

Your Favorite Look: Kitchens With Rural Soul

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COUNTRY DECORATING IDEAS® #143



**A RIVERSIDE
ARKANSAS HOME
EMBRACES
THE PAST AND
WELCOMES NEW
TRADITIONS.**

a family affair

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ORANGE ZEST Delicious bread and jam is being served on the dining table. Fresh flowers and juicy oranges complete the tempting vignette, *opposite*. **ENJOY THE VIEW** "The main dining area is open to the kitchen," Krista explains. "The table accommodates all of the adults in the family. The kids sit at the bar. It gets loud but we like being together," she shares.



While fly fishing with her husband, Dave, on Little Red River in Heber Springs, Arkansas, Jan Allmendinger immediately fell in love with the peaceful location and its gorgeous view of Sugarloaf Mountain. Jan knew this was where she wanted to build a home for their extended family. "A place for all of us to gather together on weekends and vacations and make memories," she explains. After purchasing a lot on the river, the couple enlisted the help of their daughter, Krista, an interior designer, to make their dream of a family retreat come true.

With the help of an architect in Baton Rouge who assisted in putting their vision on paper, Krista implemented her plan for the structure—keeping the beautiful natural surroundings in mind. "I love the way the outdoors is so visible through all of the windows and French doors," Jan shares. The selection of plank pine, brick floors, along with wood ceiling beams adds to the primitive, uncontrived feel making the home that was built in 2006 seem as though it has existed on the property much longer than it actually has.

The family is thrilled with the casual relaxed interior of the river house. "The kitchen and dining area is large enough to accommodate all of us without being so big that it is not cozy," Krista explains. "The living room is the right size for our large family as well. The kids can play comfortably while in the same room as the adults," she says. Sweet dreams are easily achieved in the quaint and comfortable bedrooms, as they were specifically designed for sleeping.

"When we are at the cottage it is so easy for us to focus on family," says Krista. Jan and Dave's dream of a family retreat has come true. "We feel blessed every time we come," Jan says.

ROOM FOR FAMILY Warmly accommodating a growing family, the living room exudes comfort and casual relaxation with its juxtaposition of furnishings that beckon one to sit a spell. The large coffee table provides a wonderful surface and storage place too. "It has large drawers low enough for even the smallest grandchild to pull open," Jan shares.







SEAMLESS TRANSITION Serving as the back entrance to the house, the charming yet practical mudroom, *left*, shares the same brick floors as the kitchen. The cabinetry matches the kitchen's as well and houses fly fishing gear, life jackets, and tackle, as well as other recreational and household items. **CASUAL KITCHEN** With its view of beautiful Sugarloaf Mountain, the light and airy kitchen boasts a casual cottage mood, *below left*. Natural elements of brick and quartz provide easy maintenance and a rustic appeal. **MEMORY BOX** A wooden breadbox, *below*, once belonging to Krista's grandparents, is right at home in the kitchen, keeping not only bread nice and fresh but sweet family memories, too. **SCREEN GEMS** "The quilt on the glider was made by my great grandmother and the white Hoosier cabinet was made by my grandfather," Krista explains. The cabinet, *opposite*, now conveniently stores art and craft supplies for the grandchildren. The porch is a favorite place for Jan also as she loves to read or watch nature from the swing.



flea market faves

Family heirlooms forge a connection between the generations.



**flea
market
faves**

a vintage
painted cabinet
refreshed with
fabric adds
stylish storage.

**can-do
decor**

Buckets filled
loosely with
fresh blooms
add artless
beauty.



SAGE ADVICE A yellow woven check duvet enlivens the master bedroom's sage green pine bed, *above*. Blackout lined shades serve as functional yet attractive window treatments as they allow natural light to fill the serene and airy retreat. **RUSTIC ROMANCE** A one-of-a-kind picture frame made from recycled barn boards, *right*, adds a rustic touch to the bedside table. **KIDS ONLY** Behind the barn door is the charming children's bunk room, which accommodates three twin beds—each having a pull-out trundle underneath and their own night light *above, opposite*. The dormers and roof angles add to the cottage feel. A light-filled window seat provides a cozy spot to read a good mystery.

GET THE LOOK

Even a comfortable family-friendly home can ooze charm and serenity while being at one with its surroundings.

- 1] Sooth** Opt for lightly colored neutral walls for a calming effect.
- 2] Invite** Keep window treatments to a minimum allowing natural light to come through.
- 3] Contain** Store household items, games, toys, and art supplies in baskets and furniture pieces that conceal the clutter.
- 4] Flow** Choose an open floor plan that encourages multi-purpose activities.
- 5] Embrace** Treat exterior spaces as part of the home with the same attention to detail as the interior.
- 6] Celebrate** Accessorize and display special family pieces that have sentimental value to honor and remember.





**can-do
decor**
A table and
benches
host milk
and cookies
parties.