

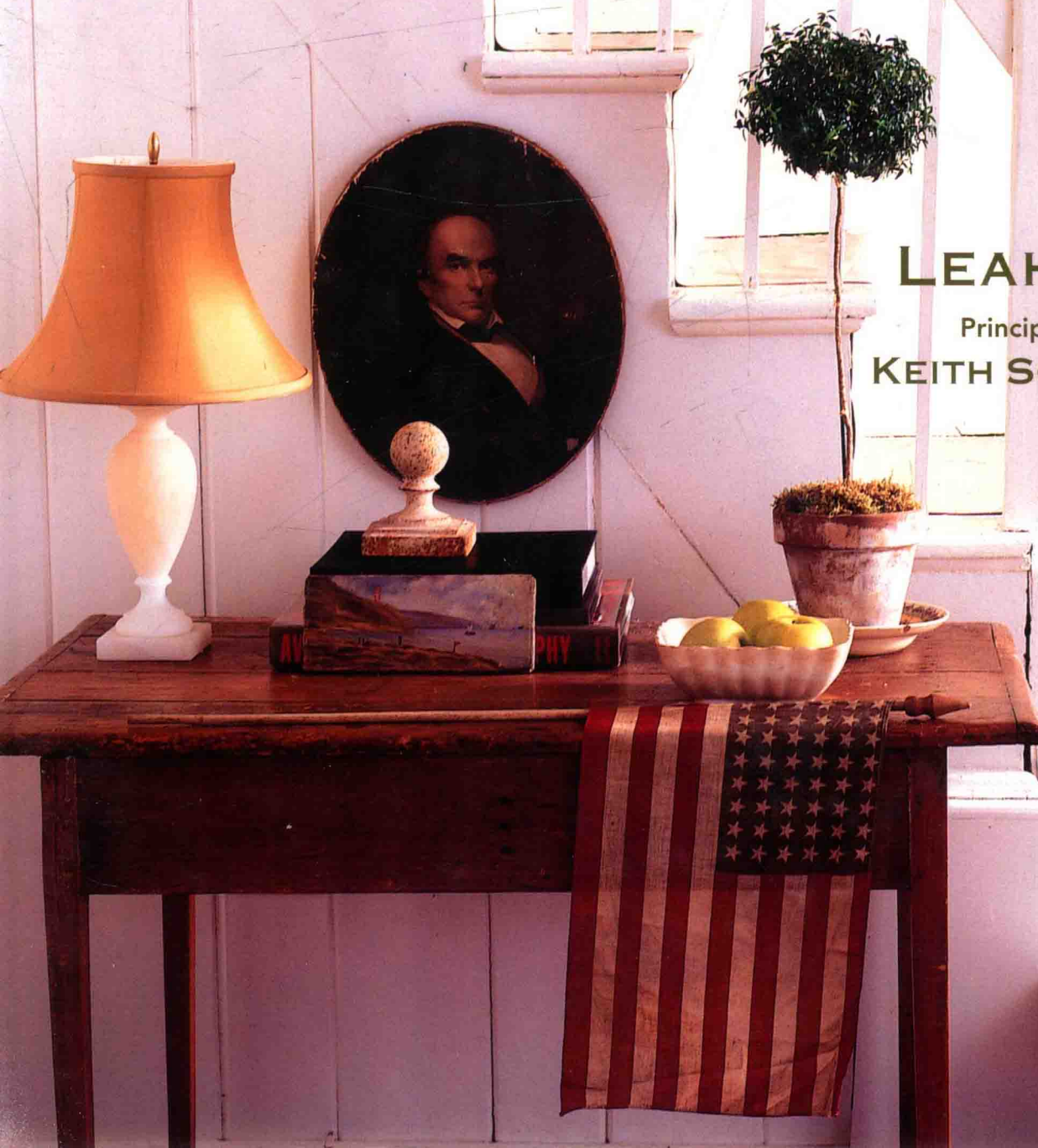
American Farmhouses

COUNTRY STYLE AND DESIGN

LEAH ROSCH

Principal Photography

KEITH SCOTT MORTON



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A SMALLWOOD & STEWART BOOK

SIMON & SCHUSTER New York ★ London ★ Toronto ★ Sydney ★ Singapore



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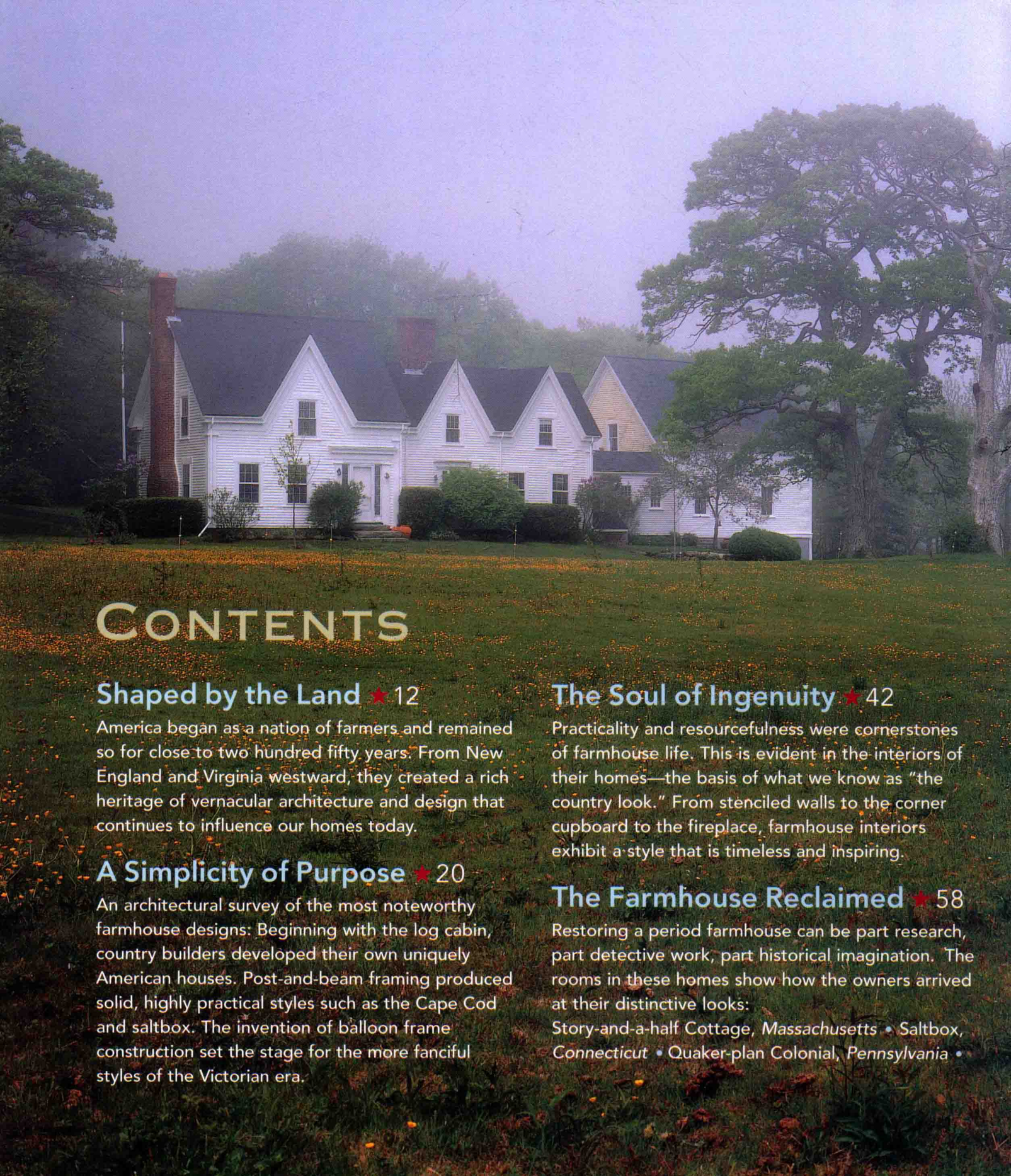
Designed by Amy Henderson

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America began as a nation of farmers and remained so for close to two hundred fifty years. From New England and Virginia westward, they created a rich heritage of vernacular architecture and design that continues to influence our homes today.

A Simplicity of Purpose ★ 20

An architectural survey of the most noteworthy farmhouse designs: Beginning with the log cabin, country builders developed their own uniquely American houses. Post-and-beam framing produced solid, highly practical styles such as the Cape Cod and saltbox. The invention of balloon frame construction set the stage for the more fanciful styles of the Victorian era.

The Soul of Ingenuity ★ 42

Practicality and resourcefulness were cornerstones of farmhouse life. This is evident in the interiors of their homes—the basis of what we know as “the country look.” From stenciled walls to the corner cupboard to the fireplace, farmhouse interiors exhibit a style that is timeless and inspiring.

The Farmhouse Reclaimed ★ 58

Restoring a period farmhouse can be part research, part detective work, part historical imagination. The rooms in these homes show how the owners arrived at their distinctive looks:

Story-and-a-half Cottage, *Massachusetts* • Saltbox, *Connecticut* • Quaker-plan Colonial, *Pennsylvania* •



Saltbox, *Connecticut* • Cape Cod, *New York* •
Saltbox, *New York* • Center-hall Colonial, *Connecticut* •
Log Dogtrot, *Texas* • Shingled Cottage, *New York* •
Greek Revival, *New York*

Reinventing the Farmhouse ★ 130

Ever renewing itself, the farmhouse look in these country houses freely mixes old and new, milk paint and modernism, rustic and whimsy:

Story-and-a-half Cottage, *Pennsylvania* • Porch-façade
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Bringing Country Home ★ 190

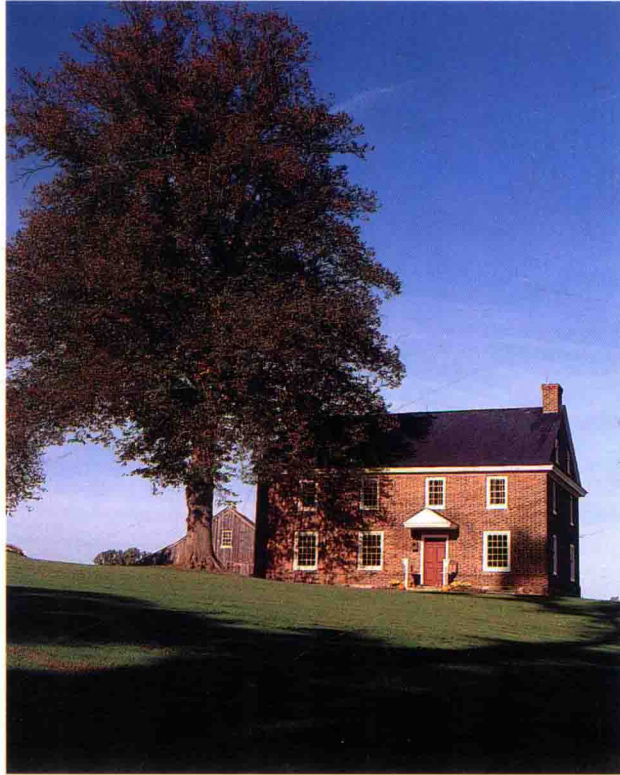
An illustrated nationwide guide to suppliers and craftsmen of period products and farmhouse furnishings.

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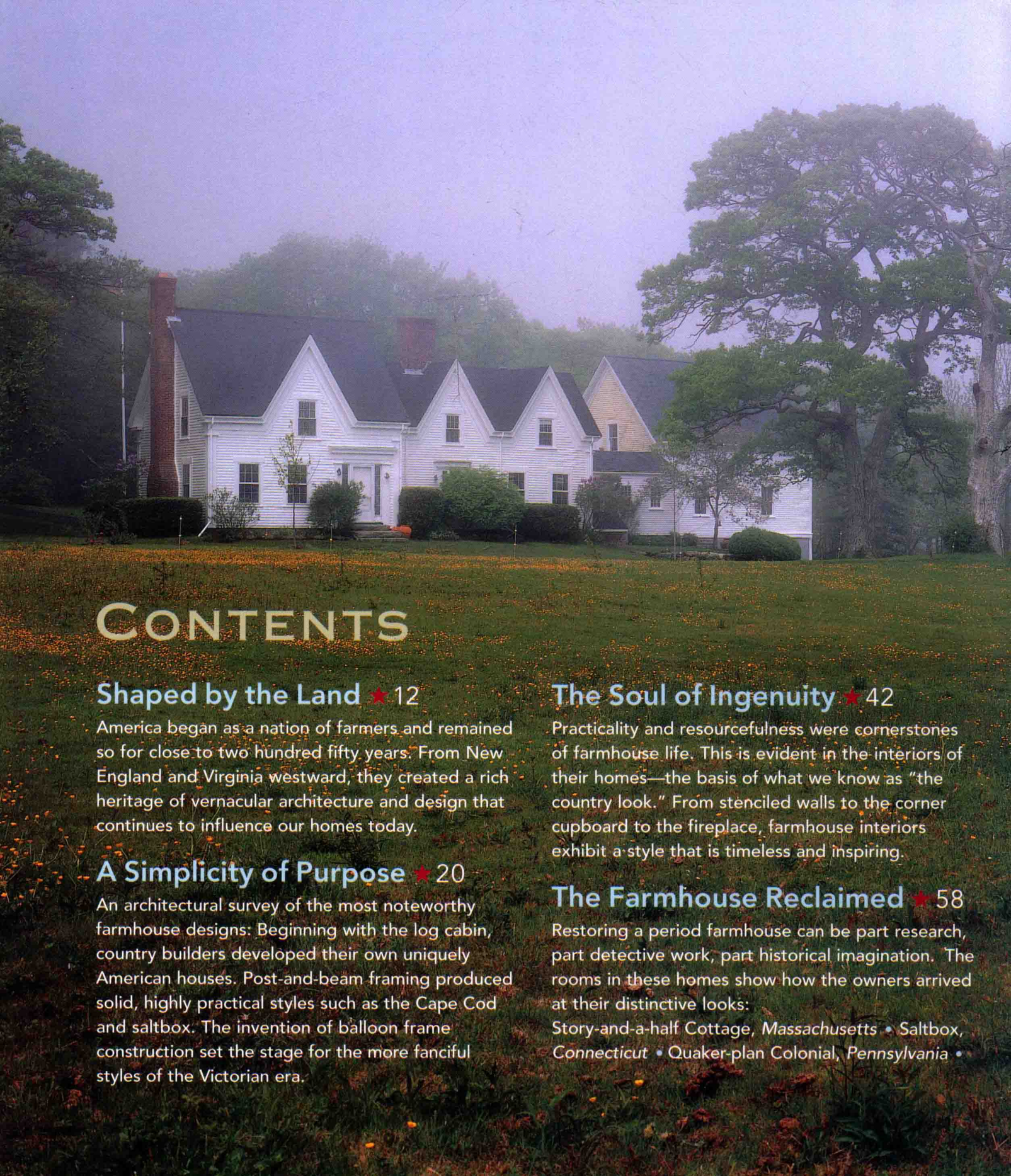
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A misty autumn landscape with two horses grazing in a field. The scene is filled with trees showing early fall colors, and a small white house is visible in the background through the haze.

Saltbox, *Connecticut* • Cape Cod, *New York* •
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Few history books capture the story of America's past as vividly as the farmhouses that fill our countryside. These fundamentally practical homes chronicle the development of the nation, tracing both its expansion and growing prosperity. From the late 1600s to the late 1800s, pioneers in each new generation pushed ever westward from Massachusetts and Virginia, across the prairie to the plains of the Dakotas, until farmland ultimately yielded to the range. Mirroring the country's industrial progress, the architecture of their homes evolved from humble dwellings to the more elaborate styles that presided over the Victorian-era landscape.

For much of our history, we have been a nation of farmers, making the farmhouse our most prevalent form of architecture (if not our most celebrated or best documented). Beginning with the earliest settlers who farmed to feed their families, working the land was a primary occupation through most of the nineteenth century, when farming accounted for more than half of the gross national product. Even as recently as the early twentieth century, more than a third of the population was still involved in agriculture.

Owning land was—and still is—an essential part of the American Dream. It has always represented freedom, autonomy, an opportunity to make one's own way in the world—desires that had a particular resonance for the millions of immigrants who came

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to these shores. For a young and growing nation, such dreams proved mutually beneficial. Fertile land, and plenty of it, was perhaps the greatest tangible asset this country had to offer. It shaped our history, our development, even our values. By the nineteenth