

# AMERICAN FARMHOUSE

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# Inside Out

A Maryland property seamlessly blends interior and exterior spaces.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES RAY SPAHN

The home's new addition combines a detached garage, workshop and potting shed. The metal roofs, stone foundation and vertical boards were replicated from structures that were once originally on the property. Black board fences, popularly used for horse farms, define different areas of the landscape. "The board fences would be prevalent on farms like this," Jim says.

The interior of a home often is the star of a design, but on Flat Run Farm, the exterior is as much a focus as the interior. The main home was designed to promote views of the expansive property while ensuring a continual flow between the indoors and outdoors.

"We're known for connecting the indoors to the outdoors no matter what the property's style," says Jim Rill, owner and principal of Rill Architects, who developed the design. "We're always thinking about the house not being just the house, but the entire property."





The detached garage on the left includes the workshop and potting shed designed in the appearance of an old barn, with red accents matching the traditional barn color. The primary suite and connected garage on the right feature stone foundations and accents.



(above) Inspiration was drawn from the original barns on the property, including this restored pair that now serves as storage. The barns' red paint and original stone foundation mirror the design of the home and other structures.

(opposite, bottom) The house overlooks a recently restored pond stocked with fish. The home was built with a variety of styles added in sections, so it looks as if it has grown over centuries instead of years.

Jim notes that the indoor areas of the home—a blend of farmhouse and log cabin—flow visually and functionally to the outdoor areas, which include gardens, courtyards and terraces. “You feel connected to the outside when you’re indoors, and vice versa,” he says.





A sunroom extension to the home's library creates an ideal spot to enjoy nature while remaining protected from the elements. Matching armchairs overlook the recently restored pond. Flagstones beneath the area rug are the same used on the adjoining patio.

#### ADDITIONS OVER TIME

Although construction occurred over seven years during the 2010s, the home has an Old-World feel of being cobbled together over centuries. Despite its modern construction, the home still tells a story.

"It began with the old stone house," says Jim. "Then somebody built a log cabin next to it, and the next family extended a connection between them. That's the theory anyway—but it was all new construction."

A breezeway between the kitchen of the main house and an attached garage is light and airy. The same material for the floor extends from the hallway linking to the outdoor terrace. "We wanted it to feel like the exterior materials moved into the interior," Jim says.

The structures are scaled to feel comfortable on the property without overwhelming the land. The compound incorporates vegetable gardens, a potting shed, barns, a workshop and expansive paths around the lake. "We wanted to make it feel like it was always properly placed, and the buildings worked together to form a complete design," Jim says.

#### ALL IN THE DETAILS

The Rill team used historic materials and detailing to make the farmhouse and log cabin appear original, with expanses of windows overlooking the grounds.

**(below)** The primary suite with attached garage and silo was added several years after the main home was built. A wall of windows and vaulted ceiling make the bedroom feel expansive. Rustic wood beams, quilted bedspread and painted furnishings incorporate the farmhouse style.







The tin roof over the potting shed gives the new building a feeling of having been incorporated over time. The shed overlooks the raised beds, illuminated by lighting as an additional deterrent to herbivores. Vertical boards with battens are part of the design: a nod to the board and batten barn style.

Small details like exposed rafter tails and simple trim “allow the structure to be the structure without extensive ornamentation,” Jim says.

Some of the property’s barns were restored, with two repurposed as a spa and picnic pavilion. The main home incorporates farmhouse style with exposed beams, stone and wood flooring, a tin roof, and the use of barn siding both inside and outside.

With the use of original elements, Jim hopes that visitors will enjoy trying to discern whether the home has always been part of Flat Run Farm.



(above) A workshop behind the detached garage features new light fixtures with an antique farmhouse appearance, while the shop’s windows provide ample light. “You can see the bank of windows opening up the corner to the views, so you can feel like you’re outside even when you’re working inside,” Jim says.

(below, left) In the potting shed, custom-made rolling tables are convenient to access and move supplies. The flagstone floor extends into the garden, while the numerous windows make the shed feel like it’s part of the garden.

(below, right) Raised beds protect vegetables and herbs from being eaten by wildlife. The natural wood for the beds blends seamlessly with the surroundings. A black fence surrounds areas of the property, sectioning off areas while deterring deer from entering.

