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# TRADITIONAL HOME

September 2009

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TRADITIONAL HOME **2009** ICONS OF DESIGN AWARDS



BY KRISSA ROSSBUND



# balanced beams

Although architectural details such as heavy beams and paneling can connote baronial splendor or rustic charm, they—and the cavernous spaces that often accompany them—can also be challenging to design around. Here, a trio of designers makes the most of these features. >







**Frank Ponterio**  
**Lake Forest Showhouse**  
 Lake Forest, Illinois

When designer Frank Ponterio took over the raw space of this family room—an addition to a historic house in Lake Forest, Illinois—he crafted a scheme that balances luxury with ease. The scale of the room is grand, but with a ceiling contoured by reclaimed wooden barn beams, the level of formality is not.

“To live elegantly is to be able to relax,” says Ponterio. “I designed this room as if it were for my family. We live for those moments when it’s only us. I wanted to restrain the mass of this room to make it more intimate.”

Furnishings and fabrics, rendered in a palette of cream and taupe, were scaled to the room’s proportions and limited in number to avoid an overstuffed feeling. An antique camelback sofa is partnered with a new sofa, while a pair of extra-tall wing chairs balances the fireplace’s heft. The contrast of an iron-and-crystal chandelier against the weathered beams grants the space a casualness that doesn’t dilute its sophistication. ▶

Produced by Hilary Rose Photographs by Edmund Barr

