

DESIGN TO INSPIRE

HOUSE & GARDEN

special issue

KITCHENS!

THE BEST LOOKS

FROM COUNTRY TO MODERN

COLOR TRENDS

APPLIANCE

NEWS



CREAMY CONFECTION



DECORATOR LINDA BEDELL'S LIGHT AND AIRY TOUCH HELPS AN OLD CONNECTICUT COLONIAL SHED SOME OF ITS DARK NEW ENGLAND ANCESTRY

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designer savvy

Pale hues are the perfect foil for dramatic details.

trade secrets

FURNITURE The sofas were custom-made by Bobrosky Co.; the Edwardian armchair is from J. F. Chen Antiques. The two chairs in the background were bought at Sotheby's auction of Jackie Onassis's estate. **CARPET** A 19th-century Russian flat-weave rug from Hakimian, Inc., NYC, covers antique spruce flooring. **ACCENTS** The pair of midcentury Italian carved wood sconces were purchased at Treasures & Trifles, NYC.

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OR ANYONE WHO has ever spent a winter in Connecticut, "light" and "bright" are not always the adjectives that come to mind. But for Linda Bedell, an Aspen, Colorado-based decorator who is accustomed to the high-altitude clarity of mountain light, and her clients, the owners of a rambling, 100-year-old Colonial house in western Connecticut, creating an airy and sun-filled retreat was a welcome challenge. The raw material was there: the house sits high on sloping terrain and has a wonderful luminous quality reminiscent of an eighteenth-century Swedish manor house. The trick, then, was to maximize that quality.

"When I was working there in the winter, the darkness and damp of the season did remind me a bit of Scandinavia," says Bedell. "In Sweden, they integrate light in every way they can, and mix very elegant things with simple materials and clear colors." So the designer and her clients, a couple with two children, set about revamping the house to create a backdrop for gilded and painted French, Swedish, Russian, English, and American furniture and the family's impressive collection of contemporary American ceramics and realist painting. "I've



