



148 ELLEDECOR.COM

Brandolini tempered the western light downstairs with bamboo-fiber shades ("Otherwise you would have to wear sunglasses," she laughs, "big Jackie O sunglasses"), and punctuated the rooms with unexpected modern furnishings, including Wiener Werkstätte bentwood chairs. She is particularly proud of the media room, where she went wild with Pierre Chérpin chairs, Judy Ross pillows in vibrant hues, and glossy multicolored bookshelves.

But it's the pavilion that is clearly the focal point of the house. In this extraordinary space Pfitzer and Brandolini have refined and updated the screened-in porch for a new millennium. High shades filter the sun while never interfering with the views and pivot to adjust as the light changes with the day, and doors and narrow screened windows open to let in the breeze. "It's like a modern-day Taj Mahal," Brandolini says. Yet the pleasures it evokes are as primal as an afternoon in the country and its connection to the land as direct as a picnic blanket spread out over the grass. ■



JUST TWO MILES from the gleaming white spire of a 19th-century neo-Gothic church in New York's Hudson River Valley, another white structure rises from the hills. This building, the glass-and-steel Taghkanic house, perched amid fields dotted with maples, oaks, and pines, was also erected with contemplation in mind. But here the contemplation is of nature itself, whether from inside a double-height pavilion that offers 360-degree views of the pastoral surroundings or from the private quarters below, where training wheels and plastic pedal cars are as welcome as the sleek modern furniture and children's crayon drawings look right at home taped to precisely crafted cabinetry.

Considering that Taghkanic's architect, Thomas Phifer, spent a decade working with Richard Meier before starting his own firm six years ago, it's no surprise that he has carried on the tradition of the glass house in the countryside begun by Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, and Philip Johnson. (Not all country houses, after all, require chintz and over-

