



OPPOSITE: A shapely Fortuny chandelier casts a warm glow over the custom table and slipcovered chairs in Angie and David Gren's dining room.

# coming home

A New York designer outfits her light-filled Michigan getaway with timeless furnishings, beloved collections, and fresh finds.

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## Nine months of the year,

interior designer Angie Gren makes her home in mite-a-minute New York City. When she wants to relax and refuel, however, she heads to the decidedly laid-back home she and her husband, David, built a few years ago in the tiny hamlet of Frankenmuth, Michigan, about an hour north of Detroit. Angie grew up nearby and still has family in the area, so building the house became a family affair. Her mom found the double lot, which is bordered by a creek, on a quiet country road. The Grens moved in with her parents while they built the 4,400-square-foot, five-bedroom home. "We intended to build a little cottage, but every day we ended up adding another 100 square feet," Angie jokes.

Once construction ended, Angie filled the flowing spaces with her signature style—a clean, coastal look she credits to the film *Something's Gotta Give* and her East Coast travels. Key to the style, she says, is warm white walls and trim, honed marble, vintage-inspired tile, antique or reproduction lighting, woven texture, and beautiful textiles. "I love Shingle-style architecture," she says. "I wanted to capture the feeling of a crisp East Coast cottage that maybe a chic European family had moved into and warmed up with a collection of fantastic antiques and dishware."

Although she loves antiques, especially French and Swedish pieces, Angie believes in using them strategically. Favorite accents include white ironstone, aqua pottery, and Meissen Blue Onion dinnerware. Her best pieces are housed on open shelves near the kitchen sink. "I don't have room for collections in our place in New York, so I indulge myself a bit here," she says. She loves scouring European flea markets, online sites, and shops such as Bountiful and Pom Pom in California and La Belle Maison and The Iron Grate in Michigan for new treasures.

With its huge island, fireplace, and farm table, the kitchen is Angie's favorite room. A former executive chef, she spends the bulk of her free time cooking, crafting with her three children, and watching movies. Indeed, one of Angie's favorite things about cottage style is that it's low-stress and kid-friendly. "I wanted the house to be functional and easy," she says. "Although the surfaces look beautiful, they don't give you the sense that they're not to be used." Even the pretty features are practical. "Everything is slipcovered, so basically the whole house can go in the washing machine," she says. "I love that."



The spacious yet cozy kitchen overlooks the pool and backyard. The island was inspired by a Swedish worktable Angie saw in an antiques shop in the Hamptons. The bottom was left open so Angie, a passionate cook, can easily access her favorite pots and pans.



LEFT: Vaulted ceilings and white walls give the living room a light, airy feel. Stained beams and a large tufted ottoman lend stability. ABOVE: A long hall runs along the back of the house. French doors lead to the master suite or to the patio and swimming pool. An antique Swedish clock and bench make this transitional space feel like a proper room. BELOW: In the summer, the Grens enjoy the pergola-covered patio and in-ground pool.





RIGHT: The beamed and vaulted ceiling in the master bedroom mirrors the living room's soaring architecture. A book-lined niche carves out a cozy space for the bed. ABOVE: The sitting area in the master bedroom relies on whitewashed wicker, slipcovers, and bamboo blinds to create a subtle coastal attitude. BELOW: The pretty master bath was designed around vintage French mirrors that Angie inherited. A new open-storage vanity and a pair of pressed-nickel sinks balance the room's glamorous touches.

