



ECCLECTIC COUNTRY

EMMERLING • DAVIS

MARY EMMERLING

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photographs by Reed Davis



## OUR COUNTRY HOME



I can't tell you how many new decorating styles I've tried in my life, but it's probably the same number of times I've moved. A new home is so satisfying because it gives you a brand-new blank canvas to play with. These days you can find my cowboy Reg and me in Scottsdale, Arizona. We live in a community of connected townhouses just a few minutes' drive from my brother Terry's amazing restaurants.

I wanted this house to reflect the eclectic mix I've come to be known for and show off my passion for collecting. It's my classic country style but more about the layers and piles of books, blankets, Navajo rugs, cowboy hats and turquoise jewelry. I always try to incorporate different looks in the same space to achieve that unique eclecticism. Everything can become a decorating layer. Lamps on a pile of books. Pillows on small chairs. Sweaters on wicker stools or trunk baskets. Sometimes you go to an antique show and some great little thing just catches your eye and you have to find a way to display it.

I always start with backgrounds first. I'm a white-wall person because I have so many accessories and fabrics that I like to keep the base clean. I decided to do sisal throughout the house this time. It doesn't show dirt, it's easy to care for and it makes the room look bigger. Whenever I do tile floors, I prefer Mexican tile or ceramic, but they can be hard on your back. So now I like wood. Lumber Liquidators will even put a foam under it, which makes it much more forgiving. I also pad under my sisal. ■



RIGHT: My cowboy hats on a small wooden stool in the den.

LEFT: Up the sisal stairs is a painting I haven't hung and a glitter Eiffel tower.



## THE BARN



**D**ot Dimiero is a talented interior designer along with her partner and daughter, Dana Aichler. She also partners with Alexander Molinello and Dana Aichler to publish the international interior design magazine *Antique Shops & Designers*. Dot owns an antiques shop and design studio called *Twenty Six Twenty*, located in River Oaks, Houston. She first attended Round Top over thirty years ago and has watched it evolve every year since. She loves catching up with old friends and finding unbelievable, one-of-a-kind antiques, never forgetting to stop by Marburger, The Arbor, and Excess. At one show she found a huge religious canvas for a steal. It's one of her favorite pieces in *The Barn*, which is a second home shared with her life partner, Alexander Molinello.

The Barn is a one-story metal structure that feels like a classic American barn. It has 24-foot ceilings and a wall of steel-frame windows and is filled with European antiques and white upholstery. Dana also contributed to the interior design of *The Barn*. One of their favorite finds throughout the years is a

large gold crown from a church in France that hangs above their Belgian farm table. Mismatched chairs lend a visual liveliness. The living room displays a large pale yellow cabinet along the wall with stained concrete floors beneath. Many of the pieces were found on their adventures at Round Top.





The master bedroom has a custom headboard by Eva's New Design covered with a Pottery Barn quilt. At the bedside is an antique china chest purchased at Marburger, and a large painting of Linda and Michael's six-acre farm hangs above a monogrammed settee. The master bathroom has a rare antique ladder from Round Top used as a towel and accessory rack.





## AT MARBURGER FARM ANTIQUE SHOW

Mostly outdoors, under huge and smaller white tents. There are formal antiques from all over the world, but mostly Europe and England. Some of the things you will see: pine, painted and primitive furniture, old books, chandeliers, religious objects, baskets, ceramics, furniture and lamps—and ATM machines! Bring your credit card and checkbook.





10 FAVORITE  
BOOTHS OR TENTS IN  
ROUND TOP

1. ARBOR (ON HIGHWAY) AND THE BLUE HILLS—both have great furniture.
2. COLE’S—great antiques, air-conditioned building.
3. CLUTTER AREA—just start at Zapp area and walk toward Clutter.
4. EXCESS AREA—opens on first Friday with the best furniture and industrial.
5. LA BAHIA—furniture.
6. MARBURGER—opens Tuesday.
7. RED BARN—original to the Round Top show; opens Wednesday.
8. TENTS—  
A, B, and C have the best accessories.  
Tents C and D have the finer antiques; decorators go there first, very inspiring.  
Tent G is an artists’ tent, with vintage sculptures, found objects, Around the Bend Willow, folk art.
9. WARRENTON—start at the end and keep walking; Tree Tops; look for my Santa Fe friend Randy Rodriquez.
10. NEAR ZAPP HALL AREA—  
*Stash Style*—great T-shirts, clothes, and bags.  
*Vincent Peach*—jewelry and pearls.

