

**OPPOSITE:** Inside the two-story barn, the charmingly crowded antiques store is filled with country cabinets, English and American ironstone, vintage and authentic reproduction lighting, and whimsical bits of salvage. **RIGHT:** Mary Dacquino welcomes guests from the back porch of the old house. **BELOW:** Clocks and treasures of the mid-20th century are displayed on an old rack. Utilitarian textiles like these vintage European grain sacks make homespun table runners and pillow covers.



**W**HEN THEY CAME ACROSS this property seven years ago, Mary and David Dacquino knew it fit the bill. First there was the house, a classic built in 1812. It offered eight bedrooms to accommodate visits by both of their extended families. Nearly three acres would keep Mary's green thumb busy. And there was room for Mary's antiques and interior design business, besides. (See related story, p. 44.)

The old house in Dunstable, Massachusetts, was built by a Jonathan Proctor as a wedding gift to his daughter Rebekkah, who had married the local postmaster. In 1812 it was a traditional brick-end Federal. In the early 20th century, Boston businessman Calvin Austin bought it for his country place, and the Proctor house became Calmore, a more Brahmin appellation. Austin enlarged the house, adding a gabled ell to the east end, along with several screened porches. The house changed hands several more times; it was a country inn during the 1940s.

# Live What You Love

Behind the Federal-era home this couple restored, surrounded by well-tended gardens, there's a big barn that houses their antiques business.

photographs by Edward Addeo



**SEASONS AT CALMORE** is the name of the antiques store (it's behind the old house long known as Calmore). "I want it to be a destination," says Mary about the store and the historic hamlet of Dunstable, which is on the Massachusetts/New Hampshire border. Beautiful, meticulously kept gardens surround the shop. A brick patio and English greenhouse display gardening antiques and specialty plants. Mary Daquino is also a design consultant (New England only). **SEASONS AT CALMORE**, 519 Main Street, Dunstable, MA: (978) 649-8882, [seasonsatcalmore.com](http://seasonsatcalmore.com)



LEFT: The displays are as alluring as the goods; here, gleaming ironstone sits in a rustic, 19th-century Welsh cupboard. ABOVE: Whisk brooms made in Thailand are popular country-kitchen items. BELOW: Swaths of perennials line the path to the antiques barn. An old barn is used as the garage. BOTTOM: Mary stops on the garden path that leads from house to shop.



## The shop's allure comes from Mary Dacquino's design sense: Her exquisite displays show off antiques to best advantage.

For two decades, Mary Dacquino has been an antiques dealer, exhibiting at shows around the country. When she and David moved to Dunstable in 2003, they put up a two-story barn for her shop. With its attached English greenhouse, it's the perfect complement to the Federal house. Thus Seasons at Calmore opened in 2004, becoming a popular rural destination for traveling "antiquers" and collectors. Mary carries

a mix of American and British furniture, kitchen items, white ironstone, vintage lighting, architectural salvage, and homespun textiles, all arranged in attractive, homey vignettes that make the shop an aesthetic experience. An upstairs loft holds large pieces, including trundle beds and chairs. Blessed with that green thumb, Mary also offers ferns, topiaries, and other specialty plants and garden ornaments. \*

—Brian D. Coleman

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Despite two centuries of change, character remains intact in this 1812 house, where a peculiar room with a hearth in the middle became a stunning family kitchen.



## *A cook's country* KITCHEN

by Brian D. Coleman | photographs by Edward Addeo

**T**HIS HOUSE is in Dunstable, Massachusetts, a hamlet with a still-rural air. Built as a traditional brick-end Federal very early in the 19th century, it grew with a gabled ell extension to the east and several screened porches added early in the 20th century. By the time Mary and David Dacquino found the house, a side door and windows had been added to the street side, throwing off its classic symmetry. Interior partitions and extra doors divided the stately old house into





a warren of spaces. But its Colonial simplicity, fireplaces and early moldings beckoned.

Mary especially liked the kitchen—a long, somewhat curious room extending half the length of the first floor. In the center sits a handsome brick hearth, a reminder, perhaps, of this space having been two rooms during the house's time as a travelers' inn. The large kitchen boasted three sinks and 36 feet of countertop, promising

**ABOVE:** The south end of the kitchen is centered on a sawbuck dining table milled from lumber salvaged from an old shed on the property. Built-in bookcases, a ten-foot-long window seat, and the centered hearth make the long room cozy and comfortable. **OPPOSITE:** Even with extensions, the Federal-era house retains a classical dignity.

plenty of homemade pasta primavera for the couple's army of nieces and nephews. A separate mudroom entrance at one end protects the house from any incursion by the harsh New

England winter.

The promising room needed significant restoration. Ignoring colonial precedent in search of Tuscany, previous owners had faux-finished the walls with a yellow glaze and applied trompe-l'oeil paintings of roosters, pigs, and horses on cupboards and doors. The navy-blue, ceramic tile floor was out of character and out of plumb, with tiles cracking. Mary and David began work with the floor;



made from mangle cloths create the look and feel of an early New England kitchen.

The mudroom at the north end likewise needed a total makeover. Housed in a two-story ell added by previous homeowners, the addition had a hipped roof that didn't belong. Mary and David reconfigured it into a larger, more functional addition, making room for a pantry and powder room as well as a 16x8-foot mudroom downstairs, and a bedroom and bath upstairs. The back porch now has a flat roof and decorative balustrades milled to match those on the front porch, which ties the addition into the main house. \*

after removing additional layers of asbestos tile, linoleum, and vinyl, they found the underlying wood floorboards unsalvageable. A new floor of wide pine planks was properly laid. Particleboard cabinets were replaced with simple, Shaker-influenced units made in ash by a local cabinetmaker and painted in historic colors.

Countertops now are a practical combination of soapstone and reclaimed, 200-year-old chestnut. They kept the old sinks of stainless steel and copper. Mary, an accomplished cook, insisted on a commercial Viking stove. To keep the ventilation from looking too modern, a new soffit with an antique pediment camouflages the vent above. Behind the range, a veneer of antique-style brick integrates with 19th-century English mosaic tiles, which continue above the counters.

Architectural salvage and antiques furnish the room. An eight-foot-long sawbuck table was custom-made from old barn boards on the property. A mid-19th-century pine worktable with apple green legs became a perfect workstation by the stove. Ironstone and yellow ware, vintage copper pots, pans, and chocolate molds, a rusty bread sign from an old bakery, and café curtains



**LEFT:** (top) The long, narrow kitchen is divided by an old chimney. The stove and food-prep area are on the north end (foreground here), while counters, cabinets, and additional sinks on the other side make serving simple. **LEFT:** Early-20th century English mosaic tiles border bricks inset into the floor near the stove; pretty and practical. **ABOVE:** A crusty, apple-green pine table is used as an extra work station near the stove. Copper pots and pans hang from an overhead iron pot rack by Enclume.

## sources

### WOODWORKING

- Finish carpentry by **Silver Maple Carpentry**, Merrimack, NH: (603) 791-4956 • Chestnut (reclaimed) for countertops from **Poor Farm Woodworking**, Harvard, MA: (978) 456-3441 • Cabinet doors and drawers fabricated by **WalzCraft Industries** [to the trade]: walzcraft.com

### MATERIALS

- Flooring from **Craftsman Lumber**, Groton, MA: craftsmanlumber.com
- Antique brick veneer is 'Thinbrick' from **Robinson Brick Co.:** robinsonbrick.com
- Antique tiles from **Antique Articles**, Dunstable, MA: (978) 649-4983, antiquearticles.com
- Cabinet pulls and knobs from **Restoration Hardware:** restorationhardware.com
- Paint [walls, 'Peanut Shell'], cabinets 'Putnam Ivory'] from **Benjamin Moore:** benjaminmoore.com

### EQUIPMENT

- Soapstone sink and countertop from **MacKenzie Stone Inc.:** hudson, NH: (603) 889-6700
- Faucet from **Grohe America Inc.:** grohe.com
- Refrigerator from **LG:** lge.com/us/
- Pendant lights by **Hudson Valley Lighting:** hudsonvalleylighting.com
- Range and hood from **Viking:** vikingrange.com



**ABOVE:** Mary Dacquino kept the most arresting of the trompe-l'oeil paintings of barnyard animals that the previous owners added. The horse is painted on the swinging door to the formal dining room. Table runners and cushions were made from European grain sacks. **LEFT:** Organic vegetables from the Dacquino garden are washed in the soapstone farm sink.

