

ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

5 Expert Tips for Decorating a Chic Country Home

When creating her own Cornwall, Connecticut, getaway, the designer kept things simple for a relaxing retreat

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If anyone knows how to throw together an effortlessly chic space, it's designer [Fawn Galli](#). Known for her bold use of color and bohemian flair, Galli kept things simple and fuss-free for her own home in Cornwall, Connecticut. "When we're there, we have picnics in the fields and delicious food from local farms, and we just let the rest happen," she says. When it came to time designing the home, she took a decidedly hands-off approach and let the history of the house do the work for her.





Set the scene

“Always have a wood-burning fire with many books and board games close by,” says Galli, who says she often cooks meals on the open fire, something that is off-limits in the city. “We do not have a television in the house—and that is very important—but we do have Ping-Pong, foosball, and a projector for movies.



Embrace the age of the home

“I wanted to feel the original architecture and the history of place, so I changed very little and updated only when necessary for practical purposes. I love old homes and did not want to renovate and lose the integrity and old-world charm.”



Stay local

When Galli is at her country home, she tries to keep everything local: her food, her flowers, and even the dishes she serves on. “I purchased the china at a local tag sale. We use it for every meal and not just save it for special occasions,” she says.



Create a fresh color palette

Galli used paint throughout the home to create depth and texture and to define the space. “I painted the fireplace mantel and the trim green because it allowed the room to feel cozier. It is the best room in the house, but I really wanted to highlight the charming details,” she says. “I went bold in the foyer and painted it yellow. I don’t like bright paint colors in the city, with its frenetic lifestyle, but in the country it feels right in line with the restful surroundings.”



Have style without being fancy

"I think that your country home should reflect the atmosphere of the country: collected, simple, and comfortable," she says. "You should feel as if you can relax and enjoy quiet time with friends and family. This, coupled with elegant antiques and textiles from around the world, is simply chic." Galli keeps her kitchen utensils out in the open because "it's practical and it really underlines the purpose of the design. Beauty is function."