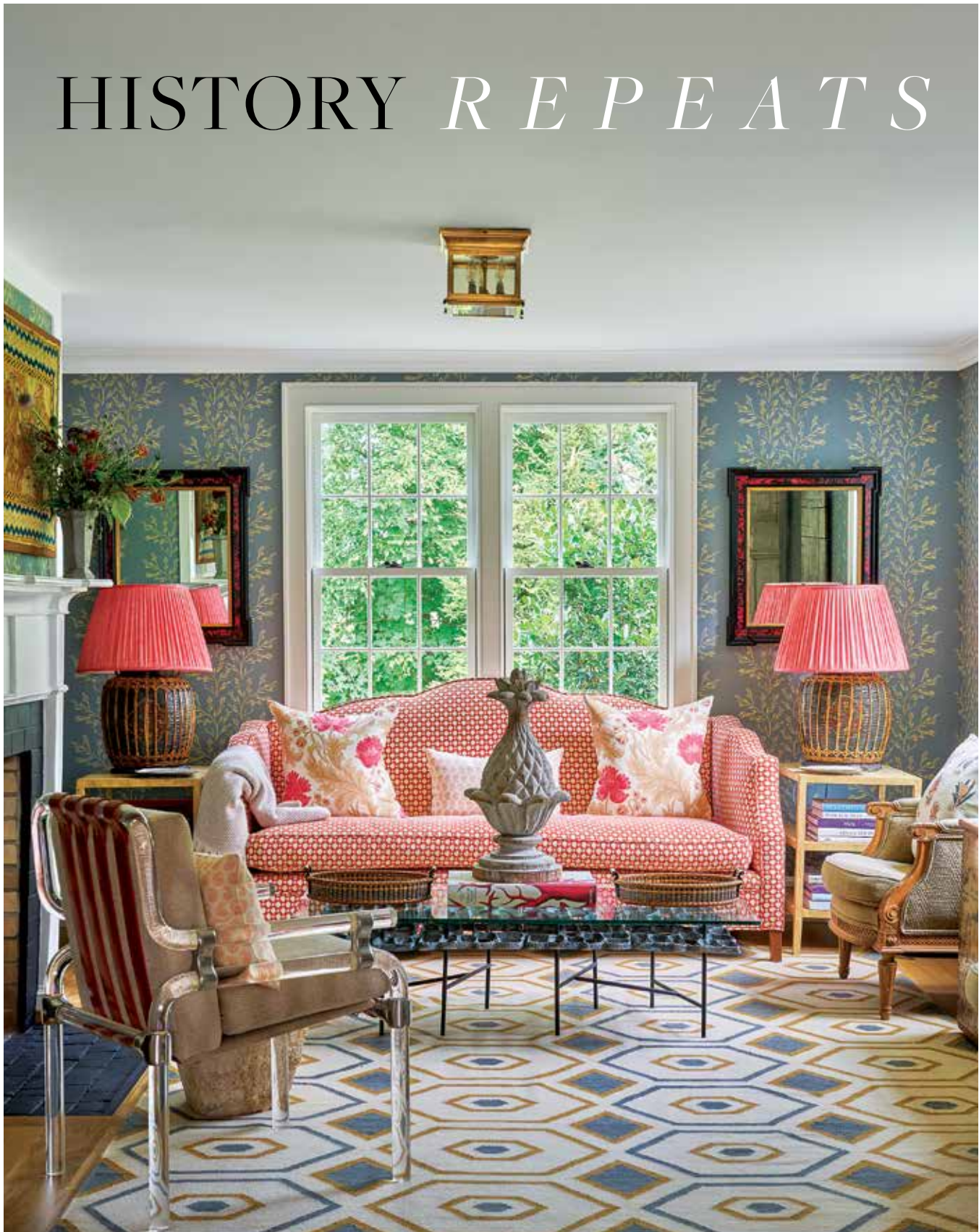


New England HOME CT

Mix & Match

*TASTEFUL PAIRINGS FOR
TIMELESS APPEAL*



Returning to her roots, an interior designer creates a new chapter for her beloved family home.

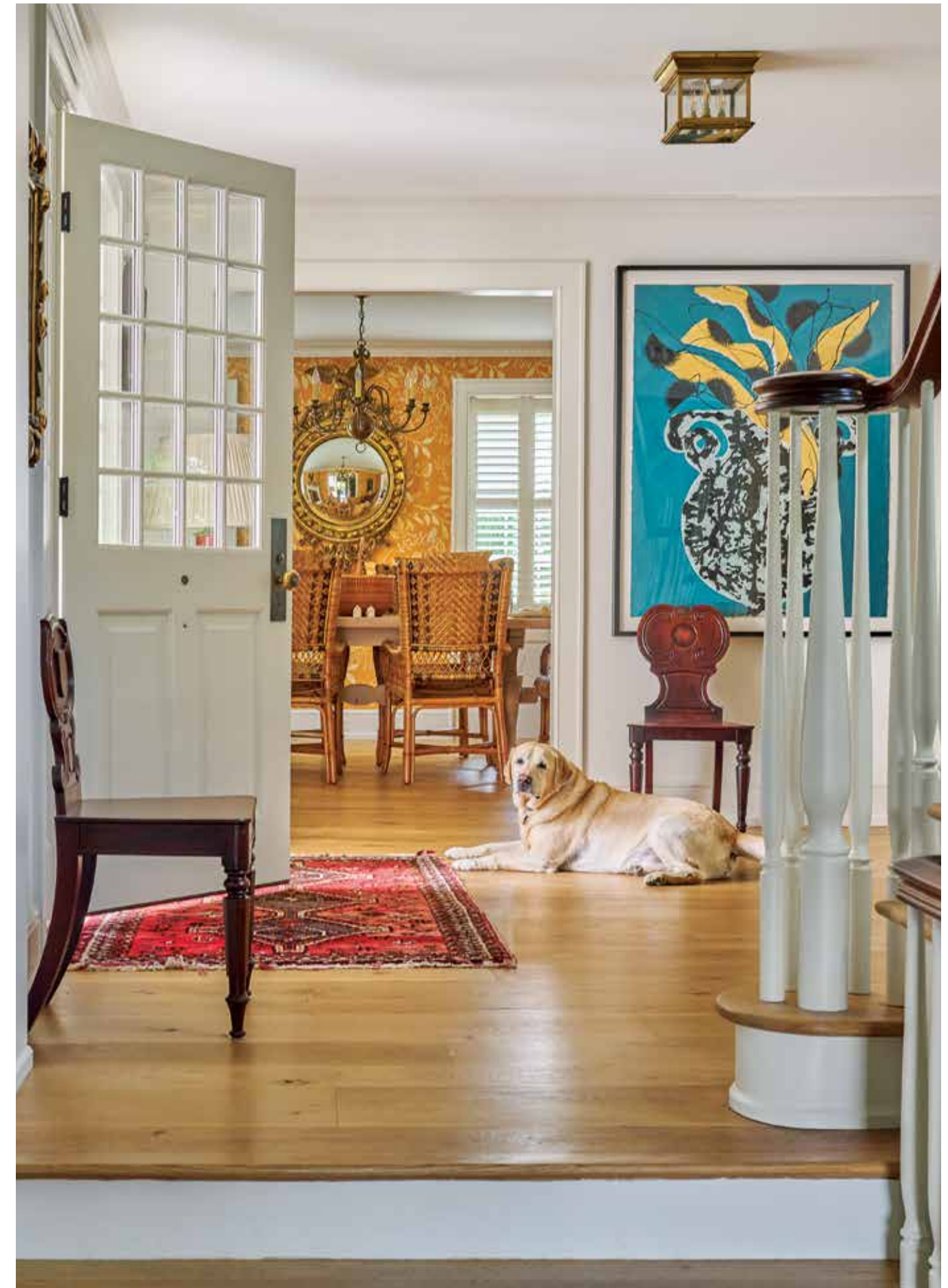
Text by GAIL RAVGIALA | Photography by JANE BEILES

RIGHT: The home's two-story addition, set back on the right, houses the kitchen and mudroom on the first floor and bedrooms above. **BELOW:** In the dining room, Mahon used Galbraith & Paul's curry-toned Sumi wallpaper to set an eclectic stage. **FACING PAGE:** Architect Rob Sanders created a side entrance that opens to a sunny foyer. The new staircase leads to the second floor, while two steps lead down to the kitchen wing.



The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus said we cannot step into the same river twice. The river changes and so do we. Keeping that in mind, interior designer and antiques dealer

Ali Mahon has debunked the idea that we can't go home again (apologies to Thomas Wolfe) by reinterpreting the 1804 farmhouse that has been in her family since the early 1990s.





A vintage farm table and Old Hickory hoop chairs with seat cushions made from bandanas are set atop new bluestone floors. The pair of oversize lanterns are from Jamb. **FACING PAGE:** The post-and-beam frame of the reconstructed barn lends itself to an open-concept great room. The loft, lined with wrought-iron railings, was raised to accommodate the dining area below.

There's a certain inevitability in this tale of stewardship. Mahon grew up next door to the house built by Charles Lockwood, a veteran of the American Revolution. Part of a large farm, over the years the house was altered, and three barns were added to the site, which although reduced to one and three-quar-

ter acres, remains a relatively substantial parcel in the Riverside section of Greenwich. Not wanting to chance that these historic buildings would be demolished and the land subdivided, her parents bought the property, and her mother, with Mahon's help, slowly decorated the interiors room by room.



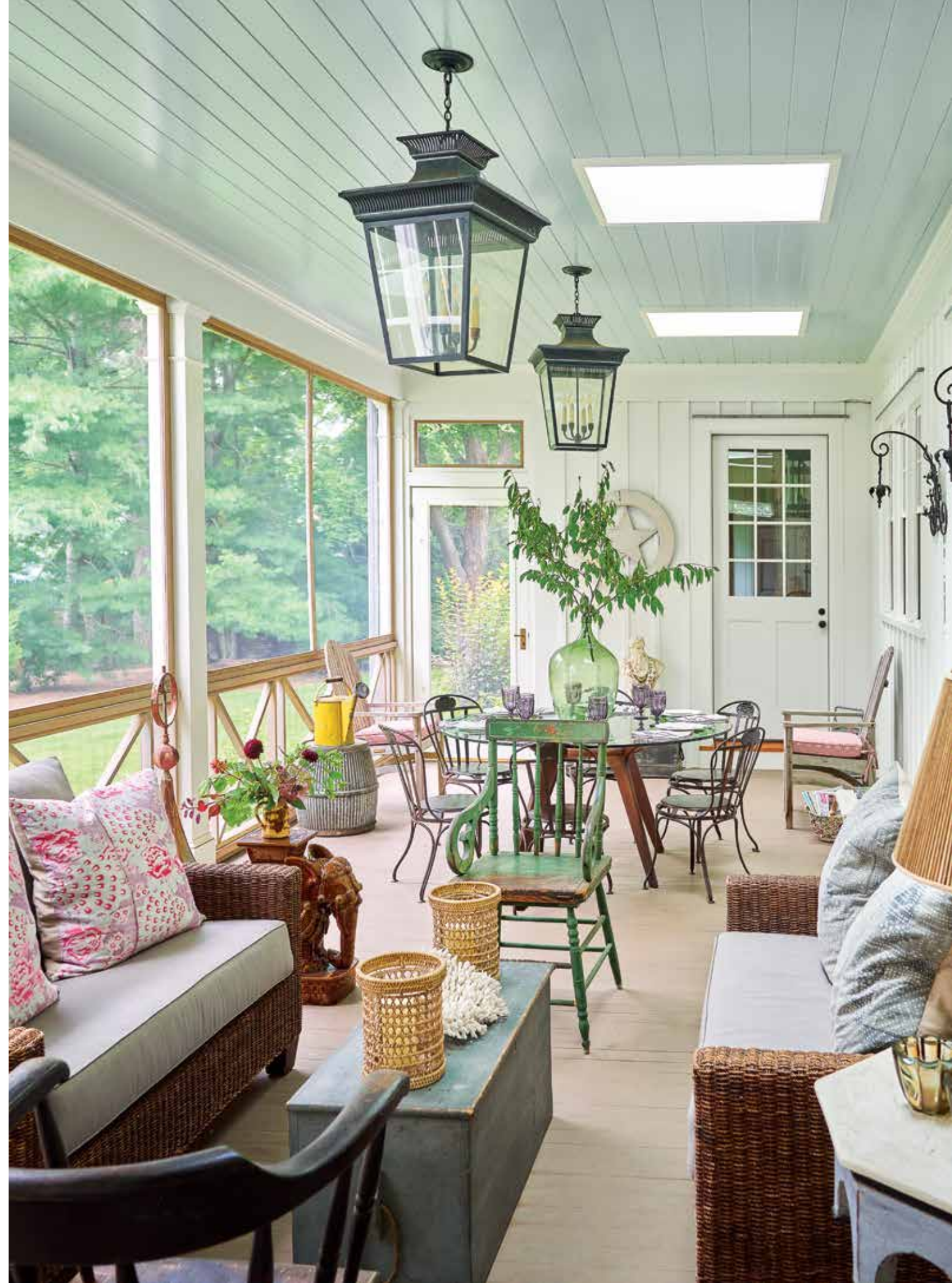
LEFT: Mahon is seen here in her new kitchen; Sanders used wood accents to subtly tie the modern space to the nineteenth-century house and barn. **BELOW:** The pantry, painted Benjamin Moore Kennebunkport Green, provides extra storage, a second refrigerator, and craft space for Mahon's needlepoint hobby. **FACING PAGE:** The new screened porch is full of old-fashioned charm with an assemblage of vintage rope sofas, elephant garden stools, garden chairs, and a Pearsall compass dining table.

“IF YOU MIX WHAT
YOU LOVE, YOU
FIND A WAY TO
MAKE IT WORK.”

—OWNER AND INTERIOR
DESIGNER ALI MAHON

When Mahon married, she and her now late husband took ownership and had four children there before moving to Florida, at which point, her parents moved back to the farmhouse. When they died, the property was left to Mahon and her sister.

Much as her parents before her, Mahon did not want to gamble on the fate of this important and beloved homestead. She became sole owner and hired architect Rob Sanders. Together they envisioned a home for her future, where she and her now young adult children could gather and where she could establish a showroom for her antiques business, The Barns by Ali Mahon.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Striped wallpaper from Casa Branca, an American Centennial quilt, and a framed forty-eight-star American flag take center stage in the new first-floor bedroom suite. The gallery-style hallway in the new wing displays a triptych of Italian landscapes purchased from the William Hodgins estate on the right. The primary bedroom is awash with complementary patterns in the Scalamandr  wallpaper and pillows and the Elizabeth Eakins custom carpet.

The plan Sanders devised involved taking apart and moving the largest of the three barns and connecting it to the house by way of a new wing that includes a large kitchen and pantry, a mudroom, a first-floor bedroom suite, two-car garage, and two second-floor bedrooms. The reconstructed barn is a magnet for family gatherings, yet with its rustic beamed ceiling and comfortable furnishings, it feels cozy enough for solitary evenings by the fire.

By eliminating an earlier Victorian-style addition, Sanders restored the Federal profile of the facade. Inside, he replaced an existing staircase with one more centrally located, thus correcting what he considered “a tortured circulation pattern.”

“This is a substantial country house and a landmark in town,” says Sanders. “Many of the changes made over the years were not in keeping with its historic value.”



“I REALLY DO LOVE PATTERN PLAY. IF YOU GET IT RIGHT, IT MAKES ROOMS MORE INTERESTING.” —ALI MAHON

“THIS IS A **SUBSTANTIAL**
COUNTRY HOUSE **AND A LANDMARK**
IN TOWN.”—ARCHITECT ROB SANDERS



ABOVE: At the back of the house, the reconstructed barn, kitchen wing, and new garage form a protected courtyard terrace.

FACING PAGE: From the terrace, the view across the sunken spa is to the pair of smaller barns, now painted red, that house Mahon's antiques showroom.

As for the interiors, Mahon's faultless curation of old and not-so-old furnishings, lush colors, and patterned textiles is perfectly suited for this meeting of the centuries. "I really do love pattern play," she says. "If you get it right, it makes rooms more interesting." And though her antiques inventory tends to Americana and Folk Art, her design style is historically eclectic. "If you mix what you love, you find a way to make it work," she says.

Only the youngest of her children is

still at home, though just off to college, but the others, all in their twenties, are frequent visitors. "It's always a full house," say Mahon. "The kids really feel connected to this house. They all have memories. We are back where we started." Even as the waters keep changing.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For details, see *Resources*.

ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN:
Rob Sanders Architects

INTERIOR DESIGN: The Barns by Ali Mahon

BUILDER: Kettle Ridge Construction

