

DESIGN INSPIRATION / HOME TOURS

This Designer's Jewel-Box Weekend Retreat Was Once a Farmhouse No One Wanted

Deep purples turn the rustic space into a cocoon.

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Montreal-based interior designer [Luke Havekes](#) is all about the cozy life. So when he set his heart on building a weekend home in the country town of Knowlton, in Canada's Eastern Townships, there was only one catch—he would need a suitably snug Friday-to-Sunday getaway in the interim. An 1841 [farmhouse](#) in nearby West Bolton set on one-and-a-half acres of land checked all his boxes for a temporary nest. And luckily, no other buyers had seen its potential. “It sat on the housing market through the peak of the pandemic,” he recalls. “There was a lot of work to be done, and nobody really wanted to take up the challenge.” He was the exception. Before long, Havekes had put down a deposit, signed the papers, and trucked in his materials.



Console, [Sunpan Canada](#)

While it can be tempting to go with all-white furnishings in a dimly lit, rustic setting like this, Havekes leaned into its cocoonlike feel with rich, inky blue walls; ultramarine chairs and tables; and jewel-toned rugs from India, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Turkey that could pass for flying carpets. “Handwoven rugs are the soul of the space and the inspiration for the palette,” Havekes shares. “I found the Persian one for the living room first, and though it had, like, 20 colors, I loved the subtle purple pops.”

So much so, he made violet the star of the show, opting for a striking sangria-hued floor covering in the dining room and a sapphire runner in the kitchen. “It could look very heavy but is lightened up by the supergauzy curtains,” he notes. The choice to go so moody wasn’t just to create a welcoming feeling inside—it also draws you out. The home doesn’t have particularly large windows, but it does have beautiful pastoral views. “When you go dark in a space, what’s outside the windows pops. It’s like putting a black frame on a painting,” he says.



Dining Chairs, [Sunpan](#)