

Shelter

INTERIORS





PARADISE FOUND

LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY GROUNDBREAKING. THE IDYLIC COUNTRY MANSE FEATURED ON THESE PAGES TELLS A STORY THAT BELIES ITS CAREFREE PASTORAL SETTING. WHAT INNOCENTLY STARTED AS A SEARCH FOR GRAND YET CASUAL LIVING AMID LUSH COUNTRY ACRES, INSTEAD SET IN MOTION WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE A REMARKABLE ODYSSEY. FOR THE YEARNING FOR SUCH A PEACEABLE KINGDOM IS NOT SO EASILY HAD IN MIDWESTERN FLATLANDS

BORNE OF A FAILED ATTEMPT TO FIND AN EXISTING HOME THAT MET THEIR STRINGENT NEEDS IN THE CHICAGO SUBURBS, CLIENTS OF ARCHITECTS TOM AND DAYANNE REED, FAILING ALL HOPE, APPROACHED THE PAIR TO CREATE A DREAM HOUSE. THE OUTCOME, NOW FIRMLY ENSCONCED IN BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS, IS A DECIDEDLY GRACIOUS STATEMENT THAT EFFORTLESSLY BLENDS CONTEMPORARY AND CLASSICAL ELEMENTS INTO A TOTALLY SOPHISTICATED NEW COUNTRY STYLE. LOOKING ACROSS THE HOME AND ITS LOVELY VISTAS TODAY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE ANY REMNANTS OF THE LAND'S RECENT PAST. WHO COULD FATHOM THAT THIS GENTILE ESTATE GRACED WITH A DOLLOP OF SOUTHERN CHARM WAS ONCE JUST A WORN-OUT SCRUFFY PIECE OF LAND?

"It's 'Savannah meets Barrington horse country,'" says the owner — a Savannah native who held fast to her vision even when it became clear its interpretation and translation would become a massive undertaking.

Happily, after four to six months for concept and design, and about a year of construction, the rambling 9,500-square-foot home and its now picturesque surroundings are indeed the stuff dreams are made of: an elegant two-story clapboard home surrounded by a gently rolling landscape that looks as though it's been there forever. But it wasn't, and the husband and wife architectural team created from scratch a flowing environment that is replete with a pond, a beach, and a boathouse — all of which only serve to enhance the home's bucolic profile.

Thorough site analysis, the integration of interior and exterior spaces, as well the ability to nimbly mix contemporary and classic forms, were the hallmarks that attracted the owner to Reed Architects, whose work she saw firsthand at the home of neighboring friends. "The plot we found was originally a big piece of completely flat land," she

