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Trend Watch 2012

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Cover photo and this page by Jack Rowell



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Spring Inspirations

It's that time of year to marvel at nature's rebirth as spring bursts out in full color all over the Upper Valley. Tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths poke their way up from the warming soil, and bright yellow forsythia dots the landscape. As sunshine streams through our windows, we scurry to clean them—and everything else in sight. The sun's brighter rays have a way of highlighting winter's buildup of dirt, grit, and grime, and our instinctual spring-cleaning genes kick in once again.

As you're working to make your home sparkle from top to bottom, you may also feel the urge to knock down a wall to expand your kitchen, renovate an outdated bath, add a new patio, or even build a new home. To assist with your planning, design, and construction, our special Trend Watch section beginning on page 41 highlights some of the top professionals in the area. They're offering valuable advice on new materials, energy efficiency, and the latest styles and colors for decorating your home. We're grateful to these men and women for sharing with us their experience, their expertise, and their photos of many beautiful projects in the area.

In this issue we're visiting Eaton's Sugar House in South Royalton, Vermont, home of world-famous pancakes and maple syrup (page 32). South Royalton is also the location of Hitching Post Farm, the site of a unique summer camp that teaches both fiddling and riding (page 22). Join us as we drop in on music teacher Beth Telford and riding instructor Laurie Hudson, their students, and some handsome horses.

In the kitchen this spring, you'll want to try Cindy Hill's delicious recipes using garlic scapes (page 14), and Susan Nye's ideas and tempting menu are sure to inspire you to host a fun-filled Kentucky Derby party on the first Saturday in May (page 106).

Wherever this beautiful season finds you, we hope you'll turn to *Image* magazine as your guide to the best shopping, dining, services, and leisure-time activities in the Upper Valley. Enjoy!



Deborah Thompson

Executive Editor

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about our contributors



Katherine Cox

Kathy is a freelance writer and former writer and editor for The Keene Sentinel in Keene, New Hampshire. Her work has also appeared in Vermont's Local Banquet, So Vermont Arts & Living, Our Local Table Monadnock, and the anthology Beyond the Notches: Stories of Place in New Hampshire's North Country.

Susan Nye

Writer, photographer and chef, Susan Nye is a regular contributor to magazines and newspapers throughout New England. Her short story Murder on the Mountain is one of 20 in Live Free or Die, Die, Die! (Plaidswede Publishing, October 2011), an anthology of murder and mayhem in the Granite State.

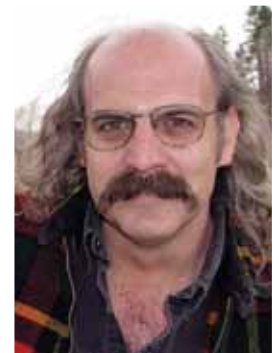


Mary Gow

Mary holds the middle place in a family with three generations of women writers. Best known for her award-winning history of science books for middle school students, she is also a regular contributor to regional magazines. Her latest book, The Great Thinker: Aristotle and the Foundations of Science, was released in September 2010. She lives in Warren, Vermont.

Jack Rowell

A fifth generation Vermonter, Jack was born and raised in central Vermont. He has been a professional photographer for over 35 years, shooting documentary, commercial, and advertising photographs. His work has been published in People Weekly, London Independent, Time, Newsweek, New York Times, The Economist, and the Times of London.



Stephen Morris

Stephen is the publisher of Green Living: A Practical Journal for Friends of the Environment. He is also a novelist whose most recent work, Stories & Tunes, is set in Vermont. It is available at area book stores and online booksellers. He lives in Randolph, Vermont.

Sara Tucker

Sara Tucker is a native of Randolph, Vermont. She worked as a copy editor at Cosmopolitan magazine under Helen Gurley Brown. Sara currently teaches writing at the Greater Randolph Senior Center.





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With the spring 2012 issue, we're working hard to bring you more frequent, relevant, and engaging content that better represents the community, culture, and lifestyle of the Connecticut River Valley. Please check out our new website at www.mountainviewpublishing.com, and while you're there take a few minutes to tell us more about what you would like to see. This is your chance to tell us exactly what you want to find when you arrive at our home page! You can access the survey directly at www.mountainviewpublishing.com/survey. It will take only a few minutes and we'd really appreciate your feedback.



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Garlic Scapes



EMERALD-GREEN LOOPS AND SPIRALS stretching toward the midsummer sky like rollercoasters for ladybugs: these are garlic scapes, the false flower head of hardneck garlic varieties (*Allium sativum*). Scapes have long provided a delightful preview to the season's fresh garlic harvest for home gardeners. Now the secret of scapes is spreading, as farmers' market vendors and restaurant chefs embrace the pleasantly pungent shoots.

"I first discovered garlic scapes years ago when I was growing my own garlic," says Hank Shaw, author of *Hunter Angler Gardener Cook*, which has twice been named the International Association of Culinary Professionals' Best Food Blog. "I'd read about the scapes, about how they will stunt the growth of the bulbs if you let them grow. So I sliced every one off. Not wanting to waste them, I decided to blanch the scapes in salty water for a minute or two, then I sautéed them with butter and smoked salt. Awesome." ▶

Caption to come



Make a delicious dip by simply mixing finely chopped garlic scapes with sour cream.

Garlic Scape Pesto

6–7 garlic scapes, woody portions removed, the rest cut into 1-inch pieces
 6 fresh basil leaves (lemon or lime basil is a nice option)
 ⅓ cup almonds
 ¼ cup grated Pecorino Romano cheese
 ½ tsp salt
 ½ tsp pepper
 Juice from half a lemon or lime
 ¾ cup olive oil

Pulse all ingredients except the olive oil in a food processor until roughly chopped. With the food processor running, add olive oil in a fine stream and blend until the mixture is a smooth, bright green paste. Serve over pasta or on bread or use to coat fish or corn on the cob. Makes enough for one pound of pasta.

Garlic Scape Spread

Finely chop the soft portions of fresh garlic scapes. Lightly pack into a small jar, and then slowly fill the jar to the surface of the chopped scapes with light-tasting olive oil. Cover and let sit at room temperature for a day for the flavors to blend, and then refrigerate for up to two weeks. Spread on crusty bread.

Harvesting Scapes

Garlic is one of humankind's earliest food crops; it has been cultivated in central Asia for more than 6,000 years. While Americans eat over 250 million pounds of garlic annually, much of that is in the form of dried garlic powder. Until recently, most consumers had not seen garlic scapes, unless they grew garlic themselves.

Garlic plants reproduce by cloning. In early autumn, single garlic cloves are planted about three inches deep in soft garden or farm soil. In cold areas like

New England, a thick layer of straw or shredded leaves is placed over the garlic beds to keep the cloves from being ejected by winter's freezes and thaws. Throughout the fall, the garlic clove establishes a thick network of roots and may send up a single small shoot. As soon as the ground thaws in the spring, the garlic plant emerges, sending up a broad fan of strapping leaves that look vaguely prehistoric.

Garlic scapes begin to emerge from the center of the garlic plant in late May





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Garlic Scape Stir-Fry

About ½ cup peanut oil

2 large carrots, sliced thinly on a diagonal

1 sweet red pepper, cut into thin slices

1 small head bok choy, shredded

6–8 whole garlic scapes, woody parts removed and trimmed to fit pan

1 tsp tamari soy sauce

Sesame seeds

Heat peanut oil in a wok or very large sauté pan. Add carrots and stir briskly for one minute. Add sweet red pepper and bok choy and stir for about 3 minutes. Add whole garlic scapes, stirring briefly. Add tamari and put a lid over the wok or sauté pan and let cook for about 3 more minutes until tender. Sprinkle with sesame seeds and serve over rice. Serves 4 to 6.



or early June, when the garlic plants have reached about three feet in height. Some garlic growers cut off the scapes as soon as they emerge; others wait until they have completed their first loop. Deciding how long to let the scapes grow before snipping them is a matter of passionate personal preference, though after the first loop is completed the base of the scapes begins to get woody and must be removed before cooking. A few weeks after garlic scape season, the garlic plant begins to die back, and by early August the main crop—the garlic bulbs—can be harvested.

Tasty & Versatile

Once cut, scapes can last about a week in a bag in the refrigerator, or with their cut ends placed into a jar of water for a dramatic edible display. The fleeting availability of garlic scapes is part of their edible attraction. “Scapes are fantastic, ephemeral treats of early summer,” Shaw says.

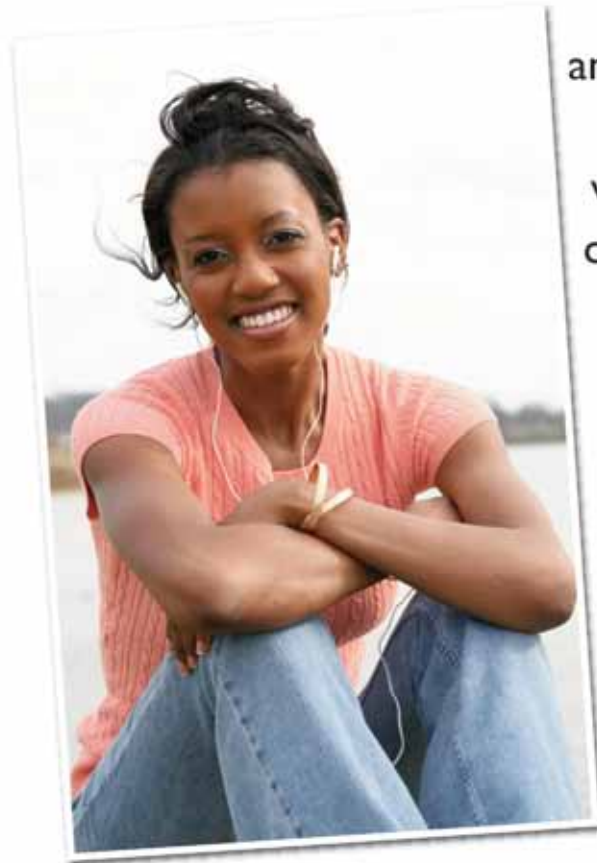
Chef Shawn Beede of Monty’s Old Brick Tavern in Williston, Vermont, also appreciates the place garlic scapes occupy in the culinary wheel of the year. As a member of the Vermont Fresh Network, Shawn draws on local meats and produce at the peak of their seasons to complete Monty’s menu. “I like the seasonal changes, things taste so much better,” he says. “I want to be working with and serving something that is grown that month.”

Flavor is the other reason garlic scape popularity is growing. “Garlic scapes have an onion-garlic flavor that is not overwhelming, it’s just right,” Beede says. “There is a little sweetness going on there, a unique taste.”

The green, mild flavor of garlic scapes makes them a versatile addition to many seasonal dishes, as well as a fast substitute for garlic in any recipe. Beede says, “They are good for poaching, roasting, purees. I use them in pasta dishes, for pesto, in mashed potatoes, and on our weekly special pizzas.”

Low in calories and high in vitamin C and iron, garlic scapes whole or finely chopped make a bright, fresh addition to late spring eating. ☺

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Horse and Fiddle

VERMONT CAMP COMBINES RIDING AND MUSIC



Above: Cape Breton-style fiddle instructor Beth Telford teaches Lowry and Maegan a new tune. Right: Kaley and Meadow.



On a cool morning in early summer, the town of South Royalton, Vermont, awakens to another day of rain. At Hitching Post Farm, west of the village on a woody road that parallels the White River, the fields are waterlogged, the barnyard awash in puddles. No trail riding today. Instead, on the last day of something called “horse and fiddle camp,” the morning workout takes place indoors. ▶

Right: Sophie helps groom Fenway. Below: Playing for Kaley and Sunnybrook by Design in the arena. Putting the new tunes to the horse's gaits.



Here's the scene: Three riders of varying abilities, each matched with an appropriate mount, circle the dressage arena. The youngest, nine-year-old Lowry, sits astride a little pony. Riding instructor Laurie Hudson swivels on foot in the center of the ring, eyes trained on the riders. Tootsie, the savvy barn dog, stays close to Hudson's side, well away from the pounding hooves. Swallows swoop overhead.

"Eyes up!" Laurie calls. "More leg! Good, Lowry—much better with your hand." That's the "horse" part of horse and fiddle camp. The fiddle part is in a corner of the same enormous barn, over by the hay wagon: three young girls in riding boots and jodhpurs, bows at the ready.

"Tune up!" calls a second instructor. "Don't forget to tune!" Beth Telford is teaching music on horseback this morning. "You're trying to put this together with a trot, right?" she says, pausing by the hay wagon on one of her rotations. "One, two, one, two. You've got to go at a good clip."

Over the next hour, the fiddlers work their way through a repertoire of Cape Breton-style reels, waltzes, marches, and jigs as the riders coax their mounts to walk, trot, and canter. Meanwhile, Beth and Laurie endeavor to hold everyone to



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a steady tempo while maintaining good form. The students range in age from nine to eleven and in playing skill from advanced beginner to advanced. Most are beginning riders. All happen to be girls.

After lunch, the two groups swap places, and then a couple of advanced riders take over the ring. “Can we ask you to do certain things?” asks Beth from the sidelines. The riders oblige by alternating paces as the fiddlers run through “Mary Ann MacDougall’s March” (a walk), “Devil in the Kitchen” (a trot), and “Jack Daniel’s Reel” (a canter).

Combining Two Passions

For eight years, Beth ran what she calls a “normal” fiddle camp in Braintree, Vermont, with renowned Cape Breton fiddler and composer Jerry Holland. Jerry had been an early mentor, and the two were close friends. Their camp, like this one, combined fiddle playing with a physical component that encouraged players to “feel” the music, only instead of riding, the activity was dance. Specifically, Cape Breton-style step-dance. Jerry, says Beth, was “really big on step-dancing,” and such was his magnetism that he even managed to interest a group of boys in the high-energy traditional dance form, with its emphasis on leg- and footwork. The step-dancing boys returned year after year, becoming a very tight group.

Then, in 2009, Jerry lost his battle with cancer at the age of 54. Beth knew she would have to adapt in order to carry on her business, but how? She missed her friend, and the thought of running a fiddle camp without him saddened her. While she mulled things over, she did a lot of riding, turning to horses for solace.

“There’s some kind of mysterious connection between fiddling and horses,” Beth says on a run into town for lunch supplies. “I’ve lost many a student when they become horse-wild, and I said to myself, it doesn’t have to be this way. You can combine the two passions. It’s something Jerry and I talked a lot about.”



A Horse-Fiddle Camp is Born

In equestrian events, a dressage routine set to music is known as kur, or musical freestyle. Horse and rider should be closely matched, so thoroughly in sync that they move as one—think of pairs figure skating or ballroom dancing. Precise timing is of crucial importance. The sport—or art, if you prefer—was developed in the sixteenth century in Northern Italy, where music was introduced to teach riders about tempo and pacing. Elaborate “horse ballets” became a popular form of entertainment during the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Today, musical freestyle is an Olympic event.



Left: Macey practices her tunes. Below left: Jessie and Flicka. Above: Beth and Laurie with Tootsie.

In the summer of 2010, Beth approached Laurie Hudson with the idea of a one-week day camp that combined Cape Breton-style fiddling with dressage instruction. Laurie's family owns Hitching Post Farm, and her children are among Beth's students. A one-day trial convinced the two women that the camp would work, says Beth, "and away we went."

As the last day of the first-ever horse-fiddle camp comes to an end, there is talk of what the future will bring. "I would like to get to the point where we actually could do a mini dressage demonstration with Cape Breton music," says Beth, "using riders from the camp."

Meanwhile, Beth and Laurie plan to open the program to adults and to reintroduce step-dance, the missing component that was one of Jerry's strengths. "I'm hoping to get some boys back," Beth says, looking thoughtful. "Maybe we ought to add jousting." 🐾



For information about the 2012 Horse and Fiddle Camp at Hitching Post Farm, contact Beth Telford at lukeydog57@gmail.com or (802) 728-6351 or go to www.hitchingpostfarm.com.

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Eaton's was built as a cider mill, and the original press is still there as proof. In 1953 the operation was owned by the Eaton and Danforth families, who added a sugarhouse. Then, in 1967, renovations were made to accommodate a restaurant and gift shop. ▶



Left: Happy customers enjoy their meals.

BY STEPHEN MORRIS
PHOTOS BY JACK ROWELL



One of the area's premier breakfast destinations, Eaton's is located in the center of the state. Home cookin' may be the best way to describe the fare.



Clockwise from left: Eaton's Specialty Shop is chock-full of food products made by Vermont companies. Eaton's award-winning pecan pie. Eaton's maple syrup. Locally made pancake mix. People from the US and all over the world come to enjoy Eaton's famous pancakes.

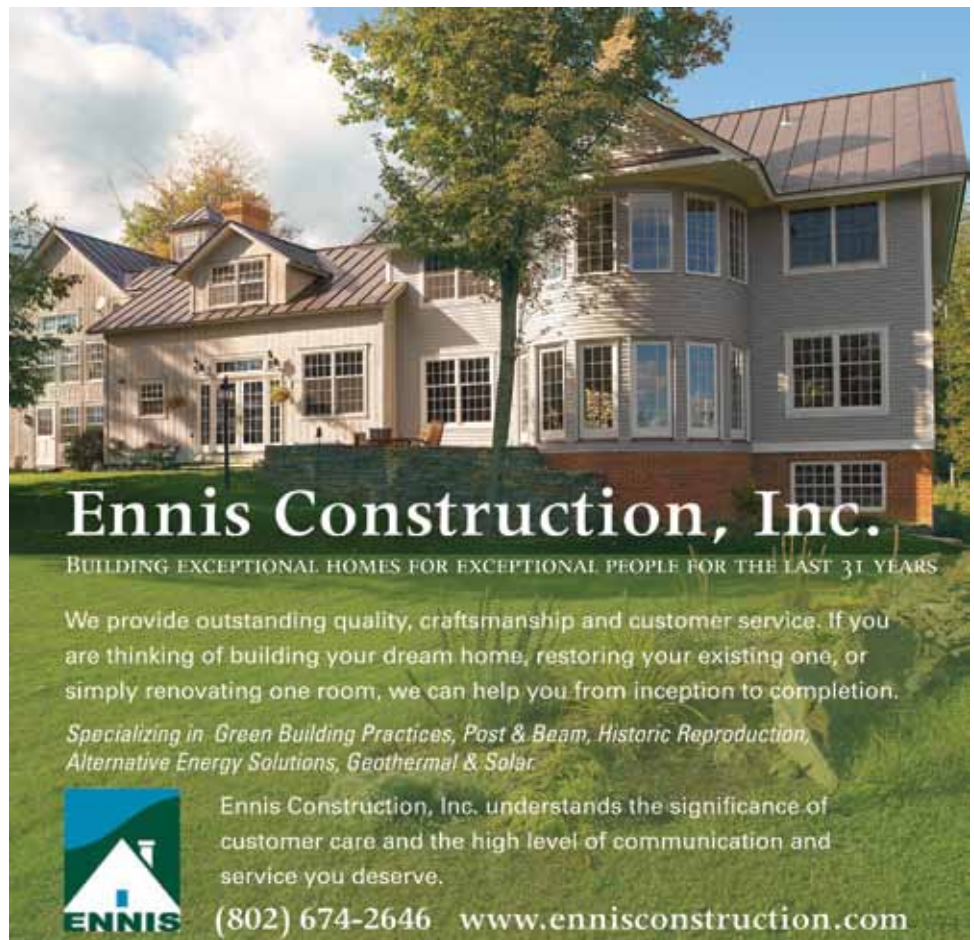
Worth the Wait

It didn't take long for Eaton's to gain a reputation as one of the area's premier breakfast destinations. Its location in the center of the state and convenient access to I-89 made it easy to get to, and the gigantic pancakes topped with made-on-the-premises, real maple syrup made it worth the trip.

Home cookin' describes the fare at Eaton's, both then and now. Old-fashioned cider donuts, homemade bread, and real mashed potatoes give meaning to their slogan, "Hope you're hungry." Portions are not for the faint of heart and inevitably lead to belt loosening, especially if you top things off with Eaton's award-winning maple pecan pie.

It's not unusual to see queues at Eaton's, especially on Sunday mornings. Not to worry—there's plenty of entertainment besides great food. Their country store is a treasure trove of Vermont products, ranging from books to toys and genuine oddities. You can even play a game of checkers on their giant checkerboard. Or you can take home a taste of Vermont, choosing from an array of maple products, jams, fruit butters, salsas, and their own maple fudge.


During the season (and even well beyond), you can watch the sugarhouse in action under the stewardship of current owners Connie Poulin and her son Justin. ▶



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While everything about Eaton's shouts "traditional" on the surface, there's a strong connection to the farm-to-table renaissance that is happening today in Vermont. Justin has his own dairy herd in nearby Brookfield and is an active member of the local farming community. Many ingredients are locally sourced from the numerous small organic farms and food-production operations that have sprouted in the area during the past decade.

An Enthusiastic Following

Because Eaton's exudes such an intensely Vermont flavor, it has become a darling of food aficionados from near and far. These are the folks who think nothing of driving several hours to sample biscuits with sausage gravy or to see what's so artery clogging about chicken-fried steak (with obligatory gravy, of course).

Here's how Eaton's is described on the website Boston's Hidden Restaurants, where it is one of only five Vermont establishments featured: "The outside of Eaton's has a front porch complete with chairs, local notices, and



an ancient block of post office boxes, while the inside features several sections of food items, souvenirs, and clothes before opening up into a rustic dining area overlooking the hills and mountains to the west. A semi-open kitchen sits to the left of the dining room, while the room itself has a mix of tables and booths, with tables and benches made of rough-hewn wood.”

Talk about authentic! Until a few years ago, Eaton’s even had a few bullet holes in the front window. Now that’s local color.

Eaton’s Signature Breakfast

Eaton’s is open from 7am to 3pm, seven days a week. At times during the restaurant’s history, it has served dinner, but the Poulins have wisely focused on breakfast and lunch. The signature meal is, without doubt, breakfast. And the stars of the breakfast are their buttermilk pancakes served with Eaton’s own maple syrup. To describe these as huge is, well, accurate. But they are more than just oversized—they come in a variety of flavors, including blueberry, apple spice, chocolate raspberry, and apple walnut.

An enthusiastic reviewer on Yelp.com said simply, “Pancake nirvana, I kid you not!” Another deemed it a “great breakfast stop” and gave the place an extra star for the



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coonskin cap he found in the gift shop. "This place exudes charm," gushes a third. "A totally guilty pleasure," says another, who confesses to routinely driving more than a half-hour for an Eaton's pancake fix.

Lunches are equally hearty and are the definition of comfort food. There are menu choices that will remind you of Mom: chicken-fried steak, a turkey club

(with hand-carved roast turkey, not the sliced stuff), a hot roast beef sandwich with puddles of gravy, mashed potatoes, and peas. You can get chili with corn bread on the side, homemade soups, even a roast turkey dinner or a ham plate. Hint: Eaton's is almost as well known for their home fries as their pancakes, so be sure to sample some.

But as hearty as the lunches are, stick



Clockwise from left: Freshly canned maple syrup in the window. Justin is in his glory when boiling sap to make syrup. The evaporator is where the syrup-making process takes place.



with breakfast, served all day. There are lots of places where you can get a good burger, but there's only one place you can get pancakes as good as Eaton's.

The section of I-89 between Montpelier and the New Hampshire border used to be known for its beautiful scenery and dearth of good places to eat. Now that the word has gotten out about Eaton's, just a mile off Exit 3, there's no excuse for going hungry. ☺



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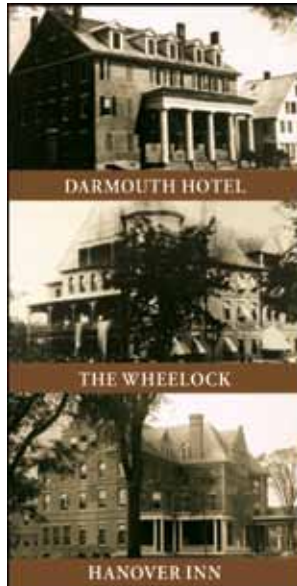


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David Anderson Hill, whose business is in South Woodstock, agrees and says, "Our specialty is using recycled materials—antique brick or wide-board flooring from older homes. People are always remodeling and materials become available. Some of the boards are really ancient; take a board out of a 200-year-old house and think about how old it was when it was first cut."

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VERSATILE SPACES

With smaller square footage in newer homes, people are realizing that rooms can serve multiple functions. They want homes that are more flexible. Rooms dedicated to one purpose are less popular now, according to a recent survey conducted by the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

“People don’t need a huge den or separate office space anymore,” says David Barista, editor in chief of *Professional Builder* and *Custom Builder* magazines. Builders are including nooks or resource centers with a desk, printer, space for a laptop, and even some cubbyholes for mail and bills, according to MSN



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Real Estate. “Planning centers” are becoming common—spaces adjacent to the kitchen “that serve as the family command center of sorts,” says Scott Thomas, director of product design for PulteGroup. “It’s a place where the kids can do their homework and be within earshot of the parents. They are great for family organization, paying bills, and more.”

“One prominent design trend for today’s home owner is to have more open space.”

Louise Bonfiglio, owner/president, McGray & Nichols Builders, Inc., New London, NH

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For 35 years, the American home grew larger. In 1973, when the Census Bureau started keeping track, the median house size was 1,525 square feet. Homes swelled to 2,277 square feet by 2007 and then began to shrink. By 2010, the median-size single-family home was 2,169 square feet.

The downsizing may have stopped. The American Institute of Architects’ Home Design Trends Survey shows signs that home size is stabilizing. Census figures from the third quarter of 2011 show the median size for new homes is 2,242 square feet, a bump up.



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Did You Know?
 American Bungalow style—an offshoot of Craftsman, or Arts and Crafts, style—is widely admired for its simplicity, quality, and functionality.



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GOOD FLOW

As homes have gotten smaller in recent years, an open floor plan is a way to make a home seem larger than it is. “Many new homes have a continuous space and open sight line—a great room—that extends from kitchen to dining area to living area,” says Brent Anderson, vice president of Investor Relations for Meritage Homes. That suits today’s more casual family. “You can watch the football game while you’re cooking dinner,” he says.

By losing the walls and hallways, a home can seem much bigger, Anderson says. “If I walked through a home today that’s a 3,200-square-foot, four-bedroom home, it looks, feels, and lives better than a 4,000-square-foot home of 20 years ago. You would think that you are in a larger home. But you’re in a home that’s 20 percent smaller.”

A related trend is great rooms that open directly to outdoor living areas, bringing in lots of natural light. “Outdoor living is so huge right now that these great rooms are getting ‘greater,’ as it were,” says David Barista, editor in chief of *Professional Builder* and *Custom Builder* magazines.



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Peter French, Peter French Fine Woodwork & Design, Norwich, VT

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Craig Howe, Talbot Builders, New London, NH

SMART THINKING

“As the nation collectively struggles with the hangover of the excesses of the 1980s and ’90s and many people are saddled with underwater McMansions, the most common theme I hear now from prospective clients is ‘we don’t need or want anything nearly that big,’” says Peter French of Peter French Fine Woodwork & Design in Norwich, Vermont. “House size is the single biggest determinant of energy and ownership costs,” he explains. “We are rethinking our priorities and opening our eyes to the rest of the world. There will always be grand mansions being built by those who can afford them, and I say thank goodness for that! What a shame if we (as builders) never had the opportunity to build the masterpieces of Newport, Rhode Island, or their modern equivalents surrounding Aspen and Vail. But for the majority, a compact and efficient house is in order.

“The bottom line is that we are living in a time of rapidly changing materials, energy costs, and international competition for raw materials,” Peter says, “but through it all, the principles of building have not changed. With lessons learned from past mistakes, and lessons learned from what has worked, we are in a position to build houses better than ever and leave a smaller footprint on the Earth.”


COPING WITH THE ELEMENTS

“Clients are asking for low-maintenance exteriors,” says Craig Howe, owner of Talbot Builders. “That’s a challenge in New England where the harsh environment is tough on any wood product. Couple this with the desire to have a traditional-looking exterior, and you eliminate most of the vinyl siding type products.”

Some new products are showing promise, however. “Some PVC trim looks like wood when painted and is a great alternative,” Craig says.

Peter French agrees. “Plastics are becoming more common. A real winner is PVC exterior trim for rot problem areas around dormers and sill boards.”

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Oil, propane, or electric? Your building professional can advise you on heating and cooling choices.

• **Wood Heat** “Probably the single feature I miss the most in many houses that I build now is the real masonry fireplace,” says Peter French. “There is no question that it is potentially a horrible waste of energy if the flue is left open, but it often is the heart and soul of a house. Energy codes now require glass doors on a fireplace in some places. A woodstove is a common and much more practical alternative, and pellet stoves are cleaner and many people love them,” Peter remarks.

• **Hydronic Heat** “Basically this means a multiple-zoned hot water distribution system, whether fired by gas or oil,” Peter explains. “Radiant heat in the floor comes in several forms, but the advantages are compelling. There are no radiators to drive furniture locations



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TALBOT BUILDERS

Home owners are asking for “resource centers”—nooks that include a desk, printer, space for a laptop, a place to drop off keys, and cubbyholes for mail, according to MSN Real Estate.

and collect dust and it yields very comfortable heat. But don't expect it to heat up a room in a hurry. It is slow. That is why we have programmable thermostats,” Peter says.

•**Air Conditioning** “Even in the Upper Valley, many people are installing some form of air conditioning,” Peter says. “But with the prevalence of hydronic heat in this area, there is no existing air distribution system (as is common in houses with a hot air furnace) that can be used for AC. The cost of installing a conventional central AC system, in addition to a hydronic heating system, puts it out of reach for many—hence the proliferation of inexpensive window units,” he explains. “But here we look to the Far East, notably Japan,” Peter continues, “where they have been using what is known as a ‘mini-split’ system for years. These systems put the compressor outside and commonly have one or two condensing units mounted up near the ceiling on the inside. We have all seen them around now—they look kind of like a big hot dog bun that blows cold air. They are quiet, efficient, economical, and offer heating options through heat-pump technology.”

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KITCHENS



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open house, everyone knows that people love to gather in the kitchen. Make it marvelous with a beautiful design and the highest quality materials and appliances your budget will allow.

"We are selling more painted cabinets with a multitude of colors, primarily whites and creams," says Jonathan E. Blodgett of Blodgett's Sash & Door in Lebanon. "Barn Red has been a popular color also, along with natural finishes in maple, cherry, and red birch. The Shaker-style door is definitely the most popular at this time."





“Current kitchen plans are about living and working in a large open space—the heart of the home—a space that is comfortable and inclusive of family, friends, and the cook!”

Susan Fuller, David Anderson Hill, Inc.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLODGETT'S SASH AND DOOR



KITCHENS



“Wood floors are making a comeback in the kitchen. We’re seeing mostly hardwood floors—hickory has been popular, along with rustic oak and rustic maple.”

Sheila Varnese,
Kitchen Design Specialist,
LaValley Building Supply

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KITCHENS

ASK THE EXPERTS

"Staying home more, it's nice to have a bigger kitchen," says Sheila Varnese, Kitchen Design Specialist at LaValley Building Supply in West Lebanon. "Kitchen designs also accommodate multiple cooks at the same time." Trends Sheila is seeing include:

Large islands These areas provide room for people to congregate during family gatherings or parties. The island sometimes has a raised bar that doubles as a buffet.

Multiple surfaces The island can have a different surface than the countertop. Even cabinets are sometimes in different colors or finishes.

Hardwood floors Fairly easy to maintain, there are specific cleaners for them, and no waxing is required.

Hardware Brushed nickel and oil-rubbed bronze are two of the contemporary finishes for hardware and knobs, in a variety of shapes.



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FORM & FUNCTION

“A design trend that I have seen in the last couple of years is more drawers in the kitchen,” says Jonathan E. Blodgett of Blodgett’s Sash & Door. “We also have seen much higher quality corner solutions with the use of Magic Corners and Super Susans.” Jonathan remarks on other strong trends:

Countertops “We still sell a fair amount of laminate countertops (Formica). Quartz surfaces are strong sellers, and Corian or solid surfaces are popular because of the seamless assembly with backsplashes and sinks. Granite is also a strong seller.”

Backsplashes “We are seeing glass tiles being used for backsplashes in translucent colors, and solid surfaces have gained in the backsplash market.”

Lighting “I find that customers really appreciate a good lighting design, especially under-cabinet lighting in their new kitchens.”

“Today’s refrigerators are a lot more efficient. French door refrigerators with freezers on the bottom are a leading design.” — David Perry, Perry’s Oil Service, Bradford, VT

SMART APPLIANCES
 “We’re seeing more sophisticated electronics with home appliances and connectivity of appliances with computers and smartphones. These devices help homeowners manage use and energy savings even from a distance. With Sub-Zero and Wolf, for example, you can program or adjust the icemaker from your smartphone or computer—make more ice before you’re entertaining, less when you have less demand.”

David Perry,
 Perry’s Oil Service,
 Bradford, VT

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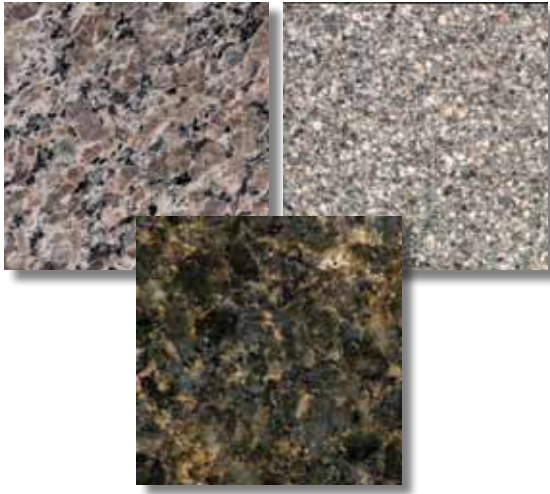
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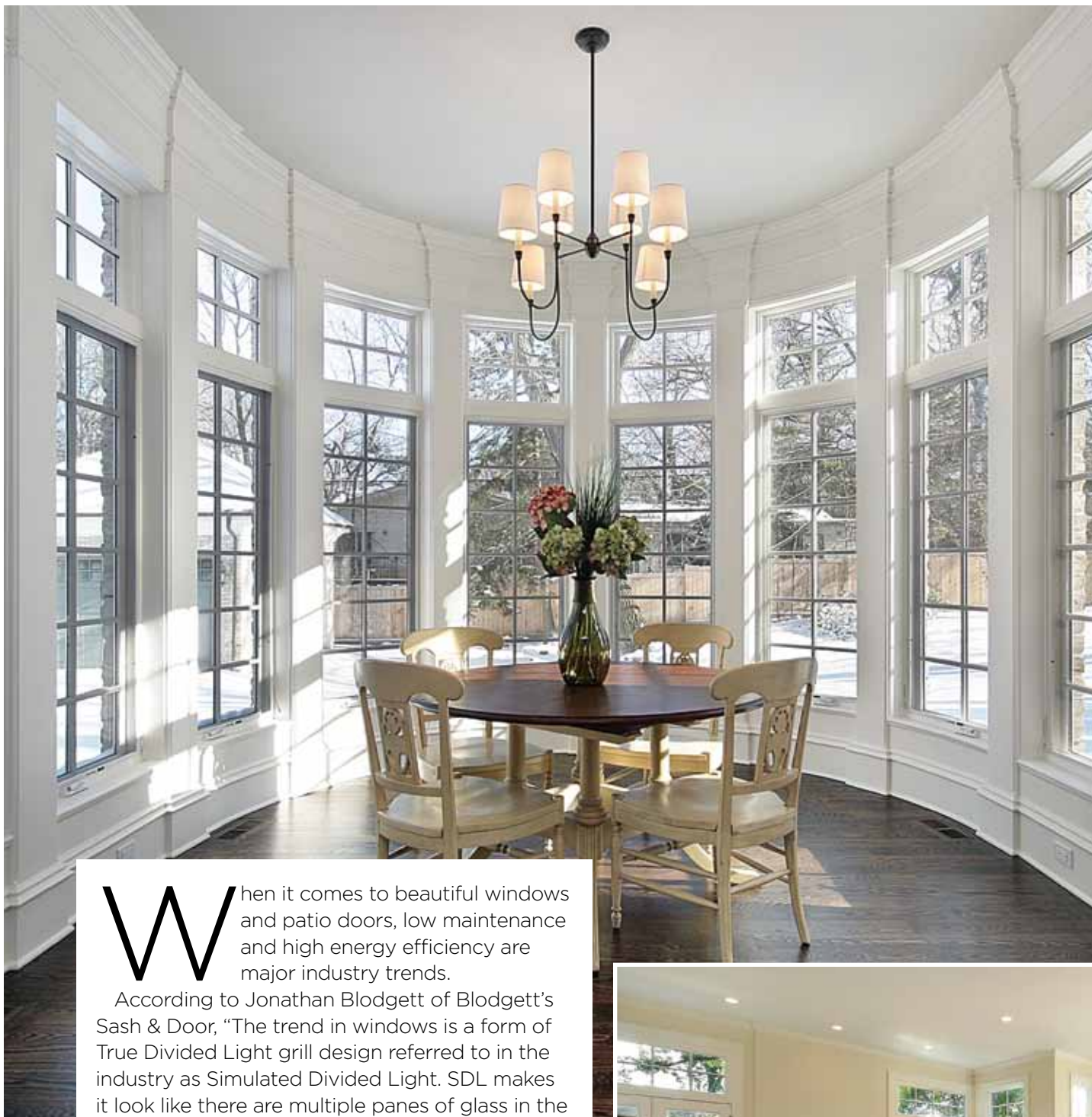


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WINDOWS & DOORS



When it comes to beautiful windows and patio doors, low maintenance and high energy efficiency are major industry trends.

According to Jonathan Blodgett of Blodgett's Sash & Door, "The trend in windows is a form of True Divided Light grill design referred to in the industry as Simulated Divided Light. SDL makes it look like there are multiple panes of glass in the window without the energy loss of true divided panes.

"Almost 90 percent of our window sales feature a clad exterior to eliminate exterior maintenance," Jonathan says, "and these windows have achieved an Energy Star Rating for this region of the country. Most windows in this market are double hung (sash slides up and down) with casement windows (crank open from the side) over kitchen sinks."





“Windows and doors are key pieces in your home environment; you live with and use them every day.”

Charles Pelsue,
Windows and Doors
by Brownell



WINDOWS & DOORS

WINDOWS AT WORK

"Windows have gotten much better with more stable materials being used in their construction," says Peter French of Peter French Fine Woodwork & Design in Norwich, Vermont. "The addition of different glazing options can be tailored to the orientation of a particular wall," he says. "For example, you may want to reduce the amount of solar transmission on the west side of your house so you don't cook in the afternoon, but you want all you can get on the east side in the morning. On the north you are primarily concerned with minimizing infrared heat loss. This can all be affected by applying different coatings on the interior of the insulated glass," Peter explains. "The Canadians have led the way," Peter adds, "but the major American manufacturers are up to speed and are producing better products than ever."



"We still sell wood exterior doors for their natural beauty, but we sell more fiberglass insulated doors than any other exterior door."

Jonathan Blodgett, Blodgett's Sash & Door

DID YOU KNOW?

The cost of installing high-efficiency window glazing systems has fallen to the point that the payback is as low as 3 to 4 years. As energy costs rise, this payback period will shrink.





“Popular interior doors are now solid-core, molded, six-panel primed doors for painting.”

Jonathan Blodgett, Blodgett’s Sash & Door



Architect: Fraerman and Associates Project: House on a Ravine

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WINDOWS

BLINDS AND SHADES

Did you know that home owners are turning to window treatments to save energy? Blinds and shades can pay for themselves in a relatively short period of time by reducing heating and cooling costs.

"We do Hunter Douglas window shades and custom soft treatments," says Sierra Izzo of Woodstock Home & Hardware. "Honeycomb shades increase the R-value of the window and are very insulating."



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WINDOW TREATMENTS

HOME COMFORTS

"People are staying home more," says Sierra Izzo of Woodstock Home & Hardware. "They have creative ideas and are bringing nature into the home. We're seeing a lot of larger windows in new buildings—people are really bringing the outdoors in."

There are a host of window treatments to let you decide how much light to let in and how much privacy you want, and custom shades and blinds are available to fit any window.



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ENERGY

Homebuilders have been edging toward greater energy efficiency in the past few years, with features such as compact fluorescent bulbs and Energy Star appliances. But David Barista, editor in chief of *Professional Builder* and *Custom Builder* magazines, sees an even bigger leap. Once the realm of “out there” rich people, now net-zero energy homes—houses that create as much energy as they consume—are going mainstream,

he says. “Today’s builders are becoming masters at building homes that have really tight building envelopes” — that is, homes that don’t leak air where not intended. They’re also offering homes with solar panels to help power the house.

“Today’s home owners are energy conscious,” says Louise Bonfiglio of McGray & Nichols Builders. “The trend is to install geothermal systems for home heating and air conditioning. In the last year, 80 percent of our home owners have

INDOOR AIR

In response to modern houses being built to a much tighter standard, indoor air quality is a major concern, according to Peter French of Norwich, Vermont.

“This is normally addressed with some kind of forced air exchange system which introduces fresh air to the house in a controlled manner,” he explains. “Some systems (heat recovery ventilators) recover heat from outgoing air and transfer it to the incoming air. This is not a new technology, just one that is becoming the rule more than the exception.”





PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME COMFORT WAREHOUSE

“The federal government’s 30 percent tax credit gives home owners the incentive to use alternative energy sources such as solar and geothermal.”

Louise Bonfiglio, McGray & Nichols

installed geothermal systems, which generate a savings of approximately 100 percent of air conditioning and 80 percent of heating costs.”

Reduced costs are helping home owners go green, according to Nathan Kleinschmidt of Home Comfort Warehouse in White River Junction. “One factor is that costs are down substantially, especially in terms of component prices for alternative energy systems. Photovoltaic (PV) systems generate electricity from sunlight. Folks looking to generate electricity from solar PV systems would notice a big savings from even a couple of years ago, as much as 40 percent less,” he reports. “State rebates (these are actual rebates, not tax credits) are as strong as ever. Lately they have been funded. They help home owners with all kinds of renewable energy systems, like solar thermal, or solar PV,” Nathan says.

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Nathan Kleinschmidt, Home Comfort Warehouse, White River Junction, VT



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BATHROOMS

Home owners today are often replacing a tub with a luxurious shower—with rain heads, body sprays, and steam for health and relaxation. A popular choice for the shower is tile with a glass enclosure for easy-to-clean, solid surface walls.

“People who are staying longer in their homes are upgrading their master bedroom bathroom suites, making them nicer,” says Sheila Varnese of LaValley Building Supply. “They’re choosing large tiled showers, often with dual showerheads. Custom-tiled showers are large and are designed for the space. People tend to take fewer baths, so they are making the showers more luxurious,” Sheila observes.





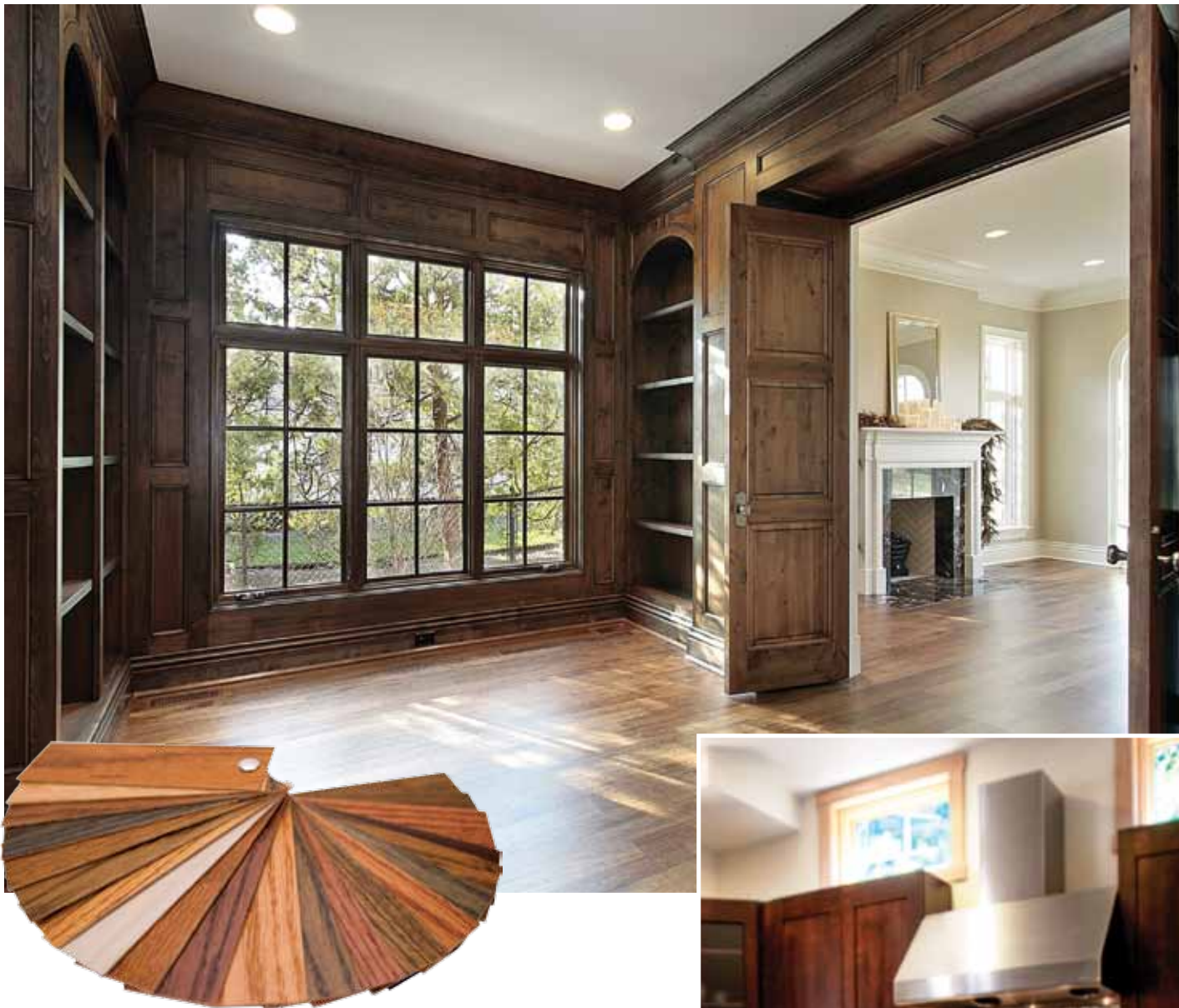
MAKE IT LUXURIOUS

Looking to create a beautiful, luxurious bathroom? Bath remodeling expert Kenneth Goins lists five features to consider:

- 1. Walk-In Shower** with multiple shower heads. This is the ultimate spa experience brought into your home. Enjoy the sensations of a light rainfall or a sauna, and with seating for two you can share the experience.
- 2. High-End Electronics** Enhance your bath with a flat-screen TV. Hidden TVs that appear to be mirrors are both stylish and functional.
- 3. Heated Floors** Don't step out of the shower or tub onto ice-cold tile floors! Heated floors are comfortable and warm.
- 4. Luxury Bathtubs** A beautiful tub is the ultimate addition to any bathroom and offers features such as jet massages.
- 5. Fully Automated Toilets** These toilets come equipped with remote controls that can dry you, spray you, heat you, and even play music.



FLOORING & TILE



Wood flooring enhances the décor of any room and provides timeless beauty that will increase in value, according to the National Wood Flooring Association. In fact, in a national survey of real estate agents, 90 percent said that houses with wood flooring sell faster and for higher prices than houses without wood floors.

Wood floors are easy to maintain. New technology in stains and finishes calls for regular sweeping and/or vacuuming, with occasional use of a professional wood floor cleaning product.

Wood floors are also ecologically friendly. Since it is a natural resource, wood is both renewable and recyclable. And because wood does not collect dust and other allergens, these floors are the perfect choice for a healthy home.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARRE TILE OF NH



TRENDS IN TILE

When it comes to choosing tile, "People are getting bolder in their designs," says Bill Richards, general manager of Barre Tile of New Hampshire. "There is a strong trend toward larger-format tiles, especially larger rectangular tiles like 12x24-inch tiles. These have been popular in more urban areas but are catching on here," he says. "They give a room a more contemporary look. I find that a larger tile makes a smaller space look larger—with fewer grout lines it's less cluttered and appears more expansive."

Another trend is textured tiles. "We have some that have a fabric look, we even have some with a bamboo look," says Bill. "These textured tiles also come in a range of sizes."

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From contemporary to rustic, you can find lighting to suit any taste. "People want to support local businesses," says Greg Isabelle, owner of Illuminations by Barre Electric, "as well as buy lighting built here in the US. Hubbardton Forge is a Vermont company; they do everything from chandeliers and sconces to table lamps. House of Troy is another Vermont company; they make portable lights. Northeast Lanterns is a New Hampshire company that does chandeliers, wall sconces, ceiling, and outdoor fixtures. All three are well known nationally."





“Lighting fixtures last a long time and people want to buy quality. As they are staying in homes longer, they want to have value and want their projects to be in style for a long time.”

Greg Isabelle, Illuminations
by Barre Electric, West Lebanon, NH



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“Whether it’s a table lamp made of wood or a chandelier with pine cones, using an environmentally friendly material is definitely the in thing to do.”

Brian Horan, Creative Lighting Designs,
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INTERIORS



If you'll be decorating a room soon, you may want to follow some advice from local designers on this year's top trends.

"One trend for 2012 is using an Earth tone color palette—russets, shades of brown, gold, and green," says Susan Fuller of David Anderson Hill, Inc. "It's an ecological move. People hear 'green' and start to think the color green and turn to colors in nature: natural browns, like coffee and cocoa colors; creamy yellows like straw, and greens of all shades."

"Whether it is food or furnishings, there has been a return to buying local."

Eleanor Shepard, Shepard Interiors, Woodstock, VT





PHOTO COURTESY OF SHEPARD INTERIORS

“Paisleys are becoming more popular as well as animal prints, which many clients are using as accents on pillows and throws.”

Sage Scott, Sage's Interiors, New London, NH



LAMP BY HUBBARDTON FORGE, COURTESY OF ILLUMINATIONS BY BARRE ELECTRIC



INTERIORS



“Many clients do a classic look with neutrals and then add a pop of color such as red or teal in a great pattern.”

Sage Scott, Sage's Interiors,
New London, NH

NATURE RULES

“The ‘Eco Trend’ continues using the colors of nature,” says Eleanor Shepard of Shepard Interiors in Woodstock. “Earth colors inspire a wide range of neutrals as varied as a pile of rocks to fields of grain. The browns are yellowed and weathered. You will see these colors as wheat, linen, burlap, dune, mushroom, oyster, and grays. Any of these make a good ‘ground’ for any room.”



PHOTO BY JACK ROWELL, COURTESY OF SHEPARD INTERIORS



MIX, DON'T MATCH

"Many clients are open to mixing patterns, colors, and textures into their designing," says Sage Scott of Sage's Interiors. "You can have five patterns together in a room: a large scale, a small scale, a stripe, a plaid, and a mini print."



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Many families are deciding home is the place to be and are looking to have that vacation in their own backyards, according to John Johnson of All Seasons Pool & Spa in Sunapee, New Hampshire. "With the addition of a pool and spa, people are also looking for the aesthetics one would see at vacation resorts," John says. "This can include fiber optic and low-cost LED lighting, landscaping to fit the theme of their backyard, and site work that literally transforms the shape of the backyard. This is a trend that is looking toward multiple generation uses."





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Lynn Wardlaw, Deck Dock Home & Garden, Sunapee, NH



Three-seat sofa and table by Telescope Casual Furniture.

LANDSCAPE & OUTDOORS

“There’s a lot of interest today in sustainability, but in many respects landscape architecture has employed many of these environmental techniques long before the popularity of the ‘green’ movement,” says Jack Rossi of Jack Rossi Landscape Architecture in Woodstock. “We are seeing more awareness of water conservation—a lot more interest in rain gardens and bioswales. Bioswales are densely vegetated open channels designed to attenuate and treat storm water runoff,” Jack explains. “They’re very effective in filtering pollutants from areas like driveways and parking areas while maintaining the look of a natural stream.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARROLL CONCRETE





“There is still lots of interest in stonework, particularly rustic-looking walls versus the tight, finely crafted walls that were popular during the boom years five or six years ago.”

George Wohlgemuth,
George Wohlgemuth
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Jon Singleton, sales representative for Redi-Scapes, adds, “Home owners seek options for their outdoor living spaces and patios—what they desire for pavers, retaining walls, fireplaces, and so forth. Redi-Scapes walls combine the timeless beauty of stone-like features with the structural benefits of architectural concrete, the result being a natural-looking, hand-set wall system with engineered capabilities.”



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LANDSCAPE & OUTDOORS

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“In the landscape trade we’re seeing more customers requesting large trees because the incremental cost is not that significant and they are able to enjoy the trees—for beauty and for shade—right away.”

George Wohlgemuth,
George Wohlgemuth Landscapes,
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OUTDOORS

How can you make an existing garden more trendy? Try a metal sculpture or large piece of pottery for a new look, suggests Liz Krieg, garden designer and greenhouse manager at Chippers. "I bought a large Italian terracotta urn, put it in my garden, and it changed everything instantly," Liz says.

HOT COLOR MIX

"A combination of plants with black leaves and orange flowers is really hot—a gorgeous, dynamic combination," Liz says. "Tangerine Tango (2012 color of the year), purple, and chartreuse make a fabulous triangulation. I might select a combination of dark purple super petunias, apricot-colored calibrachoa, and lime-colored sun-loving coleus."



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“Patios today do double duty,” says Peter Schiess, owner of Landforms in Bow, New Hampshire. “Besides being an outdoor seating area, a patio may be an outdoor kitchen, or have a fire pit, or include a screened gazebo.” Peter adds, “Fire pits and fire tables are popular. Chimneys are sometimes built to accommodate both indoor and outdoor fireplaces. These elements let you use the outdoor space earlier and later in the year,” Peter says.



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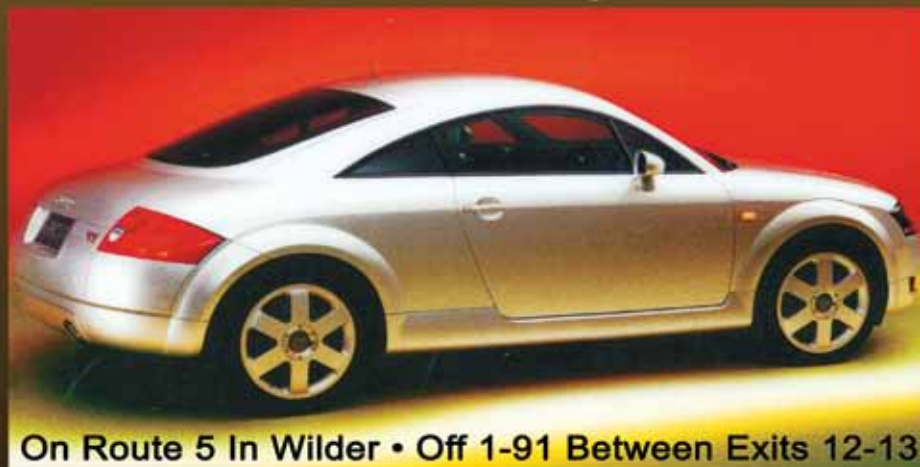
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Phoenix Rising *Boutique*

SOPHISTICATED, CHIC & CASUAL

BY KATHERINE COX

PHOTOS BY MEDORA HEBERT

Fashionable but comfortable.
Current yet sophisticated.
Classic as well as stylish. That's the formula Pamela Thomas follows when she seeks designer apparel for Phoenix Rising, her boutique in the PowerHouse Mall in West Lebanon. It's a formula that has proven successful. Twenty-one years after opening Phoenix Rising, she is still dressing discerning women who are looking for that special occasion dress or something chic and casual. ▶



in the spotlight



Clockwise from above: Colorful spring clothing is arriving at Phoenix Rising every day. Owner Pamela Thomas. Phoenix Rising features an Eileen Fisher boutique within the boutique. Phoenix Rising offers a unique selection of jewelry, Brighton sunglasses, and accessories. Phoenix Rising is located in the PowerHouse Mall.





"I like a clean look," she says, and for her that means subtle colors with accents to complete the ensemble, maybe a colorful printed scarf or a piece of the handcrafted jewelry she carries in the store. For that reason, her featured line is Eileen Fisher, with its relaxed designs, soft colors, and luxurious fabrics that appeal to many women of all ages.

Most of the other lines she carries complement Eileen Fisher, such as Isda, which Thomas describes as a small line whose seasonal collections offer quiet colors, interesting shapes, and higher fashion. "We're always looking for lines that dovetail with Eileen Fisher," she says. For formal occasions, she carries dresses by Maggie London, Suzy Chin, Komorov, and Nicole Miller.

"Everybody has an occasion," Thomas says, "and they have to find a nice dress. Most of my sales are about occasions." She points out that these can include work and work-related functions. ▶



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in the **spotlight**



Above: Collectible Brighton bags and wallets. Below: Detail on Johnny Was tunic.



Satisfying Any Fashion Sense

But it's not all muted colors and posh dresses. The Vince line is one she describes as casually elegant; Desigual is another casual line of shirts, dresses, and skirts noted for bold prints and bright colors—perfect for spring and summer. In fact, Thomas says, look for bright, bold colors in general this spring

and light sweaters and tops that are boxier yet fluid.

Phoenix Rising appeals to the sophisticated woman, who can find a range of styles there to satisfy her fashion sense. Customers range in age from 25 to 80, Thomas notes, and she and her staff of four know their customers and work with them to find what suits them best. “We help people find the look that they like. It’s not a department store; we’re here to help them. By the time they try something on, we’ve developed a relationship.”

But with fashions always changing, it can be a challenge. “My philosophy is to give people things that are not just about fashion but are classy and timeless and won’t look old next year,” Thomas says.

“I try to be exclusive and not carry what other people have,” she continues. “I try to keep it so that it feels like the kind of place you can find things you don’t see in other places.” The trick is to keep it interesting, she says, while also appealing to the customer “who

wants something that's basic." Thomas goes to shows in New York a couple of times a year and also attends regional shows. While spring is on the minds of most shoppers, Thomas has to keep a season ahead. Currently, "I'm looking for some new fall-clothing lines." She gets to take shopping to an entirely different level—always keeping in mind what works for her customers. "You have to figure out what your customers want, and then try to give it to them." In the end, "I go with my gut" when choosing designer lines for the store.

A Special Finishing Touch

No matter the look, no outfit is complete without the finishing touch of a new accessory. One line of accessories that has proven popular is the Brighton line—jewelry and handbags that are stylish and reasonably priced. "We have a lot of really nice accessories," Thomas notes, including jewelry that's "different than what you see every day; it's funky and more fun."

Thomas also has a shoe store adjacent to Phoenix Rising called Feetniks Footwear. Like the clothing store, Feetniks carries shoes that are comfortable but chic—distinctive shoes that look good while they feel good, even the high heels.

"It's not always easy for women to find what they like," she says, and that's where Phoenix Rising comes in. "I like making women feel good and happy about the way they look. It's fun. I enjoy working with people and clothing." ☺

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BY SUSAN NYE

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WHAT COULD BE BETTER than a party that requires mint juleps, hats, roses, wagers, and chocolate? As always, crowds will gather on the first Saturday in May for the Kentucky Derby. While we are far north of Kentucky's famous fields of blue grass and Churchill Downs, the Derby is a wonderful excuse for a party. Let the rich and famous-for-being-famous gather in Louisville—you can create your own red-carpet glam right at home. With post time at 6:24, you'll have plenty of time to greet your friends, sip a mint julep, and place all bets before the announcer shouts, **AND THEY'RE OFFFFF**. But don't blink—there's a reason the Derby is called the "fastest two minutes in sports." ▶

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Soup Shots
Derby Pecan-Chocolate Bites



So what do you need to know to make your Derby party a hit on May 5? The Run for the Roses is steeped in history and tradition. Here are a few traditions you won't want to ignore at your Derby party:

First, Kentucky Derby day is not the day to experiment or invent a new martini. Only a traditional mint julep with Kentucky bourbon will do (although there are many old-school Kentuckians who will advise you to skip the mint, sugar, and ice).

Next, hats are de rigueur. Wide-brimmed or a fascinator, hats should not be optional—and the more elaborate, the better. Perhaps you'll challenge your friends to a make-your-own contest. Then again, your red-carpet event may be enough to encourage them to search far and wide from Burlington to Boston for the perfect chapeau.

It is a horse race, so make sure everyone places his or her bets. Two dollars is the minimum for most race tracks, but you decide the stakes. If you like, include any and all variations of win, place, show, exactas, and trifectas! Or maybe you'll want to keep it simple with winner takes all or winners split all. Everyone wins if you let the horses run for charity. Encourage the winners to donate their prize money to a favorite local cause.

Don't forget the roses. The winning horse and jockey are traditionally

greeted at the finish line with a blanket of red roses. You can get into the spirit by decorating your buffet table and bar with vases of long-stemmed beauties. For a truly lovely end to a wonderful evening, hand a rose to each of the ladies as they say good-bye.

But before your guests head out, offer them something sweet. Made with pecans, chocolate, and yes, a shot of bourbon, Derby Pie is an old Kentucky tradition. As the party winds down, pass around bite-sized versions of this yummy treat. Have a great party and bon appétit.



Minted Simple Syrup

Makes about 1½ cups

Ingredients

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 bunch mint

Directions

1. Put the water and sugar in a heavy saucepan. Stirring frequently, cook over medium heat until the sugar dissolves. Increase the heat to medium-high and bring to a simmer. Reduce the heat to low and continue simmering for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
2. Remove the pan from the heat. Add the mint and steep for 15 minutes. Strain the syrup, cool to room temperature, and refrigerate until cold.

Can be prepared ahead and stored, covered, in the refrigerator.

Kentucky Mint Julep

Serves 1

Ingredients

- 1–2 Tbsp minted simple syrup
- Crushed ice
- 2 oz bourbon
- Garnish: sprig of fresh mint




Directions




Put the syrup in a tall glass or silver julep cup, and add about 1 cup crushed ice and the bourbon. Add more ice and a splash of water to almost fill the glass. Stir well and garnish with a sprig of mint.



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Fresh Vegetables with Lemon-Garlic Aioli

Easily scaled up or down, a large platter with your favorite vegetables will serve 16 or more.

Ingredients

Any or all of the following vegetables:

- Green beans, trimmed
- Asparagus, trimmed
- Chinese pea pods, trimmed
- Button mushrooms, stems removed and halved
- Baby carrots
- Radishes, trimmed
- Red and yellow bell peppers, cored, seeded, and sliced
- Cherry or grape tomatoes
- Green or yellow zucchini, sliced
- European cucumber, peeled, seeded, and cut into wedges

Directions

1. Prepare an ice water bath in a large bowl.
2. Bring a large pot of salted water to a rapid boil. Add the green beans and cook for about 4 minutes or until tender-crisp. Use a spider or small strainer to scoop the beans from the pot, and plunge them into the ice water to stop the cooking. Repeat with the asparagus, cooking for 1 minute and then adding to the ice water bath. Add more ice as needed. Repeat with the pea pods, cooking for 30 seconds and

then adding to the ice water. When the vegetables are cool, drain well and pat dry. Refrigerate until ready to use.

3. Arrange the vegetables on a large platter with a small bowl of Lemon-Garlic Aioli and let your guests help themselves.





Lemon-Garlic Aioli

Makes about 1 cup

Ingredients

- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 4–5 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 Tbsp grated lemon peel
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp hot pepper sauce, or to taste
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

Directions

1. Put all the ingredients in a small bowl and whisk until well combined.
2. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight to combine the flavors. If the aioli separates, whisk to recombine and serve with fresh veggies. ▶



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**Potato Pancakes with Smoked Salmon
& Horseradish Sour Cream**

Makes about 3 dozen small pancakes

Ingredients

- 1½ cups sour cream
- 3 Tbsp drained prepared white horseradish
- 1 lb Yukon gold potatoes
- 1 lb sweet potatoes
- 1 large Granny Smith apple, peeled, quartered, and cored
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
- Vegetable oil for frying
- 12 oz smoked salmon, cut in thin slivers
- Chopped fresh chives

Directions

1. Mix the sour cream and horseradish in a small bowl. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.
2. Peel and coarsely grate the potatoes. Peel, core, and coarsely grate the apple. Put the potatoes and apple in a large bowl. Add the onion and toss to combine. Add the eggs and combine.
3. Put the flour, baking powder, salt, and pepper in a bowl and whisk to combine. Add the flour mixture to the potato mixture and toss to combine.
4. Transfer the mixture to a colander and set over a large bowl.
5. Preheat the oven to 200°.
6. Put enough oil in a large skillet to coat the bottom, and heat over

Chilled Green Pea & Mint Soup Shots

Makes about 24 mini servings

Ingredients

- Extra-virgin olive oil
- 2–3 scallions, white and pale green parts only, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 4–5 cups shelled fresh peas or 16 oz frozen petite peas
- 3–4 cups chicken broth
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 8 oz fresh baby spinach
- ¼ cup chopped fresh mint leaves
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- ¼ cup heavy cream (optional)

Directions

1. Heat a little oil in a heavy, large pot over medium heat. Add the scallions and sauté for 2 to 3 minutes. Add the garlic and sauté for one minute more. Add the peas and broth, season with salt and pepper, and bring to a simmer over high heat. Reduce the heat to low and simmer about 5 minutes for fresh peas and 1 to 2 minutes for frozen.
2. Remove from the heat, add the spinach, and stir until the spinach has wilted. Cool for 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in

medium-high. Working in batches and adding more oil as necessary, drop tablespoonfuls of the potato mixture into the pan and gently press to flatten. Sauté until golden brown on both sides, about 3 minutes per side.

7. Drain the pancakes on paper towels, transfer them to a sheet pan, and place in the oven to keep warm.

8. Serve the pancakes warm, garnished with a small dollop of horseradish sour cream, a few slivers of smoked salmon, and a sprinkle of chopped chives.

The potato pancakes can be made one day ahead. Arrange the pancakes on sheet pans and reheat at 350° for 10 to 15 minutes. ▶



the mint, parsley, and cream, and puree the soup in a blender until very smooth.

3. Transfer to a covered container, cool to room temperature, and then store in the refrigerator until cold. Serve in shot glasses or espresso cups.

Jeff Wilmot

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Makes about 48 bite-sized pieces

Ingredients

Hot shortbread base, recipe follows
1 large egg
2 Tbsp bourbon (optional)
1 tsp pure vanilla extract
3 Tbsp heavy cream
½ cup brown sugar
½ cup honey
½ tsp salt
1 cup (4 oz) pecans, roughly chopped
1 cup (6 oz) semi-sweet chocolate chips

Directions

1. Make the shortbread base (recipe follows).
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the egg, bourbon, vanilla, and cream. Add the brown sugar, honey, and salt; whisk until smooth and well combined. Stir in the pecans and chocolate chips.
3. Pour the nut mixture over the hot shortbread. Bake in the middle of the oven until set, 15 to 20 minutes. Cool in the pan and cut into 48 bars.





Shortbread Base

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- 1½ sticks (¾ cup) unsalted butter, cut into small pieces

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°. Butter and flour a 9x13-inch baking pan.
2. In a food processor, process the flour, sugar, and salt to combine. Add the butter and process until the mixture comes together in small lumps.
3. Sprinkle the dough into the prepared pan and press it evenly into the bottom of the pan.
4. Bake the shortbread in the middle of the oven until golden, 15 to 20 minutes. While shortbread is baking, prepare the topping. ☺

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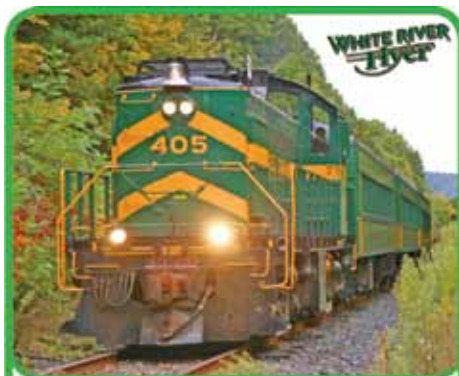
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Above: Love's unique mattress showroom gives customers a relaxed feel with lots to look at. Right and opposite: Customers find an eclectic mix, from furniture to lighting and accessories.





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"I view Love's as a family business in which the staff are members of a team and on an equal playing ground. Everyone's input is valued," says April. "We're an eclectic group with a variety of strengths—that's what makes us unique. We try to get customers to 'think outside the box' when it comes to decorating. We offer everything from traditional and contemporary to rustic. It's this diversity that really sets us apart from everyone else."

Building Personal Relationships

This diversity is well known and much enjoyed by customers. Love's has been a fixture in the Claremont business community since 1996, and nearly two decades later, the company is stronger than ever. April credits this success to several factors: the store's unique and constantly changing offerings; its low prices; its dynamic display style (you won't find an inch of wasted space in this store—chairs even hang from the ceiling); and most importantly, the strong emphasis on personalized service that is the hallmark of the Love's

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*When the ordinary
just won't do...*

what's in store

"We have a lot of repeat customers and they've come to trust us," says April Love.

experience. The store's motto is "an honest, informative shopping experience," and this is far from an empty promise. Love's staff pride themselves on building personal relationships with their customers.

"I love the atmosphere in our store," Laura Love notes. "And customers do, too. The entire staff works as a team. We play to one another's strengths and we enjoy ourselves. I look forward to going to work every day." This attitude helps create a relaxed, fun atmosphere that keeps customers coming back again and again. "We have numerous repeat customers that we view as friends," Laura observes. The sales staff invests a great deal of time in getting to know their customers, creating a level of comfort and understanding that makes determining exactly which pieces of furniture will work best for them much more simple.

"It makes it fun to shop in here and even more fun to work here," adds mattress salesman Matt Adams. "Half the time, the customer and I have already decided which bed he or she wants within the first 20 minutes. But the customer will stay and talk with me for another hour, discussing sports or telling me some funny story from a recent family vacation. I can honestly say I can't wait to get to work every morning."



Loyal Customers

It's apparent that trust is one of the foundations of the Love's business—and one that they hold very dearly. "We have a lot of repeat customers and they've come to trust us," April asserts.

This bond that the staff builds with customers is so strong that it carries across borders. Many of Love's customers own second homes in the greater Claremont area and maintain primary residences in Massachusetts and Connecticut. "We have a lot of second home customers who get to know us and end up buying furniture here for their primary residences as well," April notes. "Obviously they can buy furniture closer to home, but the feeling they get from working with us is different. Here at Love's, our goal is to offer our customers a positive experience and the strongest value possible," April concludes.

Customers appreciate and respond to the personal touch that is inherent in any Love's shopping encounter. The store's huge inventory is informed by the personal concerns and commitments of the Love family. For instance, the store provides customers with a number of organic offerings, both



Angel assists with custom selections.

because April wishes to keep her own family free from chemicals and because she wants customers to have access to these products. Love's also does its best to feature products made in America. It's not always easy, April concedes, but it's important. It is commonly known that Love's will not sell anything that they are not willing to stand behind. When a customer has a comfort or mechanical issue with a piece of furniture or bedding, the Love's staff will often go above and beyond what the manufacturers are willing to offer to satisfy the customer.

Shop with Confidence

The business's approach to customer service is very hands-on and rests heavily on the premise that knowledge is power. The sales team spends a great deal of time in conversation with customers, oftentimes reviewing their house blueprints or sketching out their room to give a better idea of the job at hand. Members of the sales team will even do home visits if necessary.

"Our product knowledge is very

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what's in store

extensive," April notes. "We are also part of a huge national buying group that allows us to compete with any chain store. We are always searching for the best values out there and doing all the research for our customers, and we're constantly balancing pricing with quality. This combination allows us to have big-city options, discounted prices, and a small, hometown feel all at one location."

This research and product testing is a key to success. Resulting from this, one of Love's strengths as a local, independently owned business is its ability to respond to changes in the marketplace. Rather than stock inventory based on big, high-profile brand names, Love's focuses on the long-term quality of the furniture, whether the manufacturer is big or small. As a result, Bob Love explains, the store oftentimes offers lesser-known brand names whose quality and value are exceptional. "We don't play with our prices—you won't see us running any '50 percent off—this weekend only!' promotions," April notes. "We offer true value every day. We treat people the way we want to be treated."

"An honest, informative shopping experience is what we promise our customers," says April. "Whether a customer is decorating a room in his or her home, searching for a great night's sleep with a new mattress, or furnishing a backyard or patio, Love's has it covered." ☺



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April 5

Nearly Lear

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Lebanon Opera House, 10am

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March 31

Andrew Peterson

Info: (603) 542-4433, www.claremontoperahouse.org
Claremont Opera House, 7pm

March 14–18, 20–25, 27–April 1

Red

In a tension-filled studio, painter Mark Rothko works furiously to complete a definitive work for an extraordinary setting. As the huge project takes shape, his internal struggle to reconcile his growing wealth with his artistic integrity threatens to destroy him. Info: (802) 296-7000, www.northernstage.org
Northern Stage, Briggs Opera House

March 17

**Master Gardening Series Kickoff
with Henry Homeyer**

The first of a six-part series of hands-on gardening workshops. Info and registration: (603) 763-4789 ext. 3, info@thefells.org, www.thefells.org
Lake Sunapee Protective Association's Knowlton House, 10am–12pm

March 24

**Sugaring-Off Dinner & Lecture on the
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Enfield Shaker Museum

March 24

Phil Vassar with Special Guests

Info: (603) 448-0400, www.lebanonoperahouse.org
Lebanon Opera House, 6pm

March 25

**Your Father's Mustache featuring
Joel Schiavone**

A benefit for DHMC and LOH. Info: (603) 448-0400, www.lebanonoperahouse.org
Lebanon Opera House, 2pm

March 31, April 12 & 19, May 17

Menahem Pressler

This performance features music by Mozart, Debussy, Beethoven, and Schubert. Info: (802) 728-6464, www.chandler-arts.org
Chandler Music Hall, 7:30pm

April 4

Lily's Crossing

Set during World War II, this tender drama is about the war's impact on two children, one an American and one a Hungarian refugee. For grades 3–8. Info: (603) 542-4433, www.claremontoperahouse.org
Claremont Opera House, 10am

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**April 10
Out and About: Marvelous Mice**

Through a variety of games and activities, children learn about how mice behave and what they eat. Each participant takes home a mouse of his or her own creation.
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 The Fells, 10–11am



**April 13
Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas**

An evening of music by Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador and the extraordinary young cellist, Natalie Haas.
 Info: (802) 728-6464, www.chandler-arts.org
 Chandler Music Hall, 7:30pm

**April 11–15, 17–22, 24–29 & May 1–6
Chicago**

Info: (802) 296-7000, www.northernstage.org
 Northern Stage, Brigg's Opera House

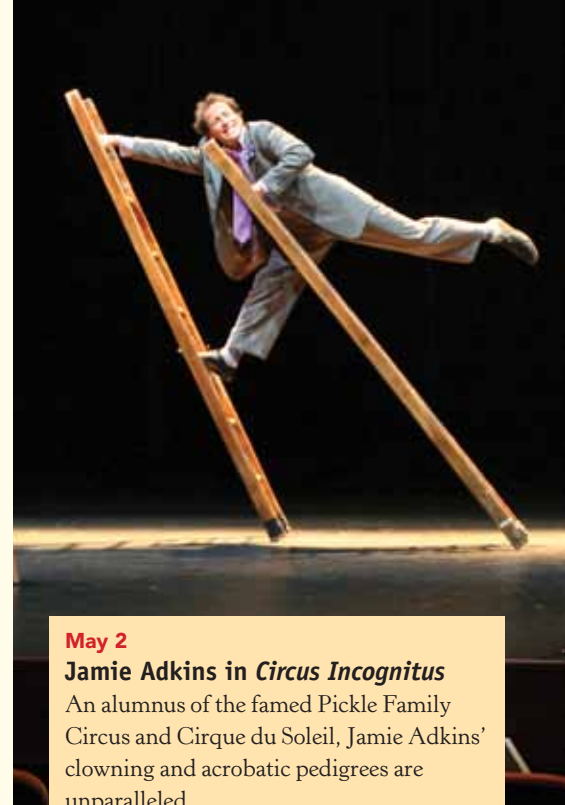
**April 14
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Palestrina to Poulenc**

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 Chandler Music Hall, 7:30pm

**April 21
Rob Bartlett**
 Info: (603) 448-0400,
www.lebanonoperahouse.org
 Lebanon Opera House, 7:30pm

**April 21
Second Wind with Special Guests**
 Info: (603) 542-4433,
www.claremontoperahouse.org
 Claremont Opera House, 7:30pm

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 Lebanon Opera House, 10am



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Chandler Music Hall, 3pm

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May 5 & 6

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Lebanon Opera House, 5, 1:30 & 7pm;
6, 2:30pm

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The Fells, 10-11am

May 12

**New England Classical Academy
Presents *The Phantom of the Opera***

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www.claremontoperahouse.org
Claremont Opera House, 7pm



May 12

Pianist Paul Shaw

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Lebanon Opera House, 10am

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March 24

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Alumni Hall, 11am

March 27

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March 30 & 31

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April 4 & 5

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The Moore Theater, 7pm

April 5

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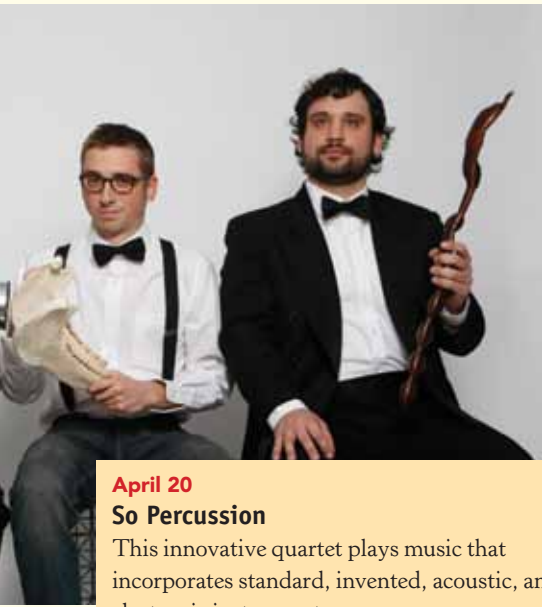
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April 20

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April 7 & 8

The Met Opera: *Manon*

7, Loew Auditorium, 12pm; 8, Spaulding Auditorium, 12pm



April 10

Takács Quartet

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Spaulding Auditorium, 7pm

April 14 & 15

The Met Opera: *La Traviata*

14, Loew Auditorium, 1pm; 15, Spaulding Auditorium, 1pm

April 19

Cubano Be, Cubano Bop

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May 5
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Spaulding Auditorium, 8pm

April 25
Australian Chamber Orchestra with Dawn Upshaw, Soprano
Spaulding Auditorium, 7pm

April 28
HopStop: Interplay Jazz Quintet —Jazzy Jam Session
Enjoy the stylings of Interplay Jazz Quintet through musical improvisation games and scat singing geared especially for young children.
Alumni Hall, 11am

April 29
Chamberworks
Rollins Chapel, 2pm



May 8
Sally Pinkas, Piano
Beethoven's *Eroica Variations* come to life through the skilled and passionate interpretation of the Hop's pianist-in-residence.
Spaulding Auditorium, 7pm





May 6
Dartmouth College Glee Club
 Rollins Chapel, 2pm



May 12 & 13
Barbary Coast Jazz Ensemble and Dartmouth College Gospel Choir
 Spaulding Auditorium,
 12, 8pm; 13, 2pm

May 18-20
Dartmouth Dance Theater Ensemble
 The Moore Theater, 18 & 19, 8pm; 19, 2pm

May 19
Handel Society of Dartmouth College
 Spaulding Auditorium, 8pm

May 26
Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra
 Spaulding Auditorium, 8pm



May 5
World Music Percussion Ensemble
 Hop Plaza, 11am

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Hannah, Claudia, and Dimitri about to catch a lot of fish on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.



Proud mom Lori of Canaan, New Hampshire, calls her photo "Winter Under Bluebird Skies."



Ryan visits his sister Erin in California for her birthday.



Bentley, new addition for proud parents Nicky and Joe Dillon, owners of The Fam in The PowerHouse Mall.



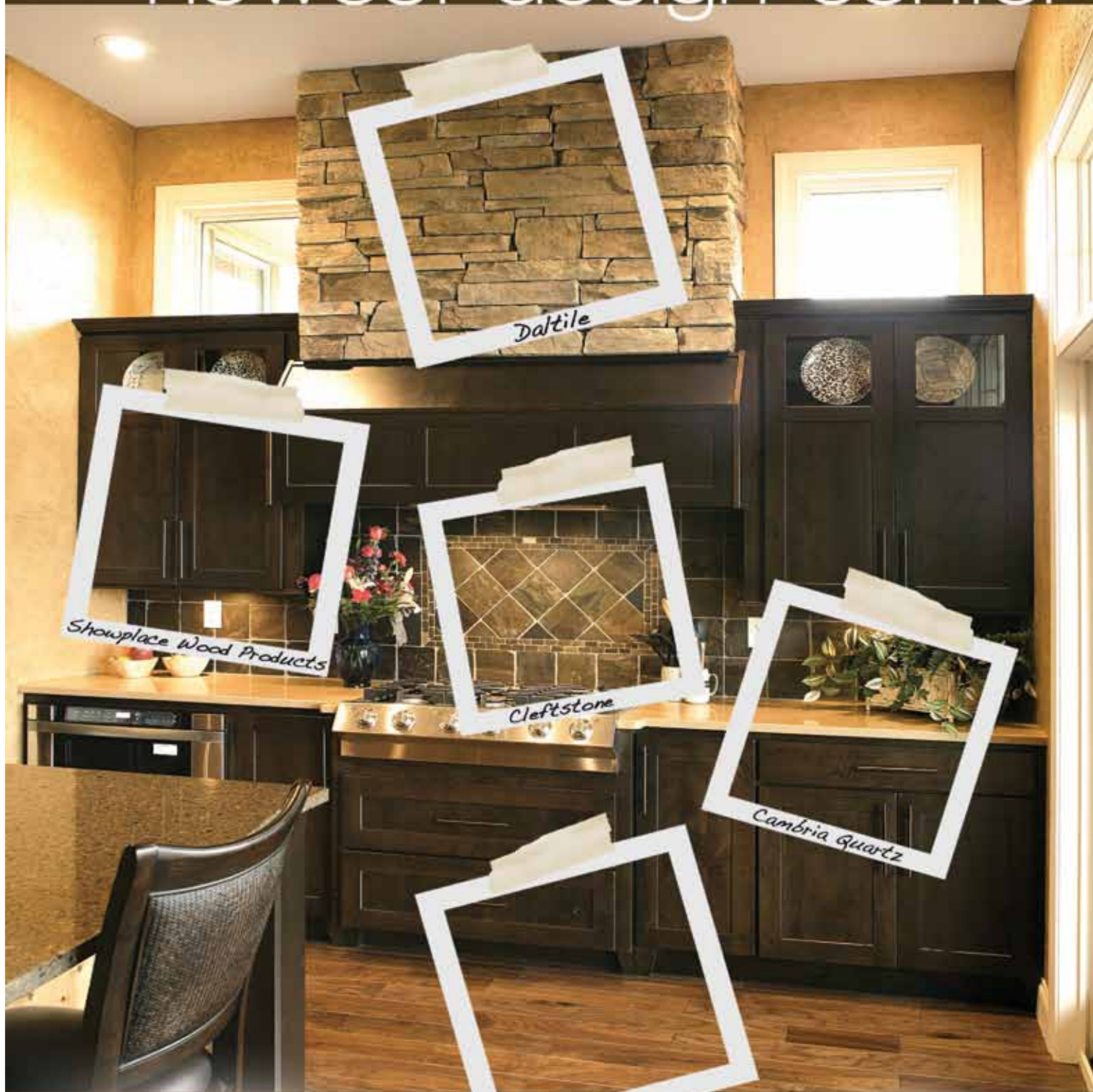
Jonathan's first day at Cornell University with dad Erik.



Lynn, Tom, and Gail getting ready for New Year's Eve Gala in Quebec City.

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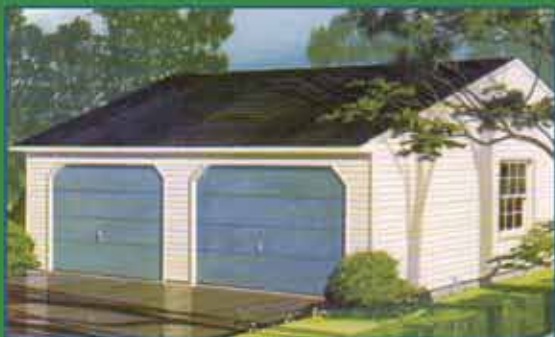
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