

"Gwyneth was more interested in substance than style per se. Yes, it had to be pretty, but she was most concerned with things like mood and movement," observes designer Brigette Romanek.

PALTROW DESCRIBES THE PRÉCIS for the design of the house as "a Parisian apartment set within an old European barn, something with high ceilings, flooded with light, a place that feels generous yet manageable at the same time." Drawing inspiration from the humble forms and rugged grace of Old World barns, the team from Roman and Williams responded with a scheme that deftly bridges the classical and the contemporary—a long, lean monolithic structure, laid out largely on one floor, with a shingled roof and stone walls that approximate the irregular rhythms and timeworn texture of dry-stack construction. The property is powered on solar energy, with a gray-water system.

"A home should reflect the physicality and ethos of its owner, and this house takes its cues from Gwyneth's height, beauty, and focus on distillation. You see it in the tall bones, the attenuated proportions, the radiused corners, and the

slender molding profiles," Standefer avers. "The house is built around extremely precise, thoughtful spaces that we refined again and again for years."

Standefer emphasizes the importance of craft and materiality in establishing the home's soulful spirit and its particular sense of place, from the custom pewter-finished bronze doors to the antique fireplace mantels to the sculptural, freestanding onyx bar that anchors the capacious living room. The sybaritic home spa-think Baths of Caracalla meets Aman luxury-makes a particularly compelling case for Roman and Williams's dexterous handling of form, flow, proportion, material, color, and texture. "It's like an ancient bathhouse unexpectedly sheathed in these beautiful palegreen tiles with an Arts and Crafts vibe. We love investigating the tension and voltage between things you don't normally see combined," Standefer says.

