





SITE: Oversize nailheads echo er pulls. Walls in Rogers & figon linen. Nailhead trim, uel & Sons. ABOVE: Antique e, Stephen Score. Windsor airs, Nathan Liverant and Son tiques. Chandeliers, Deanne vison American Antiques.

the place, a worried Nancy couldn't stop asking herself, "But what would Jimmy do?"

Working with architect Norman Davenport Askins, she channeled him flawlessly, and certainly not slavishly. The sunroom ceiling, for example, is recycled wood, but it also has a contemporary cove and a cornice that doubles as picture molding. The otherwise whitewashed space is presided over by an American eagle. Even from her car, Braithwaite knew she could never afford the monumental tin bird she saw in an antiques store window. Among his desir- in the dining room to the largest drop-leaf

evident in her new book, Simplicity (Rizzoli), which comes out in October. When she shops, she often takes along her husband, Jim, although he's sometimes dubious of her choices. A burl bowl atop the Shaker cupboard in the dining room, for instance, is actually a linen-wrapped cheese strainer. When she discovered it was quite a rare piece, he happily came around. Which is why they often seek the opinion of American antiques expert Deanne Deavours Levison, and also why-from the period chandeliers



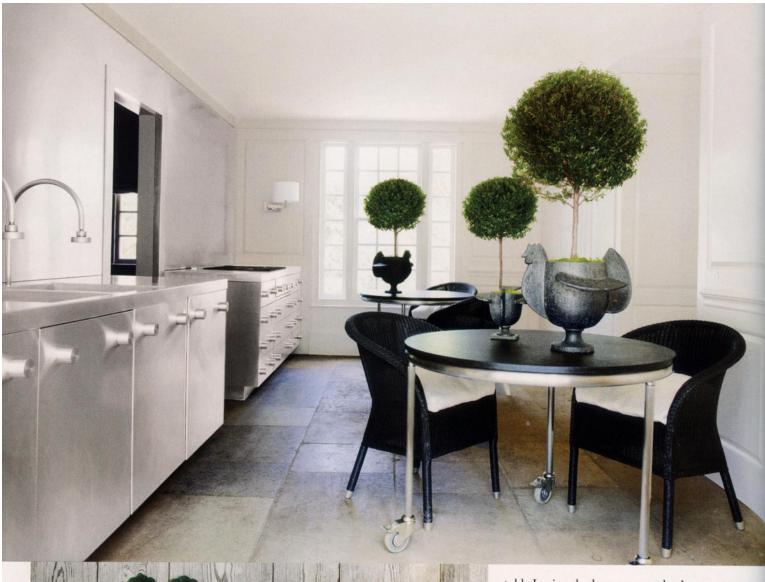


table Levison had ever seen—they've assembled a genuinely curated collection.

Not everything is old, however. Braithwaite designed the sunroom's Queen Anne-style iron-base table herself. And the kitchen is contemporary, too. "I'm not really nuts about kitchens," she confesses, so she's hidden the functional components (stove, refrigerator) behind doors and displays less "kitcheny" things: a pair of chic, industrial-style rolling tables for friends to sit at, with rosemary topiaries in rooster-shape planters by François-Xavier Lalanne.

While shopping in Paris, the Braithwaites were so taken with Lalanne's sheep sculptures, they purchased one for their garden. It probably looked a little lonely on the lawn, because as a gift, each secretly ordered one more for the other. Their little flock can now be seen from Braithwaite's bathroom, where a claw-foot tub with two external faucets snuggles into a window. The plumbing is elevated, so she can slide from side to side for bath-time views of the garden: the consummate touch in this storied—and storybook—house.



