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HEARST
specials

Allison Willson Design
Ontario, Canada

Old Soul

Though newly built, this farmhouse evokes the spirit of a character-filled home through tactile materials and aged finishes.

A wide archway frames the transition between rooms.

DINING ROOM
Set within an open living space, a rustic antique table is grounded by a large rug and vintage pendants that cast a warm downward glow. By visually lowering the ceiling, they create a sense of intimacy in the expansive room.

Wrapped in shearling, the dining chairs add a cozy layer that softens the room's rugged surfaces.

R

Rubble limestone walls and recessed openings—some 16 inches deep—grant this kitchen the heft of an old stone building, but that's all an illusion. Coordinating with architect James Pearson, designer and homeowner Allison Willson created this Ontario, Canada, home from scratch, opting for oak beams that span the ceiling and white oak cabinetry that keep the palette natural. Against the antiqued surfaces, honed Arabescato marble counters bring in contrast and movement. **"It really does feel like the room has been here forever,"** Willson says.



Stone wraps the cooking wall, giving the range area the presence of a hearth. "It's a hard surface, but it still has amazing softness to it because it's so texturally interesting," Willson explains.



The island, clad in reclaimed oak and topped with marble, anchors the kitchen. Beyond, open shelves were built right into the thick stone walls.

"The goal was to create a house that looked new, but felt historical. It's charming, aged, a bit storied, and layered with patina."

A simple hanging rail corrals towels, aprons, and essential prep tools.

SCULLERY
A large south-facing window fills the room with light, preventing dark walls from feeling heavy. A cobblestone floor, vintage plate wall, and collection of brass S-hooks reinforce the home's relaxed rural character.