



An Urban Retreat in the Country

DESIGNER: ARIANA FISCHER |
ARIANA FISCHER INTERIOR DESIGN

Photography: Winky Lewis

Before setting out to design, Ariana Fischer tries to understand who her clients really are—their history, the realities of their life, and their aspirations. “I believe incorporating elements of our past gives us connectedness, providing comfort in our everyday lives, and that having inspired surroundings in our homes and workplaces affects our well-being and productivity immeasurably.” While Fischer’s aesthetic tends toward eclectic and elegant and the balance between function and beauty, creating this kind of harmony can be particularly challenging when some of the items in a homeowner’s collection do not appear to go together. Such was the case in this summer home on the shores of a lake in Maine. The clients, one of them an international art dealer, had a few favorite family pieces they wanted to incorporate plus a mix of contemporary art, and the rest was a blank canvas set against a backdrop of modern architecture. “Manifesting a young urban family’s summer retreat in the country was a great inspiration,” says Fischer, who drew from the natural landscape in her design. The wooded area surrounding the house suggested the use of natural materials throughout—distressed wood, stone, and wrought iron. Comfort, ease, versatility, and space to play were all important factors as well. “So much nostalgia gets attached to a summer place, so I spent a lot of effort making each room unique, so that it could serve as someone’s oasis at any given time.”

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