

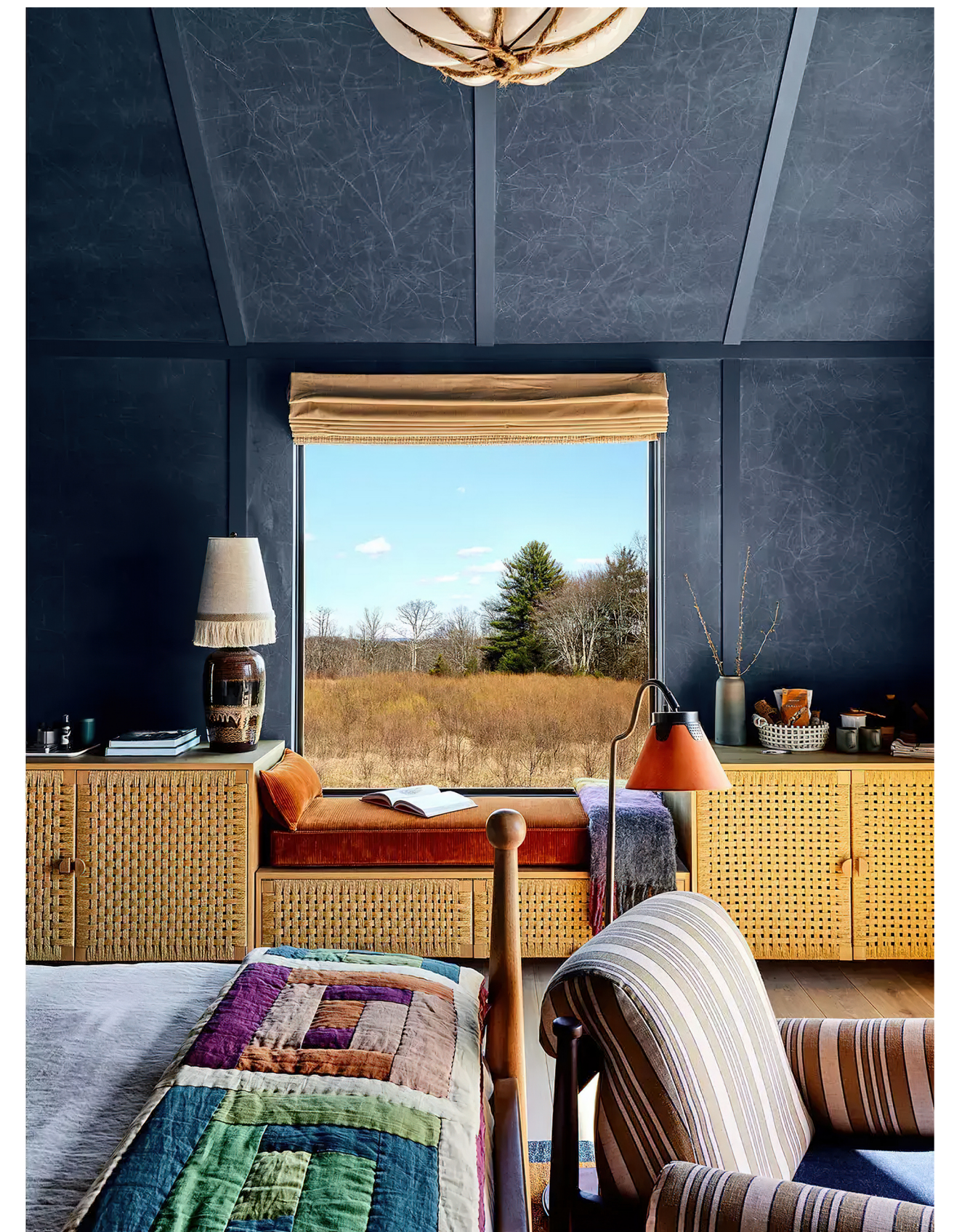
The New York Times

A Nature Retreat in the Hudson Valley



The entryway of the Ridge Cottage at Wildflower Farms in Gardiner has a hand-blown Murano glass light fixture and a hand-knotted wool rug commissioned by New York-based interior design studio Ward + Gray.

Staying at Wildflower Farms is like stepping into a Hudson River School landscape painting — at least that’s the feeling that Auberge Resorts Collection hopes to evoke at its new nature-gone-luxe retreat in Gardiner, about 90 minutes north of Manhattan. Sixty-five cabins, cottages and suites, designed by California architecture studio Electric Bowery, are tucked into the woodlands of this 140-acre escape at the foot of the Catskills. The entrance, a 3,500-square-foot portico, is more of a great room than a standard hotel lobby with its cushy sofas and locally made sheepskin poufs. Textured interiors take their inspiration from vintage Americana, the area’s rich antiquing history and the wildflower-flecked meadows just beyond the guest rooms’ floor-to-ceiling windows and private decks. Every object, whether it was found or custom-made, “feels as if it came from someone’s home,” says Christie Ward of New York design firm Ward + Gray. This includes framed antique textiles, handmade quilts in moody fall colors, large-scale botanical art by Stuart Thornton and glass sconces with forsythia motifs. At the hotel’s Clay restaurant, overseen by executive chef Rob Lawson, hand-knotted tapestries depicting the four seasons hang from the fireplace; and the chairs, inspired by Arts and Crafts-style turned-oak pieces that Ward + Gray spotted in an upstate antiques shop, were made to order in Mexico and upholstered in Pindler mohair. Clay’s menu makes the most of New York’s seasonal ingredients: a salad featuring six varieties of tomato grown on-site; a charcuterie board with meats from La Salumina in Hurleyville and cheeses from Old Chatham Creamery in Groton; and a heritage breed chicken wrapped in kombu, baked in potter’s clay and then cracked tableside for a little drama. The hotel’s Maplehouse cooking school offers lessons in foraging and baking with botanicals, while its 9,000-square-foot spa features an indoor saltwater pool, two outdoor hot tubs and treatments that incorporate essential oils made by local organic beauty brand Cultivate Apothecary. Rooms from \$1,000; wildflowerfarms.com.



The walls and pitched ceilings of the Bower Cabins are covered in tent-like worn canvas sourced from Lord Fabrik in Maryland.