



*A Frank Rhodes, Jr., who handcrafted the furniture in this “withdrawing room,” takes his inspiration from the exquisite antiques that surrounded him as a child; his grandparents—after whom his Garbisch collection is named—amassed an impressive collection.*

Adjacent to the master bedroom and bath, this second-floor space is known as the “withdrawing room.” Designed as a private retreat that conveys comfort any time of day or night, the room is wrapped in a warm, buttery hue—starting with the walls. Not able to work with the room’s original paneling (in 1926 the owners of River

House, having experienced financial losses due to a failed peach crop, sold the paneling to Henry Francis DuPont), designers Alan Kepner and Dale Johnson used a subtle wallpaper that establishes a cheery ambience. Likewise, the sunny yellow curtains keep things bright on even the most dreary of days.

The understated setting

serves another purpose, too. Here, treasured pieces of furniture take on the importance they deserve. Each reproduction piece—from the plate rack to the dramatic highboy—was handcrafted by local artisan Frank Rhodes, Jr., using traditional construction techniques and finishes.

