



*destination*design

NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Interior designer Elizabeth Drake creates a charming and sophisticated farmhouse for her clients.

Elizabeth Drake is in demand all over the United States, with projects based in Washington, D.C., Chicago, the Bay Area, and Hawaii. We caught up with Drake just after she returned from completing an oceanfront project on the Big Island.

Tell us about this marvelous farmhouse.

My clients—an investment banker husband and professional painter wife—wanted to create a family gathering spot for themselves, their grown children, and their grandchildren. Both husband and wife had grown up spending fond summers in Northern Michigan and knew that's where they wanted to create their dream getaway.

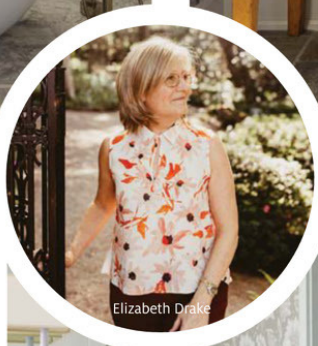
How big is the property?

It encompasses several acres with apple orchards, beautiful vistas, and wooded views. My clients had several musts for the design: they needed a separate building for an office, a painting studio and woodshop, three barns, and an organic produce garden with dining area. ➔

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY
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How did you put together the master suite?

We selected a four-poster bed and two chairs by Hickory. A wonderful antique secretary that had been in the client's family fills one wall. The room features large barn doors that open to the master bath. We used Ann Sacks tile throughout, wallpaper by Osborne & Little, and fixtures by WaterWear. A wonderful guest powder room on the first floor features a whimsical paper with golden pears by Kohl & Son. A contemporary basin was placed atop a primitive piece of pine furniture. In many ways, that guest bath sums up how we approached the project—there's a fine balance between the elegant and the rustic, the modern and the antique. My clients love entertaining here now and are always delighted when guests admire the warmth of the finished project. ➔



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It's a very large home.

How did you keep it cozy?

A favorite aspect of the home is the layout and how it moves from larger living spaces to smaller ones. Even the big spaces feel cozy due to the colors and choice of materials. The house has a positive vibe; it's sophisticated without being stuffy. We used gorgeous fabrics from Schumacher to Pierre Frey, but all in fresh, unfussy patterns like bold buffalo checks.

What informed your color choices?

As I mentioned, the wife is a professional artist and her paintings are filled with joyous colors. Actually, I call this the "Colorful Farmhouse" because we filled it with apple reds and greens, touches of gold, and lavender. The clients wanted it to feel warm and welcoming. ♦

