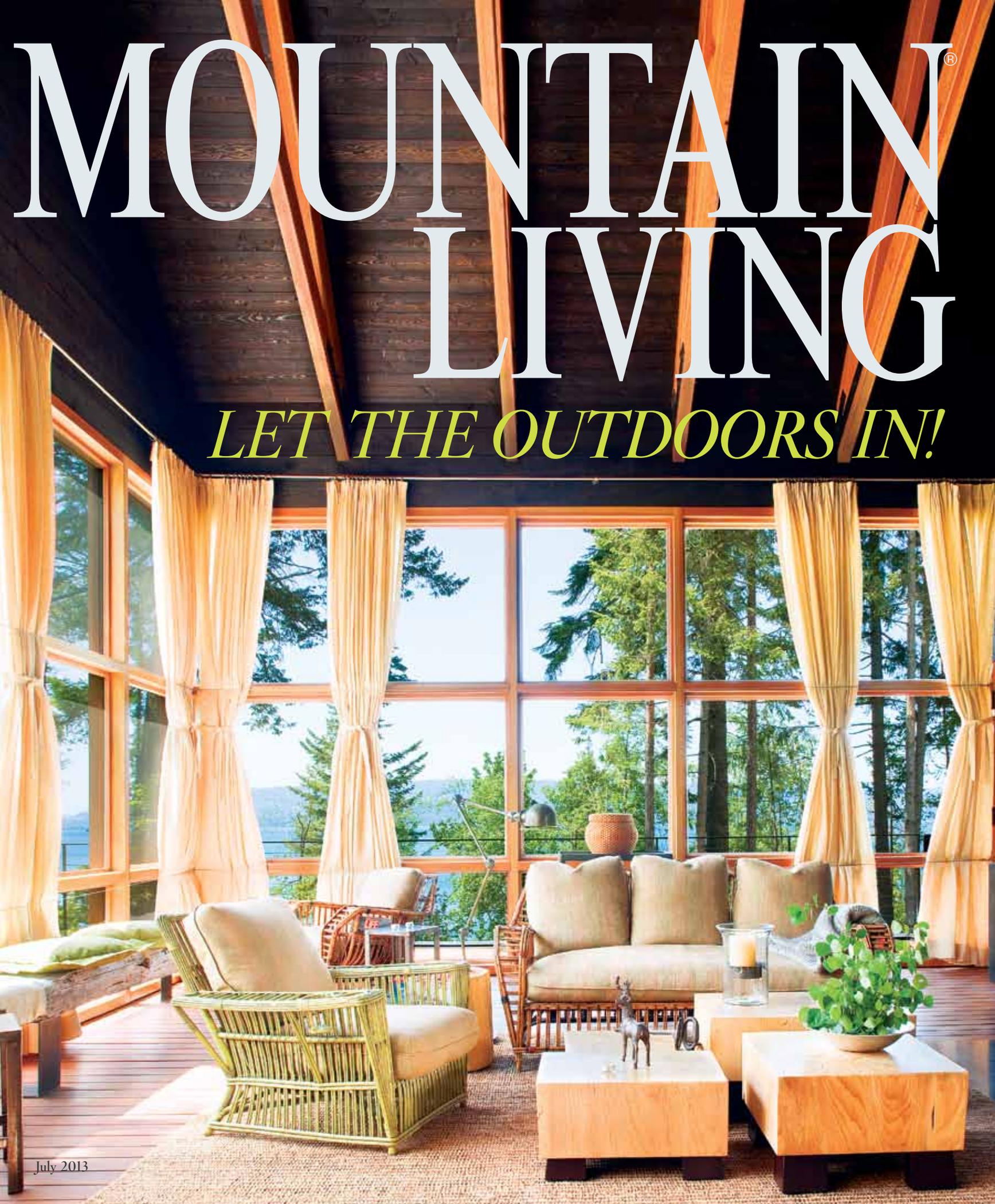


# MOUNTAIN LIVING<sup>®</sup>

*LET THE OUTDOORS IN!*



AN ASPEN DESIGNER COMBINES AN EAST COAST  
AESTHETIC WITH TRADITIONAL STYLING TO BRING A  
TASTE OF NEW ENGLAND TO THE MOUNTAINS

## COASTAL CONNECTION

To establish the living room's calming blue-and-cream color scheme, interior designer Barbara Mullen began by selecting fabrics in pretty patterns, like the Chelsea Textiles and Fortuny prints that cover the sofa pillows. To keep things interesting, she mixed and matched furniture styles and silhouettes: A pair of Rose Tarlow sofas with classic English arms mingle with spindle-back chairs from Scalamandre and a tufted lounge chair by JJ Custom. Grounding the grouping is a Paul Ferrante coffee table with ornately carved legs. "I like the idea of introducing furnishings in different sizes and styles," the designer says.





This house doesn't have a breakfast nook, so the walnut Dennis & Leen table in the dining room gets used for everything from morning coffee to formal dinner parties. The chairs from Formations feature rush seats and linen cushions topped with Rose Tarlow fabric. The chandelier is also by Rose Tarlow. FACING PAGE: Natural fibers add texture and a casual vibe to the family room. Linen by Jasper Fabrics covers the JJ Custom sofa; the rug is sisal and the woven wood window coverings are by Conrad. The coffee table and wooden chair are by Charles Fradin.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY **CAROLINE-EDWARDS INC.**



### Eleven years ago, when Barbara Mullen began designing homes in Colorado's Roaring Fork Valley,

brown leather sofas, indestructible stone-and-metal coffee tables and antler chandeliers were de rigueur. How things have changed. These days, "there are still some second homeowners who lean toward the traditional mountain vernacular," says the co-owner and principal of interior design firm Caroline-Edwards Inc., "but year-round residents tend to make design decisions based on a more personal aesthetic that has less to do with local geography and more to do with who they are."

That was certainly the case for a couple with two teenage sons who sought to imbue their 4,000-square-foot Colorado home with an East Coast sensibility. Though from the out-

side the stucco-and-timber-frame residence looks quite Western, its graceful interiors evoke a Beantown bungalow.

"The wife is from the Boston area and the couple really wanted to capture that New England feel," says Mullen, who made it her mission to identify the region's predominant colors, textures and furniture styles—and incorporate them into the mountain home.

Inspired by photos of classic New England spaces, Mullen began by selecting linen fabrics in shades of blue. "It's a color not often associated with mountain architecture," says the designer, who ignored the "blue is too cool for mountain homes" rule and upholstered the living room's >>



LEFT: Located between the two boys' bedrooms, the sitting room provides a place to do homework and hang out with friends. The swivel lounge chairs from Holly Hunt are covered in durable leather, and the coffee table by Jasper offers a sturdy spot for kids to put their feet up. BELOW: The living room's X bench is from Formations; the lounge chair's pillow sports a neutral fabric by Raoul Textiles.

### Seasonal Swaps

Now that the days are growing longer—and warmer—interior designer Barbara Mullen suggests approaching your interior design as you do your closet, swapping out heavy and dark fabrics for lighter, brighter ones. Here, she offers several suggestions for changing things up for the warm-weather months.

#### OPT FOR SPARE, NOT BARE, FLOORS

"In the summer you don't have to worry about snowy boots, so swap those big shaggy rugs for smaller, simpler flat-weave versions."

#### CHOOSE BREEZY WINDOW COVERINGS

Remove heavy draperies and allow the sheers to stand alone for an instantly summery look and feel. For more coverage, add a second layer of sheers to the drapery rod.

#### SWAP OUT PILLOWS

"Come summer, the first thing I do is change my pillows to create a new look," Mullen says. "But don't just think about lighter colors. Try different fabrics, too. Wools and silks are great in winter, but come June, bring on the linens." While you're at it, switch out cashmere and mohair throws with cotton and linen varieties in fun patterns.

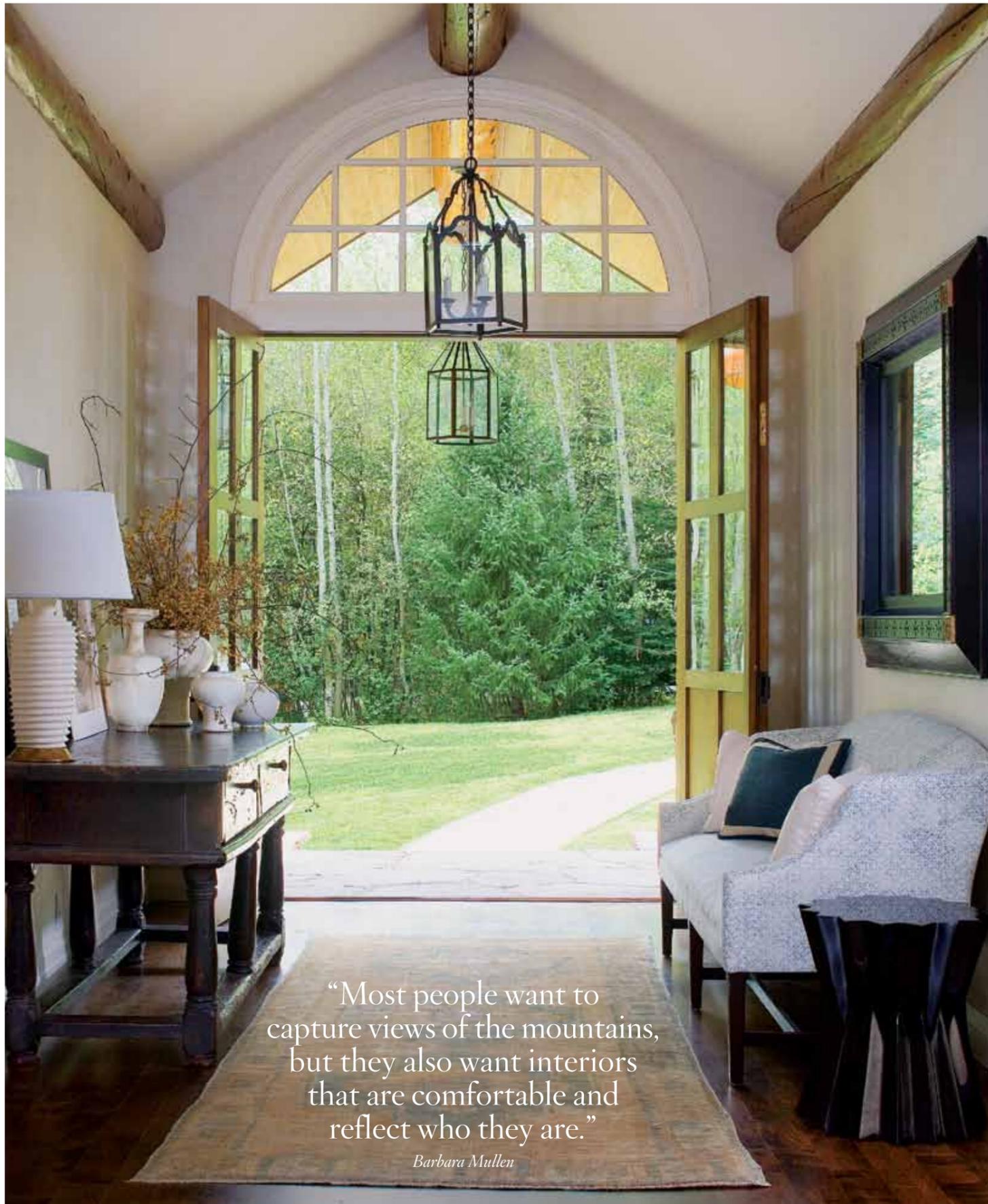


"Master bedrooms should be all about clean lines and fabulous linens."

*Barbara Mullen*



A carved wood nightstand by Jasper and wood frame bed make a strong traditional statement in the master bedroom. The Allan Knight lamp is from Egg & Dart. The pattern and color of the suzani quilt enliven the space, while a Moroccan rug from Isberian Rug Company adds a rich textural accent.



“Most people want to capture views of the mountains, but they also want interiors that are comfortable and reflect who they are.”

*Barbara Mullen*

Stripes add distinction to the guest quarters' neutral palette. The tone-on-tone drapes are by C & C Milano, and the brown-and-white striped rug is from Mitchell Denburg. The wood frame bed is by Charles Fradin. **FACING PAGE:** In the entry, an antique console table from Black Tulip Antiques and a formal settee by Jasper, upholstered with Rose Tarlow fabric, establish the New England theme. An antique Turkish oushak from the Isberian Rug Company softens the dark wood floors. The side table is by Therien.



armchairs with a blue-green fabric that feels warm and inviting. She repeated the hue with the pillows' patterned fabrics.

The blue mood continues throughout the home. In the master bedroom, a Moroccan rug's simple blue harlequin pattern complements the floral print on the drapes, while in one of the boys' bedrooms, a bright blue-striped rug seems to reflect the bold sky-colored walls. The family room sectional sofa sports a casual tweedy linen in a gray/blue tone, and in the dining room, deep blue cushions top the rush seats that surround the walnut table. “It's where the kids do their homework and the family eats most of their meals, so they wanted a table that was really sturdy,” Mullen says. A sisal rug is equally durable, and a curved iron chandelier with candlestick lights provides a subtle nod to mountain style.

Spindle-backed chairs, carved coffee table legs and sofas

with English styling emphasize the East Coast aesthetic. To add even more of that classic New England style, Mullen stained the existing wood floors a darker shade.

Come summer, when the homeowners throw open the windows and doors, there's no need to swap in warm-weather accessories. The woven wood window shades that let a soft winter light filter in are pulled up, allowing understated linen drapes to billow gently in the breeze. And the blue-and-cream color scheme, which offers plenty of warmth and depth in winter, makes an effortless transition to summer.

“Some people like to create fresh, seasonal looks by changing out slipcovers, pillows and throws,” Mullen says, “but the fabrics and colors here seem to feel just right no matter the time of year.” ◦



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