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Fall 2011

Eclectic Harmonies

Fresh Flair for a 1690s Barn

When Cozy Meets Stylish

A Rich Harvest of Ripe Color

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RENOVATING A CAVERNOUS space into a cozy getaway can be an interesting endeavor. When a Connecticut client commissioned us to recast a barn adjacent to their home for use by guests, we were instantly excited about the prospect, as barns are the vernacular of New England's architectural fabric. Redefining the layout was our first task at hand. We needed to create the illusion of intimacy yet still keep the integrity of the structure, so separating the space to include sleeping quarters and a large entertainment area, while maintaining an open floor plan, was critical. Our approach to the millwork design was classic yet rustic, and blends harmoniously with the structure. We kept the framework and millwork light in color to offset the general impression of darkness a barn can sometimes create. Splashes of color from fun and stylish fabrics (that are all durable: the camel Ultrasuede on the sofas, for example, can withstand anything from a pen mark to a glass of red wine being spilled, while still maintaining its richness) and an outdoor version of a sisal rug also help warm up the potentially harsh openness of an overscale space. We opted for lantern lighting that likewise fits in nicely with the feel of the barn and adds to the warmth of the ensemble. All of these elements ultimately came together to create a gracious retreat for years to come.

**SARANDA BERISA, DIRECTOR OF INTERIOR DESIGN AND DECORATION, WADIA ASSOCIATES, NEW CANAAN,
(203) 966-0048, WWW.WADIAASSOCIATES.COM**