





# barn beautiful.

WRITTEN BY MICHELE KEITH | PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE FREIHON

SOME DESIGNERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN TAKEN ABACK BY THE UNUSUAL REQUEST, BUT SHAWN HENDERSON DIDN'T BLINK AN EYE. What the couple wanted for their circa-1700s clapboard farmhouse was the "overall feel" of their favorite hotel—a serene beauty high above the Pacific Ocean in New Zealand. The project was right up Henderson's alley, known as he is for sophisticated, comfortably refined interiors. So, armed only with the suggestion to "have a look at the hotel's website," he began planning a light, airy design that would honor the property's architectural heritage.

**INTERIOR DESIGN** Shawn Henderson, Shawn Henderson Interior Design

**HOME BUILDER** Robert P. Campbell, Robert J. Campbell Jr., & Sons

**BEDROOMS** 4 **BATHROOMS** 6 **SQUARE FEET** 8,000







#### SETTING THE STAGE

Edgy yet familiar, the entry teams an industrial steel interpretation of Dutch designer Gerrit Rietveld's Zig Zag chair and Gregory Crewdson's photograph *Untitled (Dead Cow Discovery)* from the couple's collection with a soft-to-the-touch braided rug.

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Situated on 23 lush acres in tony Litchfield County, Connecticut, the L-shaped home unites three components: the original two-story main building, a former barn (now the living room) and the connecting passageway Henderson transformed into a super-simple dining room. The latter two, along with a wing in the main structure containing the kitchen, family room and master bedroom suite, were added on about 20 years ago.

"The previous owner did a fantastic job on renovations," says Henderson. "My clients, who were moving back to New York after seven years abroad, loved everything about it. I only had to create a homey interior that they and their baby boy, now joined by a brother, would enjoy as a weekend retreat and place to entertain friends and family." And they made it even easier for Henderson by bringing only two items and an extensive art collection to be incorporated into the mix.

