



Homeowner and history buff Chris Tomlin named his property Peacefield, inspired by the name John Adams gave his historic Massachusetts home in the 1700s.

PEACE *of* LAND

For a Tennessee family, a neutral and natural-toned cabin situated on a scenic 25 acres offers serene and soulful refuge from the frenetic pace of life.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CAROLINE ALLISON



THE QUIET CALM OF... **Nature's Palette**

Lauren and Chris Tomlin's screened-in porch features a custom shade of green on the trim. "I consider green a neutral," says interior designer Rachel Halvorson, noting the color scheme of a country home should feel tied to the land. (Some of her favorite shades include Lichen by Farrow & Ball and Winterwood by Benjamin Moore.) The woven dining chair ("Arbor"; janusetcie.com) echoes tones of the stone.

THE QUIET CALM OF...
A Well-Loved Library

"I feel like I step back in time in this room," says Lauren of the wood-planked refuge. "The original builder collected scraps from all around Nashville, including an old train depot, to put the house together." The room's book collection (far right) includes an assortment of old hymnals inspired by Chris's work as a worship leader.

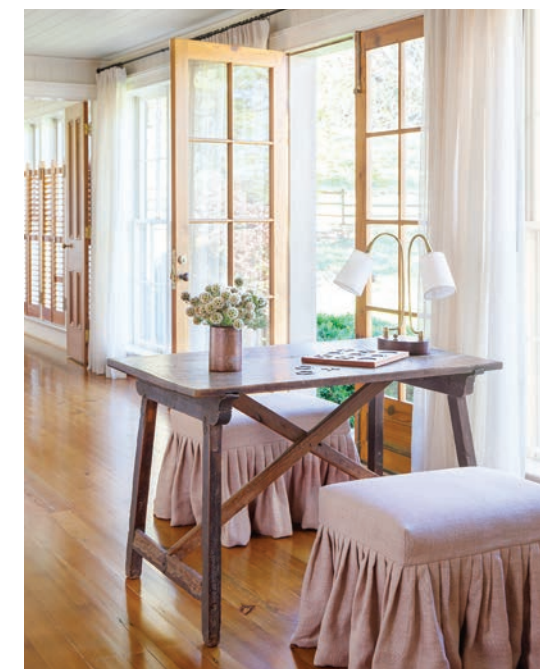


Sometimes a house moves you to tears in all the best ways possible. At least that was the case for Chris and Lauren Tomlin, who say they literally cried when they spied a pre-Civil War cabin during a country drive around Franklin, Tennessee. Thing is, it wasn't for sale. So the couple left a note in the mailbox, and just a few months later it was theirs. It's likely they had a way with words: Chris is a Grammy-winning Christian singer-songwriter, after all, whose most recent album, *Chris Tomlin and Friends*, includes guest appearances by Thomas Rhett and Florida Georgia Line.

Once the family got accustomed to the property—which was built around a rough-hewn settler's log cabin from before the Civil War—they enlisted architect Wade Weissmann (wadeweissmannarchitecture.com) to modernize it in a way that felt anything but, well, modern. "Wade specializes

in maintaining the integrity of old homes," says Lauren, adding that he kept her "on the rails." "At some point I wanted to do a vaulted ceiling and he was like, 'That's great but it's going to feel like an addition.'" Lauren also invoked the talents of Nashville designer Rachel Halvorson (rachelhalvorson.com). "Rachel has an incredible capacity for blending the old with the new," says Lauren. That blend is best showcased against a backdrop of neutrals, which Rachel insists is the key to a country house. "There is a sense of ease to houses like this—fussy patterns and bold colors don't really work because they can be distracting," she says.

The finished project feels like one giant exhale for the busy family of five (which includes daughters Ashlyn, Madi, and Elle). "I used to laugh when Lauren and Chris told me the property moved them to tears," says Rachel, "but now I understand. The wholeness you feel when you're there is nothing short of spiritual."



"If you live in the country, you're probably not the type of person to freak out if a little mud gets on your furniture," says Rachel. She still chose performance fabrics for the neutral upholstery, just in case.



THE QUIET CALM OF...
Sentimental Antiques

Filled with vintage china ("Appledore" by Wedgwood), the dining room's hutch is just one of several family heirlooms that lend soul to this room, which showcases the chinked log walls of the original cabin. The antique table is surrounded by slipcovered chairs from the Tomlins' previous home. A vintage Oushak rug adds a softness to the more rustic setting.



WHAT IS IT?
 WHAT IS IT WORTH?
Wood-Carved Mirror

Appraiser Marsha Dixey says this piece is in the style of Victorian Black Forest furniture. In Europe, the intricate carvings, typically depicting animals or vegetation, were a symbol of wealth. These days, the largest, most intricate mirrors (not shown) can be valued for up to \$7,000.



China White
 Benjamin Moore

Agreeable Gray
 Sherwin-Williams

THE QUIET CALM OF...
A Warm and Welcoming Kitchen

"I initially panicked when I saw how big the island was, but it's everything we need," says Lauren of the centerpiece topped with durable Taj Mahal quartzite and equipped with stealth storage underneath. A generous six-foot-wide handcrafted light fixture (lowcountryoriginals.com) hangs overhead and complements the cabinets' iron hardware (rockymountainhardware.com). The adjacent log wall from the original settler's cabin beautifully bridges the new with the old.



In Chris's collected and curated closet (left), an antique sewing table functions as an island. The space was inspired by the retail interiors of Southern fashion designer Billy Reid (billyreid.com). Above, a soaking tub offers a dreamy spot to escape. The main bedroom (top right) features plaster walls that mimic a plaster treatment that was original to the house.



THE QUIET CALM OF...
Breezy White Bedding

In the main bedroom (above), the exaggerated velvet headboard and fabric pelmet were passed along from the previous homeowners. The bed is layered with simple yet elegant ruffled bedding (matteola.com). The same serene approach to linens can be seen in daughter Ashlyn's room (at left). The sweet green iron bed came with the house. (For a similar look, try the "Eberhart Low Profile" bed; wayfair.com.)