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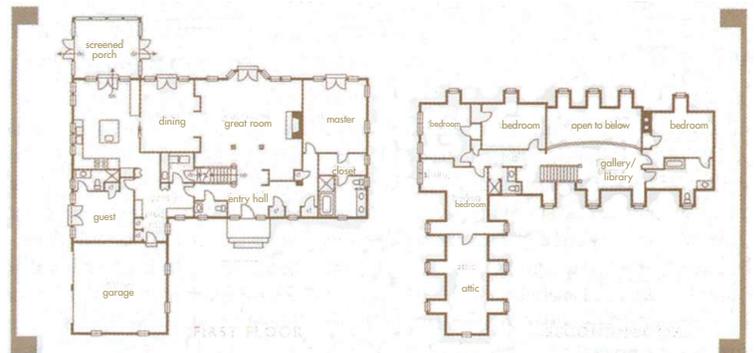
new tradition

A LIVING ROOM BLENDS VINTAGE HISTORICAL STYLING WITH A THOROUGHLY MODERN LAYOUT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK SAMU STYLING BY TIA BURNS



Left: The floor plan shows a central great room on the first floor; the majority of the bedrooms are clustered on the second floor.



best of the best



“THE HOMEOWNERS KNEW THEY WANTED ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS LIKE MOLDINGS AND COLUMNS FAIRLY SIMPLE, BUT THEY DIDN’T WANT A BARE, CONTEMPORARY LOOK AT ALL.”

- DOUG MOYER, ARCHITECT

WHAT THEY DID

When architect Doug Moyer devised a plan for this living room in a Westhampton, New York beach house, he took great care to incorporate many hallmarks of traditional design. The floor plan is totally up-to-date. After all, the homeowners wanted a room that would comfortably accommodate visits from their large clan. A living room with a closed off space would not have suited them at all, so Moyer opened the space to the adjacent front hall, to a second floor balcony, and to the terraced backyard and swimming pool. Large and comfortable the room includes areas for a variety of purposes. Homeowner Judy Bautz says, “I wanted a living room with a fire place, a corner for reading, and a corner for a desk.” Though such multifunctionality is not typical of traditional layouts, that’s exactly what she got. And she couldn’t be happier.

WHY IT’S A WINNER

While traditional design appeals to us for a number of reasons—the attention to detail, the finely crafted architectural elements, the well considered proportions, to name a few—it falls short as well. Too formal and too sectioned off, those gracious homes of yester-year were often ill-designed for the family of today who wants to visit together without necessarily having to gether around the formal dining table. That’s where the living room in this Westhampton, New York, beach house stands out. Although the look is inspired by the past—classically detailed and proportioned columns, a fireplace with a traditionally styled stonelike surround, and handcrafted moldings and built-in bookcases—the layout is thoroughly modern. Instead of a wall, which would have felt to constricting, columns located adjacent to the front entry all delineate the two spaces. A second floor balcony overlooks the room, and French doors connect the space to the outdoors. The finished product is perfect. Although the room bears many of the hallmarks of traditional design, the casual floor plan allows folks to drift in and out as whim the household duties dictate. Ideal, we think, for a beach house designed for a family.

