Builder

Going Gothic

A 19th-century Revival style gets a fresh treatment along the Connecticut River.

WHEN A RETIRED COU-ple approached Con-necticut architect Tony Terry about designing a house for them in the Gothic-Revival style, they found a very willing—and hardworking—partner. That's because it's unusual for an architect to be able to sink his teeth into a 19th-cen-

tury style that's so rarely done these days and that's so rich with signature touches. Think lofty, lancet-arched windows, steep vaulted roofs, and trefoil and diamond de-tails. "We tried hard not to go overboard and get too cartoonish," says Terry. "The owners would occasionally tug on the reins and say, 'Whoa, maybe that's a bit much.' This is a house that is very much about the details, and there was lots of collaboration in determining just what that level of detail would be. Every part of the house means something to them." The home was re-cently awarded the Alice Washburn Award, given out annually by AIA Connecticut and *Connecticut Magazine*.

The basic form of the house is two inter-secting gables that form a cross. The more dominant, center gable, which is crowned with a large gothic arch, carries through from front to back; all the rooms revolve around the center stair hall. On the first

floor, the more formal living room, dining room, and conservatory are located at the front of the house. The spaces the couple uses daily, the family room, breakfast nook, and kitchen, are located at the rear and overlook the Connecticut River. Upstairs, three bedrooms and a play room revolve around the stair hall.

"There's a graduation of emphasis with this house," says Terry, "with the most em-phatic being the front stair hall and the stair itself. Certain areas of the interior have more intensity, while other areas have de-tailing that's been stepped down. This house was a true collaboration, with very involved owners."
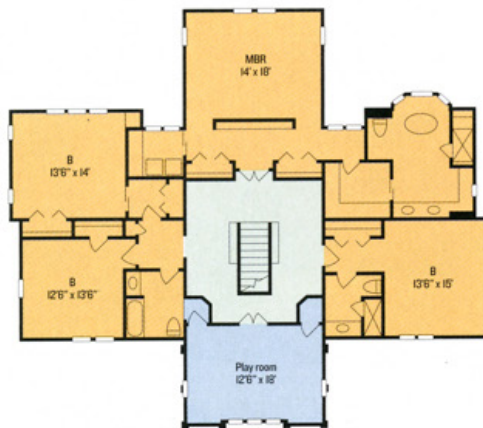
Location: Connecticut River; **Size:** 4,850 square feet; **Architect:** Terry Architecture, Branford, Conn.; **Builder:** H.P. Broom, Housewright, Hadlyme, Conn.

SECOND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

HEARTH AND HOME: Architect Tony Terry worked hard to incorporate items from the owners' extensive antiques collection (above and left). In the dining room he incorporated an antique metal fire screen from their collection and raised the hearth so that it could be seen from the table.

GOTHIC WONDER: The home's Gothic-Revival bones are perhaps most apparent on the second-story landing. The room features an impressive window that overlooks the front of the house, plus a ceiling that soars to 17 feet at its peak.