



Several rescued thoroughbreds are enjoying a happy retirement on the 70-acre equestrian estate, dubbed "Second Chance Farm."

HORSE SENSE

Interior designer Ron Wolz puts a twist on traditional equestrian design.

Written by Bridget Williams / Photos by Kate Leichhardt

Just about the time I began wondering why someone would choose to live in a place generically described as "the middle of nowhere," I turned into the drive and immediately understood. In the early morning light, the scene resembled an impressionist painting. Sunlight danced across drops of dew on the grasses of the undulating fields where horses grazed languidly. A few amiable geldings acknowledged my arrival by interrupting their morning munching to stand at the four-board fence and solicit a scratch on the muzzle, a request that I happily obliged.

The centerpiece of the 70-acre equestrian estate, dubbed "Second Chance Farm," in honor of the rescued thoroughbreds who've hit the retirement jackpot here, is a gracious Tim Winters-designed home, a perfect combination of traditional aesthetics with a contemporized floor plan that takes full advantage of the views. "I appreciate the understatement of it," commented interior designer Ron Wolz of Bittners, who took cues from the architecture—including arched doorways and transom windows—to create spaces that put a fresh spin on equestrian-inspired design. "The casual elegance feels so appropriate for how my clients live," added Wolz.



The principal suite opens to a cozy paneled library outfitted in a clubby Ralph Lauren-esque aesthetic.



Wolz chose a botanical print linen for the drapery and captain's chair upholstery in the eat-in kitchen.



A lively chinoiserie wallpaper in a powder room



Able to accommodate large gatherings but with seating areas oriented to accommodate intimate conversation, the living room is outfitted in a timeless blue and white color scheme, expressed in a mix of floral and ticking stripe patterns.



The Bittners-made dining table incorporates a subtle inlay of the homeowners' initials in the center.



Cream grasscloth wallcovering provides subtle textural interest in the principal bedroom. Faux bamboo bed from Bunny Williams Home.



A traditional damask wallpaper graces the walls of the foyer. The placement of a wide corridor draws the eye to a wall of windows at the back of the home overlooking the pasture and woods beyond. A Moffat long-case clock stands at attention outside the entrance to the dining room, one of several fine antiques sprinkled in with modern-made heirlooms, including a round Bittners-made dining table with a subtle inlay of the homeowners' initials in the center. A metallic paper on the ceiling amplifies the traditional chinoiserie paper on the walls.

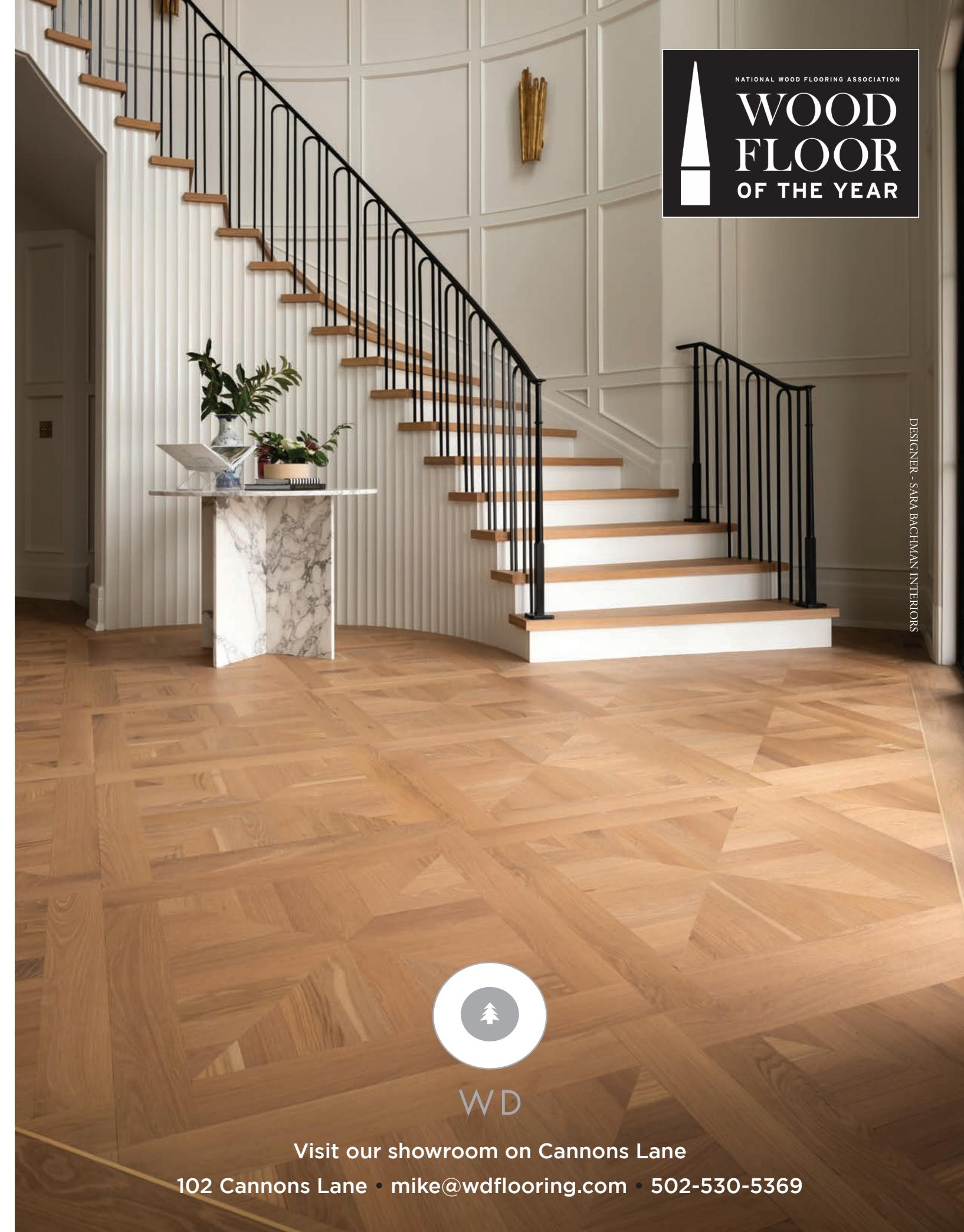
Able to accommodate large gatherings but with seating areas oriented to accommodate intimate conversation, the living room is outfitted in a timeless blue and white color scheme, expressed in a mix of floral and ticking stripe patterns. The pinstripes continue in the vestibule of a powder room before giving way to a lively chinoiserie wallpaper in the water closet.

Wolz chose a botanical print linen for the drapery and captain's chair upholstery in the eat-in kitchen. Hunter green

cabinets, stone countertops, and a mosaic backsplash behind the sink in the combination laundry room and butler's pantry belie the charming space's practical function. An adjacent powder room marries wallpaper from Ferrick Mason to a J. Tribble vanity.

The principal suite continues the blue and white theme, one of Wolz's favorites and a combination he says will perennially be in style. The Victorian-era design of the faux bamboo bed from Bunny Williams Home aligns with neighboring antique pieces. Cream grasscloth wallcovering provides subtle textural interest. The room opens to a cozy paneled library outfitted in a clubby Ralph Lauren-esque aesthetic, i.e., saturated color, wool plaid, brown wood, velvet, brass, and an oriental rug.

The project represented Wolz's first collaboration with the clients, who are exceedingly pleased with how it all came together. "I am very grateful that our paths crossed," said the wife. "We look forward to enjoying living in these beautiful spaces for a very long time." *sl*



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