

Country in the City


Recipe for down-home comfort: Mix classic styling with lots of sunshine



This New York City living room is the perfect showcase for favorite country furnishings. Artist and textile designer Sandy Tarr filled her apartment with pine furniture, simple painted pieces, decoys, and game boards found on trips to Vermont. Her own paintings, such as the one to the left of the fireplace (below) add a contemporary touch. The color pumpkin—Sandy's favorite—adorns a game board on the wall and a geese-in-flight quilt draped over the back of a crisp white sofa (foreground).

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH SCOTT MORTON. GEESSE-IN-FLIGHT QUILT: THOS. K. WOODARD; RAG-RUG PILLOWS: EVERGREEN. SEE SHOPPING GUIDE FOR DETAILS.





In the bedroom, an undraped pencil-post canopy calls attention to the clean lines found throughout the apartment. Plump pillows, some floral-covered to coordinate with a comfortable wing chair, collect on the cozy window seat. Stripped-and-bleached floors echo the natural wood tones of a pine dresser. On the bed, a newly made quilt, designed by Sandy, is a fitting addition to the owner's collection of country textiles.

RAG RUG ON BED, STAR-OF-BETHLEHEM QUILT
(ON CHAIR): THOS. K. WOODARD.

There's no doubt about it: Sunshine is the greatest asset of Sandy Tarr's apartment. "Light is very important to me," the artist recently said. "It affects everything—your outlook, your mood, the way you go about your work." An interior-design consultant and free-lance textile designer as well as an artist, Sandy exhibits her paintings at galleries around New York City and displays them in her home, too. There, they have

a prominent place among her collections of quilts, painted furniture, decoys, and game boards. "I love the old craftsmanship, the history, and the romance of even the simplest table or bench. In fact, it's the lack of ornate decoration that makes country furniture so special—there's always an underlying concept of function. Because it was built to perform a task, each piece has a lot of integrity."

After receiving her training at Pittsburgh's



Carnegie Mellon Institute, Sandy moved to New York to paint. Free-lance design assignments have taken her to other locations, too, including the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, Mass., where she took charge of decorating four of the historic inn's bedrooms.

No matter how busy she is, Sandy finds time to do what she likes best: paint. She knows that one of the great advantages of country decorating is that it never precludes other styles—her contemporary paintings fit the scene perfectly.

Above: In the kitchen, 50 years' worth of paint was stripped from cabinets to reveal their natural pine. New glass cupboard fronts help show off the collections of French stemware and 19th-century ironstone inside. Here and throughout the apartment, lowered shutters permit a multitude of lighting adjustments.

Left: A striking still-life that Sandy bought in Vermont dominates the dining area. The black wrought-iron candlestand is a replica made by a Long Island, New York, blacksmith; the arms slide up and down. On the table, English bone china mixes well with classic white ironstone.

STAFFORDSHIRE CHINA: THE ENGLISH WAY, RAG RUNNER EVERGREEN