

# Eclectic FARMHOUSE

Ogilvie home blends unique finds with modern touches

BY GLENDA WINDERS // PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANGELA JACKSON



WELCOME



To say that Jenna Ogilvie's big yellow farmhouse on the northeast side of town is filled with delightful surprises is an understatement. From the storm cellar under the mudroom and the Christmas tree that stays up all year, to the loft with its Butler University basketball floor and the woodwork etched with the heights of the boys who live here, this is a house that screams "home." And that's just the way Ogilvie likes it.

"I thought, 'This is my house and I plan to stay here forever, so I can do what I want,'" she said.

The lucky children who share her home are sons Rowan, 9, and Sully, 6, from her marriage to J.R. Honeas, with whom she built the house.

Ogilvie grew up in Columbus and went to Clemson University in South Carolina, where she majored in communications. After graduation she worked as a fitness instructor in Indianapolis and as a horse handler at the Children's TherAplay Foundation there. A dedicated horsewoman, she has shown horses all over the country and has an arena on her property where she works with the animals she has now.

When she was ready to have children, however, she wanted to come back to Columbus to live near her family, with whom she is extremely close. For a while she worked as a fitness instructor and retail manager at Pure Barre, but

last year — in the middle of the lockdown — she started the RoSully Flower Farm.

"It actually worked out well to start a business like that during the pandemic," she said. "People wanted to send flowers to their friends because they couldn't see them."

#### Branching out

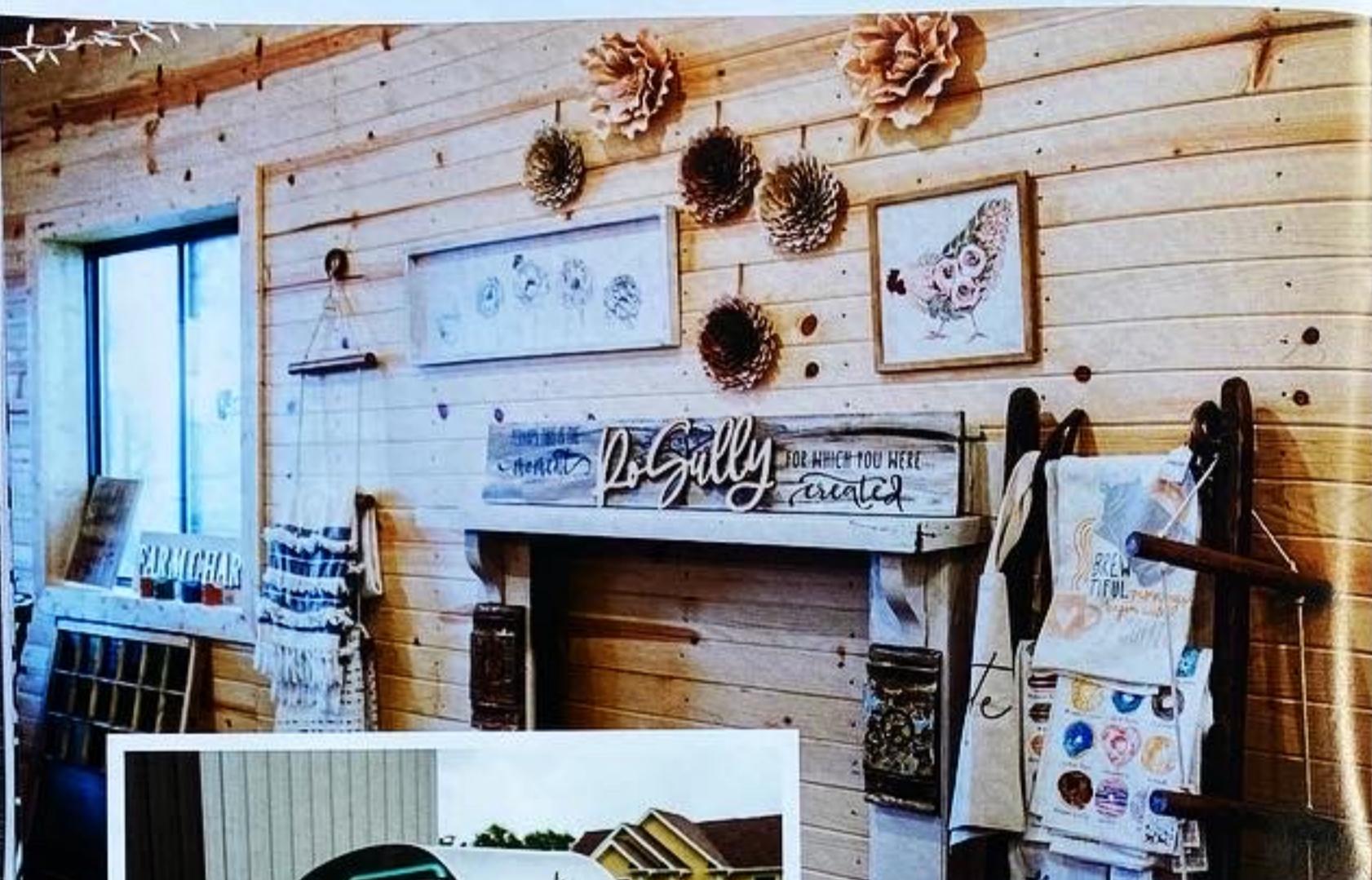
Now that COVID-19 is waning, however, her company can offer other services beyond the Tuesday deliveries of Mason-jar bouquets that got her started.

She now offers bouquets that people can pick up, and her flower-filled camper appears at performance events where audience members can purchase floral tributes.

"Spring is the hardest," she said. "I usually get up early to feed the animals — horses, chickens, goats, dogs and cats — and water them and the plants. Then I get the flower beds ready, plant the seedlings I started over the winter and get the netting up."

A large studio in her barn allows Ogilvie to teach





workshops when the outdoor activity slows down in the fall and winter. Groups can come here to learn how to make pumpkin-and-flower centerpieces for Thanksgiving and wreaths for Christmas.

**Styled inside and out**  
Her love of fun and whimsy

she and her sons have made. And who else hangs chandeliers in their chicken coops?

With all of this going on outside, another surprise in the residence of this kids-come-first, do-it-herself farmer is how elegant and serene the interior turns out to be. O'Gillie and builder Tom

extends to her out-buildings, too. The barn that houses the animals and many of her activities also serves as an art gallery for paintings

Banister of Banister Construction figured it out together. "I found the floor plan and did most of the design work myself," she said. "I enjoy interior design and even went to school for it for a short while until I decided it wasn't what I wanted to do professionally."

Her parents had at one time been builders, and they built the house where O'Gillie grew up. She and Banister followed her mother's mandate to use every inch of space in her 5,000-square-foot home with storage incorporated into the attic and stairwells as well as artfully exposed in plain sight.

In the mudroom, for example, coats hang on hooks and shoes and boots tuck into the cubbyholes that roll

away to disclose access to the storm cellar. Knowing that animals would always play a big part in her household, she had crates built in under countertops in this room so that random cages don't have to be an awkward part of the décor. Builders also installed a permanent wooden baby gate at the bottom of the main staircase. Now it's used for the inside dogs — Stella, a boxer, and Remy, a lab-boxer mix rescue.

Just a year after moving into the house O'Gillie decided to take down the wall that separated the kitchen and living room in order to create a larger living space and more room where the boys could play. In doing so she also improved the sightlines out to the screened porch and pool and produced an ambience that reflects her style and sets the tone of her home. She calls it "slightly eclectic and slightly farmhouse before farmhouse became a thing."

**Customized and cozy**  
Nowhere is this more apparent than in the kitchen, with its exposed brick wall and dark beams. A pot rack and copper pots hang over a dark-wood island with granite countertop that sits on dark hardwood floors, but the pale bricks and light cabinets along with numerous windows in this area render it bright and cheerful. A custom distressed range hood, plate rack and open soffits filled with antique pots complete the cozy look.

O'Gillie turned the formal dining room into a puzzle and music room (both boys take piano lessons), and the guest coat closet is where the family stores their games. A dining table with two leaves

that she found at a thrift shop for \$50 sits in a part of the kitchen near tall windows. She selected chairs to go with it at Pier One, and a warm rug beneath it and a playful chandelier overhead set it apart from the work area.

"I wasn't going to be worrying about my kids ruining some expensive table," she said. "They've been able to paint and cut their food on

this table, and I don't freak out about it. That was important to me. I can buy a nice one when they're older."

**Living in color**  
The adjoining living room is the most striking space in the home, mainly because O'Gillie chose to paint an accent wall navy blue.

"I never knew navy was my favorite color until I built a



house," she said, "but I guess it is. It's a bold color, but it's a neutral. It stays true and never seems to go out of style. I think it's a very classy color."

This room, too, is saved from appearing dark by cream walls, cabinetry around the TV set and carpet. Seating is largely blue with green accents, one of which is a pair of stained-glass windows that lean against the wall on the mantelpiece. They were

meant to be actual windows, but when that didn't work out Ogilvie set them on the mantel and knew immediately that's where they belonged. She bought the mantelpiece itself on eBay, and when it arrived it was painted with multiple bright colors. She and her mother refinished it so that today it is a crisp white.

"It was fun to look for an ornate mantel," she said, "not just something you'd pick out



of a catalog or magazine."

She said she and Banister worked as a team. When he needed light fixtures she went in search of them. When she found a treasure, he worked it into the plans, and he agrees.

"Jenna is knowledgeable and good at choosing colors and finishes," he said. "She selected all the flooring and the cabinetry, and the screened porch with the fireplace was all her idea. She was really good at getting a vision of what she wanted, and we were happy to carry out those requests."

#### Letting light in

In the living room, too, windows are everywhere.

"I don't have a lot of wall space to hang beautiful pictures," Ogilvie said, "but windows out here in the country are really nice."

Amenities in the spacious first-floor master bedroom include a door to the screened porch, walk-in closet and spa-like bath. Here the dark wood cabinets and granite countertops from the kitchen are repeated. Cupboards and deep drawers provide storage along with another of Ogilvie's finds — a chest where she stacks towels. The jetted tub is situated under a window and another chandelier.

In the guest room, a bank of windows at the end of the bed allows guests to wake up to sunlight. A window seat provides a place to put on socks or just sit and read, and there's a full bathroom here, too.

Another bathroom just down the hall has pool access so that swimmers don't have to traipse through the house in their suits. Across from it is a laundry room accessed by way of a windowed door Ogilvie found and refinished.

This room, too, is brightened by a large window.

"There's no reason to have a dark, dingy laundry room," she said.

#### Family ties

The entire second floor is a suite for the boys that Ogilvie calls their "oasis." Each has a bedroom with a full bath, and they share a common space where they keep their toys and watch TV. A large bay window provides a view of the farmland that surrounds their home. The walls in this area are covered with family pictures of Ogilvie's veteran father (Jim Ogilvie) and the helicopters he flies. In some of them his grandsons wear military jumpsuits just like his.

"We're an aviation family," Ogilvie said, "so that's where the theme of this space came from. My dad was an Army helicopter pilot, and I'm sure my boys will be pilots one day, too."

In fact, Ogilvie and her dad started a nonprofit in which they use the UH1 1970 Huey he bought and restored for funeral and memorial flyovers and other veteran-related events. They also did a flyover when Diesel, the police department's canine, died recently.

In this room is also the Christmas tree that never comes down. Its colored lights are set on a timer to come on each evening, and its ornaments change with the holidays.

The workout room was a big surprise, too — perhaps most of all to the builder and the owners. The plan called for a basement that would house the treadmill, weight bench and other fitness equipment as well as an entertainment area and storage, but the day after it was dug it filled with



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—Jenna Ogilvie



water. Banister realized the high water table in the area was the issue and came up with the idea to add what was effectively a fourth bay to the three-car garage that would fulfill the same requirements. Then they raised the roof to accommodate the loft.

"It worked out really well," he said. "The neat part is that we went from finished basement space to finished main-level space with windows and doors to access those areas and built a nice loft and got all that natural light and a feel that we might not have gotten if it were in the basement. We found a solution, moved right on forward and kept going with the project."

#### Home at last

The resulting room with its huge windows and rubber floor houses workout equipment and gives the

boys a place to practice their soccer drills. Space under the staircase provides storage for smaller pieces of gear.

The loft Banister mentioned overlooks the action below and has seating for small gatherings and watching TV. Attic space provides storage, and Ogilvie says the half-bath and kitchenette/bar on this level will serve the sons well as they get older.

For now, though, the whole family likes everything just the way it is.

"I like living here because of the animals," Rowan said, and Sully added, "I like the flowers. They're so pretty."

And as if living in a great country house with lots of room outdoors to romp and play weren't enough, their adored grandfather recently built a house just down the road from theirs. They can see it through their bay window. ©

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