



AMERICAN FARMHOUSE

Style


BEST BARN
RENOVATIONS

Fall for Your
Farmhouse

**Rustic
Retreats**

vacation spots
across America
for fall foliage

RECLAIMED WOOD 101
what to look for and where to get it



With cypress wood support beams, pine flooring, a copper lantern and rocking chairs, David and Janice's porch boasts quintessential farmhouse style. Pops of lavender soften the browns and break up the abundance of wood.

Down by the River

A couple builds their dream rustic retreat on a serene river landscape in Arkansas.

BY KRISTIN DOWDING

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK LOHMAN

STYLING BY SUNDAY HENDRICKSON

When David and Janice Allmendinger dreamed of a vacation home on the river, they turned to their daughter Krista Lewis of K. Lewis Interior Design to help them achieve their rustic retreat. "I was living in Louisiana, and they loved the Acadian style of my home," says Krista, "so they wanted it for theirs." In 2007, the couple picked a beautiful spot near Little Red River in Heber, Arkansas to build their home and planned a space large enough to fit visiting family with a casual vibe to promote relaxation and fun.

RUNNING RIVER

Though part of the home's appeal is its proximity to the river, the location presented one of the challenges of the building process. "The house had to be raised, because it's in a flood plain right on the river," says Krista. "We had to build the structure on brick piers, but that fits in with the Acadian style, so it actually worked out."

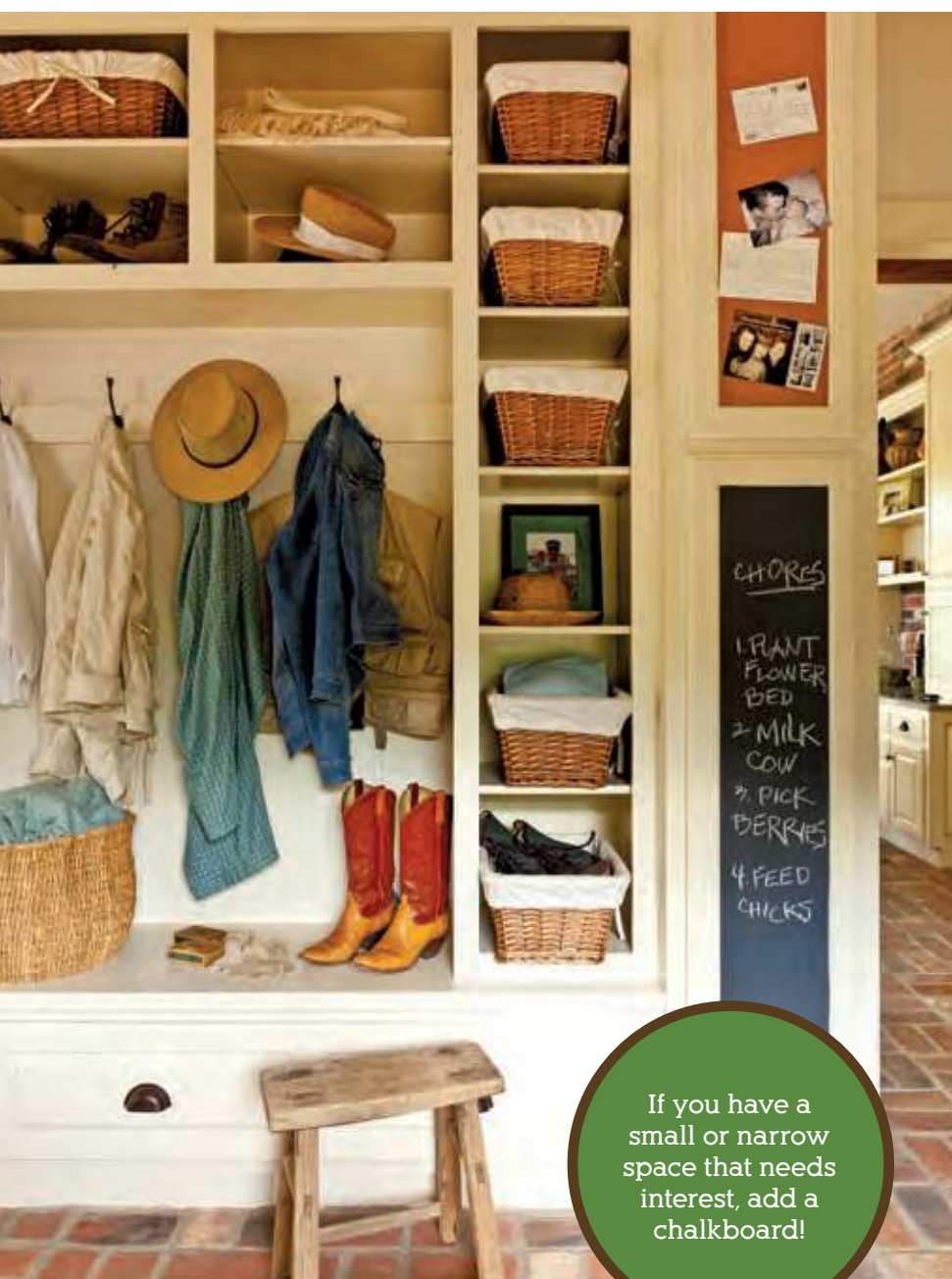
They built a pine porch at the front of the home with dark cypress support beams to create a serene getaway for the homeowners to watch the sunset and enjoy the breeze. Krista also designed a mud room that contains a brick shower and washing machine to keep the mess of the outdoors contained. It also holds the family's fly fishing supplies and coats for an easy transition to outdoor activities.



The screened-in porch off the master bedroom holds family treasures and provides a tranquil place to read early in the morning. "My grandfather built that storage piece in the corner that holds toys and games," says Krista, "and my great grandmother made the quilt." An old ice cream maker acts as a flower vase for added charm.

PINE AND PINE AGAIN

To promote the casual, rustic style her parents wanted, Krista began with a neutral foundation and used brick and pine wood throughout the home. Though it's a new build, these materials add an aged charm that make the open space feel cozy. Brick highlights the fireplace in the living room and the flooring in the dining and mud rooms. A small patch of brick also peeks out in the kitchen above the stove as a textured backsplash accent. Krista used pine as her main choice of wood in the flooring and built-ins. It's a lighter shade of brown to keep the space from being too dark and closed in.



If you have a small or narrow space that needs interest, add a chalkboard!



One wall in the mud room is devoted to storage for shoes, blankets and fishing gear with hooks for jackets and hats. The room also holds a built-in brick shower and laundry machines, making it easy to clean up after a full day of fishing in the river.

Family pieces throughout the home *add a charm and character that only family love and history can bring.*

Though this was a new build, Krista included materials like Saint Lewis red brick and pine wood for the fireplace and built-ins to give the living room an older appearance. The painting above the mantel hides their TV when not in use.

Red and yellow ranunculus flowers provide perfect late summer color.



Vintage touches like this wood bread box make the home feel cozy in the country.

FAMILY ACCOMMODATIONS

The 3,850 square-foot home has plenty of space for their large family. Along with several bedrooms and bathrooms, the gathering rooms are spacious to keep the home from feeling crowded. The family room, with its exposed beams, brick fireplace and pine built-ins, has couches and comfy chairs for seating. The color palette is neutral with natural green accents for a touch of color that looks in place with the wood surroundings.

The kitchen and dining room have numerous windows to bring in natural light to the spaces, promoting an open feel for meal prep and dining. The light walls pair with dark accents to add a rustic vibe while keeping the space bright and open.

To accommodate David and Janice's grandchildren during visits, Krista added a children's bunk room, equipped with three bunk beds, hidden storage and a table and chairs for fun activities. The soft green color palette creates a cheery atmosphere for the children while still complementing the rest of the home.



The kitchen is simple and clean with a wooden chopping block island, quartzite countertops and an extra island sink for meal prepping. The brick flooring is also a brick backsplash accent over the stove, continuing the aged feel of the home.



The dining room has several doors with glass windows to let in natural light and open the room to the riverside views. Krista skipped window treatments, as privacy isn't necessary when all that surrounds the house is nature.

"We had to *build the structure on brick piers*, but *that fits in with the Acadian style*, so it actually worked out."



The master bedroom is charming with its four poster frame and checkered bedspread. Krista's grandparents provided the vintage art hanging above the bed.



ABOVE: Three sets of bunk beds with hidden trundles grace the children's bunk room where David and Janice's grandchildren stay when they visit. A sliding barn door separates the sleeping area from the entertainment room across the hall.

LEFT: Fresh blooms in every room make the farmhouse feel right at home with the river country outside.

KRISTA'S TOP TIPS

Designer Krista Lewis shares four things to keep in mind while setting up your rustic retreat.

- **Materials.** "Use simple and authentic materials," says Krista. Brick and wood are farmhouse materials that will create a casual but rustic atmosphere. Pine and cypress are great options for varying color, and brick will add age to your home for an authentic look.
- **Maintenance.** "Keep it easily maintained," says Krista. "With a vacation home, the upkeep needs to be manageable, as you won't be there all the time." Keep décor to a minimum and pick durable furniture to prevent you from having to replace pieces torn from weather and dust.
- **Durability.** "Acquire pieces that will last a long time," says Krista. Though you might initially be attracted to furniture for its look, make sure to ask about its strength and durability—especially for outdoor pieces.
- **Theme.** "Come up with a theme and stick to it," says Krista. "Every time you add something, go back to your original theme and make sure it's consistent." Rather than make the kid's bunk room loud with patterns and bright colors, Krista stuck with a soft green that goes with the theme for consistency.



The custom-built patio cover is made of pine and covered with shingles like a mini farmhouse roof. A brick pizza oven takes center stage, as well as a Jarrah wood table and chairs, which is durable for outside use.



Little Red River provides a tranquil atmosphere right outside the Allmendingers' home. All you need is a few chairs and a picnic basket filled with food for a relaxing afternoon.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Due to its breathtaking views, they made sure to include outdoor spaces for family gatherings. The back of the house is sheltered by a custom-built pine patio cover that effectively protects the outdoor dining and cooking area from inclement weather. They built a brick pizza oven, but “my parents use it more for steak,” Krista says. A table and chairs made from Jarrah wood are durable and ready to withstand the weather.

The screened-in porch off the master bedroom is also made of pine. Family touches are visible throughout the home, and several reside in this area, including a quilt that Krista’s grandmother made and a flower vase that’s actually an ice cream maker. Her grandfather made the storage cabinet in the corner that holds games and toys for outdoor fun. These family pieces throughout the home add a charm and character that only family love and history can bring.

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