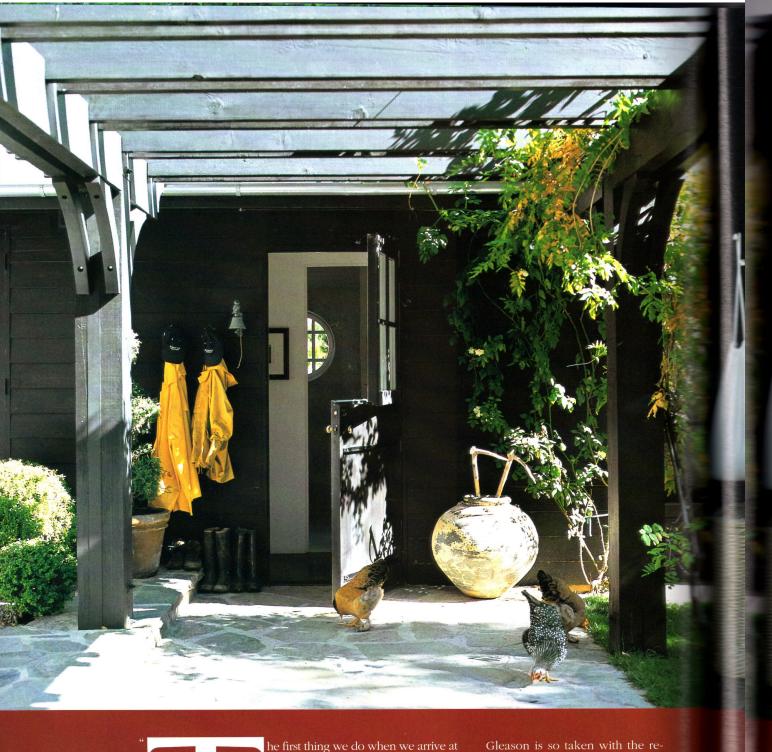




IDYLLC NAPA VALLEY ESCAPE

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Summer Hill Vineyard is to check on splendent fowl that two Orpington the girls," says designer Rela Gleason. hens can be found in a coop, bright-The "girls" are Araucana and Buff ened with flower boxes, outside her Brahma hens that strut about Glea- home on Telegraph Hill in San Franson's forty-acre vineyard and farm in cisco. Chickens on Telegraph Hill? Calistoga, California, a "small town" "Oh, yes!" she exclaims. Friends and village in the Napa Valley known for associates are surprised to learn of its thermal hot springs, mineral water these unorthodox dwellers in a city and world-class wines.

Gleason is so taken with the rewhere "designer dogs" and cats are

the standard household pets.

tons are daily reminders of the two cluding Summer Hill's own showseparate worlds that Gleason inhabits. One world is her workplace at Summer Hill Ltd., the company she found- however, the Gleasons pack up the ed in 1985 with husband and CEO car and venture to their other Don Gleason. Rela oversees the de- world—one lying fifty-eight miles sign of furniture, fabrics and wallcov- north of the Golden Gate Bridge. erings offered at to-the-trade show-

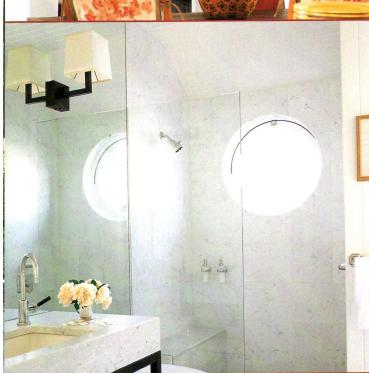
rooms across the country. Don han- opposite: Cedar arbor connects the Truth is, her city-dwelling Orping- dles production and operations, inrooms in San Francisco, Chicago and New York City. Come Friday evening,

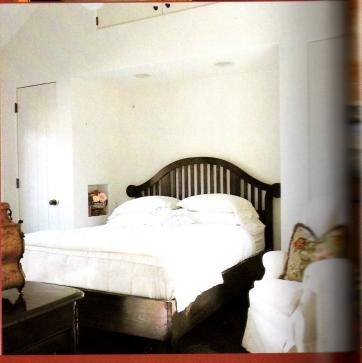
When the Gleasons purchased the

two cottages—a guest house and a mother-in-law unit. Dutch doors impart the feeling of a stable. Roaming hens lay eggs in surprising places. ABOVE: Antique painted children's chairs lend charm. Basket displays wild turkey feathers collected on the property, where bobcats and foxes are also seen. Antique crock holds salutary olive branches.





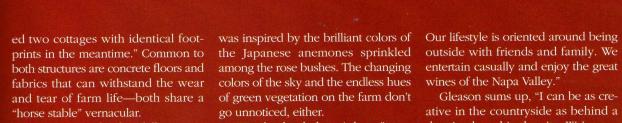




enhanced with 19th-c. bisque horse head medallion. Drawing by Carlo Marchiori. Garden chairs in Summer Hill Ltd. fabrics. LEFT: Carrara marble in bath. Vanity designed by Gleason. ABOVE RIGHT: Gleason designed wing chair and bed and fabric for Summer Hill Ltd. OPPOSITE: Antique lantern on 18th-c.

TOP LEFT AND RIGHT: Stable theme is property five years ago, little did they Gleasons anxiously await the 2006 reknow that the overgrown poison oak lease of wine from their first harvest everywhere in sight actually con- now aging in French oak barrels. An 18th-c. English library table. ABOVE cealed dozens of 150-year-old olive While at Summer Hill Vineyard, the

trees. Among their first tasks was to couple is content to stay in guest corpreserve each and every tree. Once tages. Actually, there is no main house this was accomplished, the couple set —at least, not yet. "Before we build about planting two acres of cabernet the house, we wanted time to under-French walnut commode. Cabernet grapes on the land's gentle slopes and stand how we really live on the propwines by local winemaker Heidi Barrett. in and among the olive trees. The erty," Gleason explains. "So we erect



Not surprisingly, the idyllic setting provides inspiration for Gleason's fab- Gleason. "The roses are in bloom al- ating memories, not only for our own ric designs. For example, the Anem- most year-round, and the kitchen gar- family but for everyone who visits one colorway for her "Chloe" fabric dens always produce fresh vegetables. Summer Hill Vineyard."

go unnoticed, either.

ative in the countryside as behind a "We absolutely love it here," says drawing board in the city. We're cre-