



ABOVE: Rows of windows along the exterior allow for clear views of the rear landscape. RIGHT: Even small details, such as this lantern, hark back to a previous era. BELOW: Whitewashed pine brightens the laundry area. A glass door allows light in.



transom-topped doorways, and living areas 12 inches lower than the main floor for added drama and ceiling height. Other details that give the impression of age include decorative beams, subway-style and octagonal tiles in the master bath, and interior glass-pane doors. And there are built-in storage elements at every turn, including small benches tucked into the deep, welcoming front portico.

"We didn't want a formal home, but we did want a pretty one," Dare says. "Since our kids are grown and living in their own homes, my husband and I wanted our new home to be large and comfortable enough for

entertaining our family and friends, but didn't want one so big that we'd feel lonely in it."

The Radcliffs did, however, want more open-air space. In addition to as much natural light as possible, they asked that the new house have a sense of connection between the indoors and outdoors. The couple's previous home was about 1,000 square feet larger, "but we only had a small courtyard in back and not much grass, which our dog didn't really enjoy and neither did we," Dare says. Now, with the sweeping land in back of their home, "our dogs (now totaling three) can ... play and we can enjoy its beautiful views and entertaining areas."

And as for the basement where they store many pieces of furniture and belongings, "after a rainstorm, I must say it's the driest thing for miles," Dare says. "Now that's trust."

And after a year of living there, the Radcliffs believe this may be the end of the line, as far as building homes goes. "We're just so happy everything came together so well," Dare says. "We know we never want to leave."

Denise Ges