

TRADITIONAL HOME

COMPANION

RECYCLING OLD HOMES IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS



Harry "Skip" Broom, owner of H.P. Broom-Housewright Inc. in Hadlyme, Connecticut (860/526-9836), has a new idea for a development. Well, actually, it's a series of old ideas. Stone Post Road, as his Lyme, Connecticut, development is named, consists of 12 building lots set in a 35-acre site two hours outside New York City. What makes it so unusual is the focus of the development: recycled 18-century homes—an idea worth considering for a nice home of any age that is in danger of being torn down.

Through a network of sources throughout New England, Broom has been able to purchase eight antique homes slated for demolition—"once I got a phone call from people standing in front of a bulldozer," he recalls—and is moving them to Lyme. Four of the homes have already been rebuilt on Stone Post Road; three more are in storage awaiting customers, and the eighth is still standing in the middle of a junkyard, waiting to be disassembled.

The dates of the houses that are already erected, range from 1753 to right around 1800. The styles of the four rebuilt homes are country Federal, gambrel, two-story center chimney, and twin-chimney Federal. The gambrel was actually slated to be burned by the Salem fire department before Broom rescued it. Among the houses in storage awaiting old-house lovers are an eight-chimney center-hall, brick-



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ended Federal from around 1800 and a 1750 center-hall gambrel. The house that is still standing is a Dutch-style house, constructed with brick that was made on the site.

Even though the old homes are taken apart piece by piece, not everything can be reinstalled when the home is rebuilt. "We can't save the plaster or roof shingles, for example," says Broom. "But we can save and reuse the doors, windows, floors, hearthstones, and hardware." To supplement the saved items, Broom has a warehouse of salvaged materials. And because he has his own millwork shop, he can replicate old trim and moldings. Even though materials are recycled, the cost of disassembling and transporting them typically offsets the savings, Broom explains. Building a recycled house costs at least as much as building a new one. But a new house can't match the charm and feel of an old home.

—E. Nusbaum

CAUGHT ON THE WEB

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www.usapears.com

If you love pears, bookmark this site, run by the Pear Bureau Northwest. Bosc Pear Custard Tarts, Fresh Anjou Pear Tart, and Pear Granola Cookies are among the mouthwatering recipes.



cucinatoscana.com

If you're headed for Tuscany, check out this site for that area's best eating spots. Or bring Tuscany to your kitchen with recipes (tagliatelle with ricotta and mint, chestnut tortelli), Tuscan cooking techniques, and history.

rhubarbinfo.com

Fifty-two recipes for rhubarb pie. Need we say more? The Rhubarb Compendium also includes recipes for cakes, breads, wines, and jellies—all made with rhubarb, of course.

theculturedcup.com

The queen of England's chocolatier, Charbonnel et Walker, makes the world's best drinking chocolate. On the Web site of The Cultured Cup, a Dallas shop, you can buy the queen's chocolate or browse the inventory of fine coffees and rare teas.