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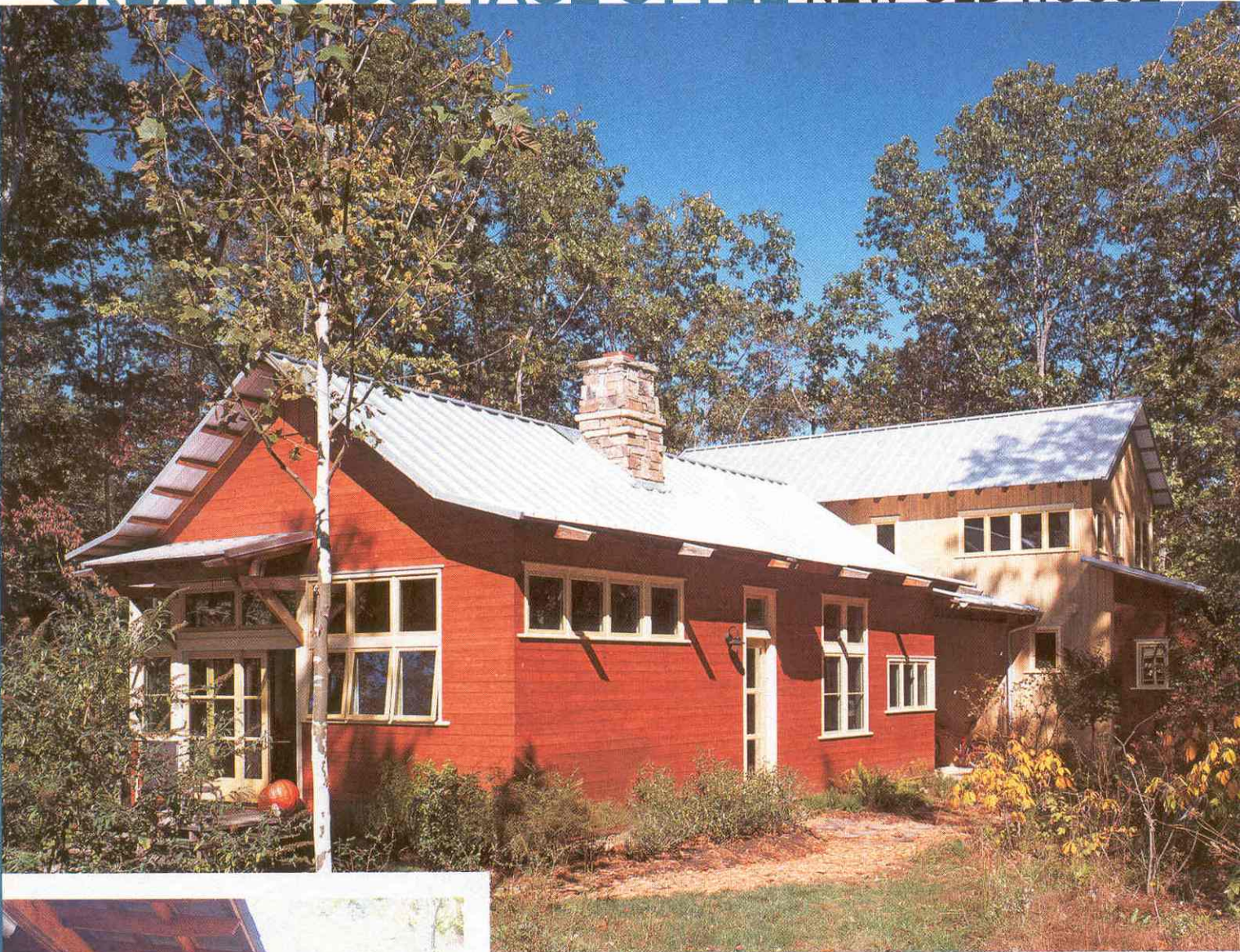
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SEE THE REST OF THIS CALIFORNIA COTTAGE page 88

CREATING COTTAGE STYLE NEW OLD HOUSE



“We feel connected to nature”

Markham Smith and Ellen Hauck designed their cottage as a hideaway in the Georgia forest

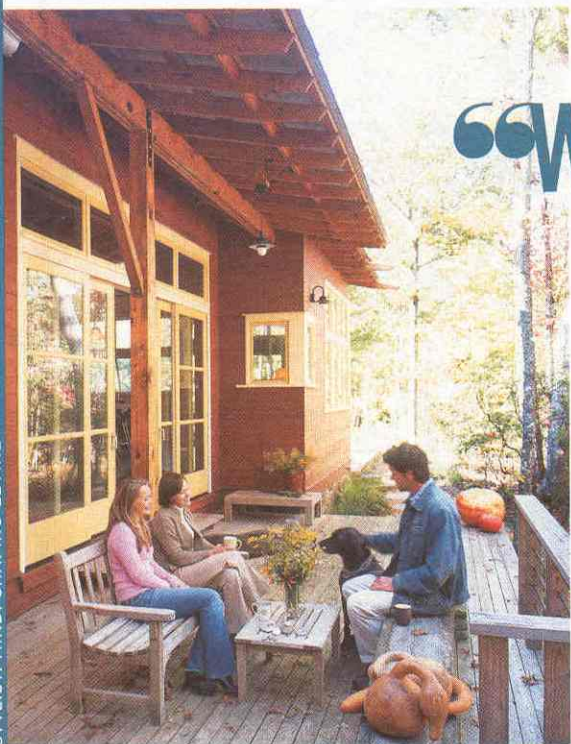
MARKHAM SMITH AND HIS WIFE, ELLEN HAUCK, love a challenge almost as much as they love living at the foothills of the Appalachians. “We used to camp up here all the time, but we wanted a permanent place,” Ellen says. So they began searching for a site where they could build a mountain cottage.

Ten years later, Markham and Ellen stumbled across a newspaper ad about the preservation of the historic Anderson Creek watershed near Ellijay, Georgia. “The idea was to disrupt the area as little as possible and highlight the natural beauty of the land through conservation,” Markham says. They instantly >

THIS HOUSE SITS ON A FOUNDATION built to fit the shape of the land.

“Our goal was not to do any more grading than was necessary,” says Markham.

THE DECK FURNITURE blends ease and creativity. Left: Sarah and her mom, Ellen, sit on a store-bought bench while dad Markham relaxes on one he designed.



CREATING COTTAGE STYLE NEW OLD HOUSE



“WE WANTED A FIREPLACE that would be a focal point allowing the living and kitchen/dining areas to stay connected,” says Markham. He designed it as a nod to traditional fieldstone hearths used by homesteaders.

took interest and called the developer to contribute their talents (Markham runs an architectural firm in Atlanta; Ellen studied studio art and architecture)—and to purchase their own lot.

They knew they wanted the style of their home near the watershed to harken back to traditional architecture and engage in a close relationship with the land. Inspired by old Southern structures known as dogtrots (see Glossary, page 48), they designed the cottage “as straightforward as you can get,” Markham says. “We drew from simple, vernacular forms.”

With two distinct spaces—the pavilion (living area) and the bunkhouse (bedrooms)—the time-honored structure lends itself to the contemporary family’s lifestyle: Night owls can stay up late talking or working on projects, as Markham often does, and sleepyheads can hit the hay whenever they please. “We wanted the quieter space to be separate,” Ellen says.

The materials also pay tribute to the mountain scenery. Using wood from the area—cypress for the exterior siding and Southern yellow pine for the living area’s exposed beams and floor—allowed Markham and Ellen to create a home in constant dialogue with the natural environment. Even the >



“We wanted to feel like we were outside when we were inside”

WYLIE BASKS IN THE SUNLIGHT pouring into the dining area. An antique Country French table is an indoor gathering hub when the weather turns cold.

colors of the building mimic the reds and yellows of the surrounding trees' foliage in late fall. “We worked with a palette drawn from what’s around us,” Markham says.

Indoors, the couple and their two daughters, Erin and Sarah, also feel embraced by nature, in part due to the cottage’s many windows. “It affords us a more direct connection with the out-of-doors,” says Markham. “It also reduces our need for artificial light—and associated energy costs.” And with the careful placement of the windows, it’s easy to look out into the woods and through to the big pasture beyond. The primary goal, Markham stresses, was “to feel like we were outside when we were inside.”

Along with a breeze from an open window, contemporary touches keep everything fresh. The fire-side Scandinavian coffee table and the dining area’s metal chairs, salvaged from the visitors’ cafeteria >

CREATING COTTAGE STYLE NEW OLD HOUSE



A COZY SPOT for a nap or good night's sleep, the bunkhouse—separated from the main house by a breezeway—serves as a private retreat.



DESIGNING THE HOUSE was a family affair. Sarah requested the “secret door” into the bunkhouse basement (right), where canoes and bicycles are stored. >



ITALIAN GLASS LIGHT FIXTURES, along with cabinets and an island Markham designed, modernize the kitchen.

in a French castle, keep the house from feeling too old-fashioned. Corner windows, which would be atypical on the old model, create what Markham calls “a modern opening-up of the building,” and an up-to-date kitchen brings the family together to prepare vegetables picked from the garden. This year, Markham made the most of a bumper crop of tomatoes, reducing it to a sauce the family enjoyed all summer. Ellen grills, and Sarah makes a variety of ice creams and pies. When the food’s ready they all head for the main pavilion deck, because, as Markham says, “it’s comfortable outside. We take at least half our meals out there.”

Afterward, the family gathers by the fieldstone fireplace, another of Markham’s designs, or heads to the bunkhouse for a slumber party on the top floor. “We’re quite a chummy family,” Markham says. “Most of the time, we all want to be together.” Ellen agrees, counting those slumber parties among the memories she treasures most: “We’ll just chatter through the night.”

Although the town of Ellijay is just 15 minutes away, the family rarely goes out, other than to pick up a few garden supplies. Far from roughing it, they’ve settled in for a lifestyle of comfort and simplicity among the trees. “Everything we need is here,” Markham says. “We don’t really want to leave.” >

CREATING COTTAGE STYLE NEW OLD HOUSE



INSPIRATION



THE CLEAN, SIMPLE lines of old buildings—like this church-inspired Markham and Ellen's modern interpretation.

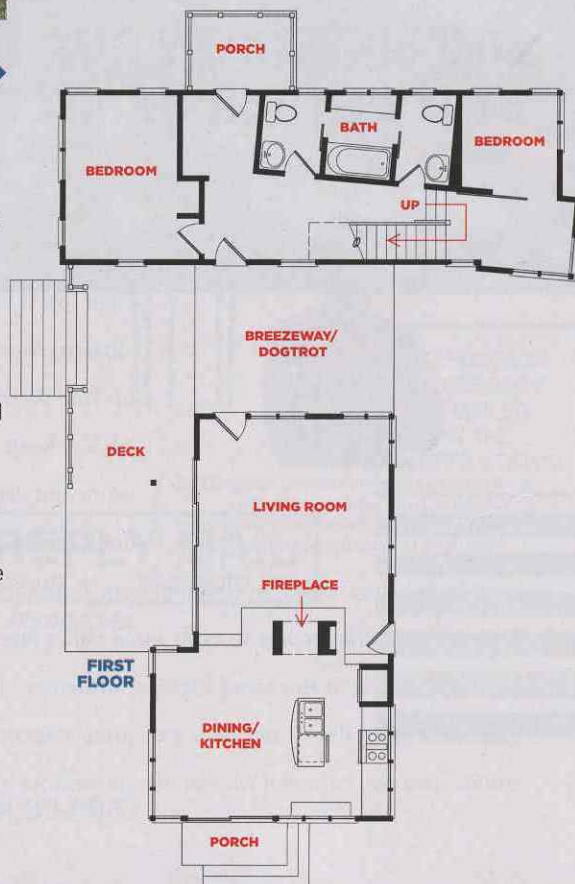
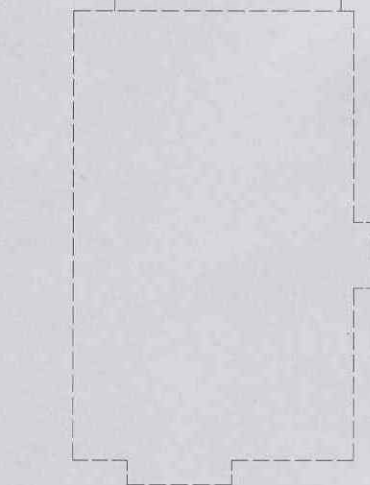
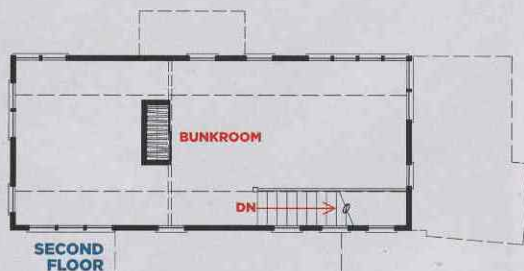
The way they live

■ **LIVING ROOM** The fieldstone fireplace easily functions as the interior's primary attention-grabber, breaking up the open space. "It serves as a great focal point, and it draws perfectly. It's the best way to keep warm," Markham says.

■ **BREEZEWAY** "This way we're always walking outside," Markham says of the dogtrot design, which divides the sleeping and living quarters and keeps the family in touch with their natural surroundings.

■ **DECK** "We eat out here as much as we do in the kitchen," Markham says. The large outdoor living space allows everyone to be comfortable while enjoying the features of each season, such as the golden grass of a nearby pasture and the bright reds and oranges of turning leaves in the fall.

■ **BUNKROOM** The upstairs portion of the bunkhouse marks the spot of many a memorable slumber party for both girls and their friends, and, on other occasions, the whole family. "We all have a lot of fun here," Markham says. ■



glossary

DOGTROT: an architectural style that includes a roofed passage with an open central breezeway connecting living and sleeping quarters