

SPECIAL TRAVEL ISSUE

# Town & Country

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**FRANCE,  
BRAZIL  
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**PLUS:  
GOOD  
MANNERS  
IN BAD  
TIMES**

**ON THE  
ROAD WITH  
PADMA  
LAKSHMI**



APRIL 2009

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Padma Lakshmi in  
Yves Saint Laurent



# IN THE COUNTRY

## A Mudroom of One's Own

Everyone knows what April showers really bring—mud. *T&C* shows you how to keep the dirt in its place.

A Millbrook, New York, mudroom designed by architect Gil Schafer. The dog bed is by L.L. Bean (from \$49; llbean.com).



# IN THE COUNTRY

## MAKING A MODEL MUDROOM

The spring—April in particular—is high season for mud. But if you're fighting a losing battle against the great, muddy outdoors, take heart. Architect Gil Schafer offers a few pointers to help you re-create the room he designed (shown at right and on the previous page), and we've chipped in with a few of T&C's favorite finds, which are sure to look right at home in a mudroom of any size, shape or style.

**COATRACK** From Restoration Hardware (\$44), 800-910-9836; restorationhardware.com.



**UMBRELLA STAND** Blomus stand from Gracious Home (\$115), 800-338-7809; gracioushome.com. Umbrellas by Burberry (from \$275), 800-284-8480; burberry.com.



**CAST-IRON BOOT SCRAPER** For use outside the door, from Smith & Hawken (\$99), 800-940-1170; smithandhawken.com.

**BOOTS** The classic green Wellington, waterproof and lined for warmth, from Hunter (\$115.95), hunterboots.com for info; zappos.com to buy.



**Dog door** by PetSafe (from \$55; 800-732-2677; petsafe.net). Schafer built a door with a latch to conceal the dog door's flap.

**BLUESTONE FLOOR** The most durable option, but Schafer also uses more-affordable, bluestone-like porcelain tiles from Crossville (931-484-2110; crossvilleinc.com). Both can be heated from underneath.



**DOG FEEDER** Made from recycled materials by In the Company of Dogs (\$79.95), 800-544-4595; inthecompanyofdogs.com.



Schafer with Asa, a black Lab.



## Mud-Thirsty

There was a time when the term *mudroom* meant just that: a room, usually off the kitchen or basement, in which you stored your muddy gear when coming in from gardening or other outdoor pursuits, all in the name of keeping your house clean. According to SoHo-based architect **Gil Schafer** (212-965-1355; gpschafer.com), however, the word has evolved so much that nowadays, "half the people don't even want to get their mudrooms dirty."

If you fall into the other camp and are looking for a utilitarian mudroom, you don't have to sacrifice style for practicality. For the room pictured on these pages, Schafer's charge was to build a his-and-hers haven, one in which the wife would have

a place to put her boots and riding accoutrements and the husband could hide his blaze-orange hunting vests and camouflage behind closed doors. "She didn't want to have to see it," he says.

In other mudrooms, Schafer has gone so far as to install a washer-dryer or a powder room, but for most clients, there are just a few nonnegotiables. One is a deep sink with a sprayer, for cutting flowers and bathing dogs; Schafer prefers Waterworks' farmhouse sinks (800-899-6757; waterworks.com). Other necessities: benches for removing shoes; storage bins to hold recyclables, sporting goods and dog food; and a full-length mirror. When it comes to staying mud free, one last look never hurts. J.B.