

Colonial Homes

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Williamsburg cottage

Vira Goldman designs interiors, builds reproduction homes, and restores 18th- and 19th-Century houses and gardens through her firm, Hladun/Goldman, in New York City. "My lineage is Ukrainian," she says. "This identity has made me conscious of historical parallels. I am drawn to houses that define eras."

In our April issue, we visited her summer home in East Hampton, N.Y. (p. 80). On these pages, we show a new house that she built in nearby Amagansett.

"My goal was to reproduce an 18th-Century dwelling that a contemporary family could easily manage," she says. "I decided to adapt the Ebenezer Ewing House, c. 1750-78, in Colonial Williamsburg, Va. I went to Virginia to study it firsthand. I like its compact size and gambrel roof. It was historic but had common-sense appeal." (Restored in 1940, it is now a guesthouse for the Williamsburg Inn.)

Under Mrs. Goldman's supervision, contractor John Hummel raised her version of the house on a two-acre plot. "We really had no problems," she says of the adaptation. "It went up in seven months. It encloses 2,168 sq. ft. of living space and has a two-car garage. It also has central air conditioning, a vacuum system, and a Jacuzzi in the master bath. The kitchen is state-of-the-art, and there's an in-ground swimming pool outside. Otherwise, a Colonial family would find few surprises. In planning the rooms, I tried to use materials and furnishings that many homeowners could afford."

The house is for sale for \$625,000. Its price reflects not only its amenities but its location on Long Island's fashionable South Shore. The furnishings are available separately. For data, contact Alexis Algozino at Hladun/Goldman, 4 Sutton Sq., New York, N.Y. 10022; tel.: (212) 545-4301.