artist bear a distinctive mythology, haunting the mind with the fury of

Hades. Others bear the refreshing joy of fountains.

His brass sculpture, "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (1957), is featured in "The Dictionary of Metal Sculpture," and his "Brass Fountain" is described in "The Sculpture of This Century."

Rocklin will soon finish a dining room table

("commissioned" by Carol) for his Beach Lake home. The table is made of slices of chestnut tree trunk.

The work is labor-intensive, but for Rocklin, it is a way of bringing life to his imagination, and he has no plans of retiring from his life as a sculptor.





# Kismet offers eastern hospitality

By CHARLIE BUTERBAUGH

**L**isa Gonsalves carries a tray of small glasses to a knee-high table in front of a couch piled with bright pillows.

She's barefoot and a cool breeze is blowing through Kismet via windows overlooking the Upper Delaware's Big Eddy.

"I want to be the international merchant," she says. "I want people to sit around and enjoy the space."

The name of her new store—located on Main Street in Narrowsburg, NY—is a Turkish word (from Persian) that means fate, fortune or destiny.

While living in an historic section of Istanbul, Gonsalves learned about the life of a Turkish textiles merchant. She originally traveled there to buy handmade carpets for her father's store, Gonsalves Rustic Design, but she decided to extend her stay and become an apprentice to her supplier, a carpet and antique dealer in a Victorian hotel in old Istanbul.

Eventually, her supplier recommended that Gonsalves "bring back the whole experience" to the states.

"This was kismet happening," Gonsalves said.



TRR photo by Charlie Buterbaugh  
Lisa Gonsalves, owner of Kismet, displays some of the rugs inside her new store. Visitor Bob Couture of Beach Lake, PA relaxes on a Friday afternoon.

In May, she opened her business next to Nicolina Country Place, taking over what was Gonsalves Rustic Design. She has kept some of her father's paintings and furniture, but most of her inventory includes bright textiles and Victorian antiques made in Turkey.

On the floor are piles of Gabbeh carpets and Turkish kilims, and hanging from the ceiling are 80-year-old tapestries. The tea she serves in the small glasses is made from leaves grown in the hills near the East Black Sea. It steeps all day long inside Kismet.

To get the full experience—to sit on the couch, drink tea and check out the goods—visitors should remove their shoes.

In Istanbul, people from all over the world would visit her supplier's store, where they would drink tea, eat and sometimes play games.

"That's the kind of merchant I want to be," Gonsalves said. Since she opened she has hosted a belly dancer and a drum circle, and she plans to use the space for other gatherings.

Gonsalves' lecture on her collection of carpets includes information on the nomadic tribes that make them and the materials and dyes they use.

The store also carries a selection of amulets, good luck charms used to both decorate camels riding across the desert and ward off evil. Blown-glass lanterns hang in the front window.

"It's okay to be here," Gonsalves assures, explaining that buying imports at Kismet is not a prerequisite for staying. "Come in and hang out."



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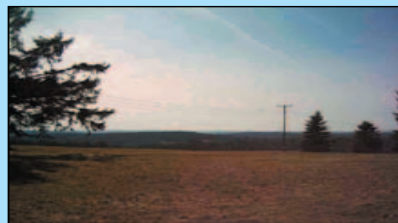
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