

SPRING

A S P I R E DESIGN AND HOME

SEEKING THE SUBLIME
RUSTIC GLAM



vegetable
CAKES

archetypes
handpick their favorite rustic pieces

& INSIDE ON THE MARKET: CALIFORNIA | DUBAI



The carefully edited store, connected to a café by the same name, is a joint venture with Chef John Doherty of BLACKBARN Restaurant in Chelsea Market.

LIFESTYLE

a pocketful of rustic

one stop to sip, dine and shop - and return home with feel-good treasures

Style setters Mark and Kristen Zeff travel widely, sourcing global merchandise made by artisans for their BLACKBARN Shop blackbarnshop.com in New York City.

They have commissioned artisans both locally and from such places as Morocco, Bali, South Africa, Spain, Portugal and Italy to create pieces specific to the shop.

“We are invested in the people and stories surrounding every product we bring through our doors,” assures Mark. The Zeffs nurture partnerships with small, family-owned brands, such as Barcelona-based Arxe, which also provided the custom refurbished wood bar top (that you will notice when waiting for a Sweater Weather cocktail, made with bourbon and cinnamon).

The custom Arxe pieces are hand-cut from salvaged materials, such as recycled hemp for the Mountain Basket – perfect for firewood – and 19th-century flour sacks for the Saco cushions that make the dining seating so comfortable.



The Zeffs also know all about pairing comfort with style at home – they have two daughters, a baby son and two Yorkies.

“We named our lifestyle brand after our home in East Hampton, NY, which Mark designed as a modern take on a sleek, minimalist barn,” concludes Kristen.

Tableware, flatware, glasses and linens used in the café are available for purchase, along with branded jams, chocolates, coffee and other finds.

ALICE GARBARINI HURLEY

🍴 On a foodie note, Kristen likes the café’s Smoked Eggplant Hummus, Pan-Roasted Artichoke Hearts and other plant-based options. Mark’s more the Slow-Braised Short Rib with mashed potatoes type.

THIS VIRGINIA COUNTRYSIDE HOME ROCKS NATURE’S COLORS WITH ROBIN’S-EGG BLUE TO SPRING-GRASS GREEN CREATING A NOVEL EXPERIENCE

TEXT THOMAS CONNORS
PHOTOGRAPHY KIP DAWKINS
INTERIOR DESIGN
GARY INMAN AND DANI BLAKE, BASKERVILL

The days of the Grand Tour are long gone, but the glories of that well-worn itinerary are not lost on those with an appreciation for the past. Count Gary Inman among those who still cherish a fine *hôtel particulier* or a handsome Florentine palazzo. His scholarly enthusiasm for historic styles stood him in good stead when he went to work on a substantial home in the Virginia countryside.

At 12,000 square feet, the French-inflected residence – designed by Toronto architect Stan Makow – is certainly scaled to its 2,000 acre site. Inman – Director of Hospitality Design at Baskervill – has fashioned interiors that express a companionable authenticity. Outfitted with a mix of antiques and custom pieces, Inman’s design reference is French, English and Italian decorative styles, along with some distinctly American motifs.

Even the most utilitarian space gets top-drawer treatment here. Take the mud room. “There’s a lot of coming and going in this house and this space gets used the most,” notes Inman. “I knew it had to be durable, but I also wanted it to have some character. It’s very English. I used William Morris wallpaper and ran the wainscot up to plate rail height, which is an aesthetic movement gesture I’ve seen a lot of in English houses.”