

Living right – even if space is tight

BY MELISSA COHEN

ROSCOE — Gale Steves, the former editor in chief and vice president of Home Magazine, recently came out with a book entitled *Right-Sizing Your Home*.

The book urges residents to “live fully in your home” with tips and advice along the way for different personalities and interests to make a home feel custom fit.

Steves has been a Roscoe resident since 1983 and her vacation home clearly exemplifies her book’s advice. Steves refers to the rapid growth of houses as “Mc Mansions,” with so much unnecessary space that goes to waste.

She conveys to her readers that the *size* of a house or apartment is irrelevant but the *quality* of living space is key.

Steves supports dual-purpose rooms throughout a home – and clearly practices what she preaches. Her Roscoe home, featured in national magazines, is custom fit to Steves like a tailored dress.

The screened porch can serve as the summer dining room or a sitting place during the winter.

Steves’ outside deck, stretching from one side of the house to the other, offers both shade and sunlight, inviting to the sunbather as well as the shade lover. The sound of the Beaverkill River can be heard and offers instant relaxation once outside.

Steves also takes pride in switching things up.

“Just because your chair is at the

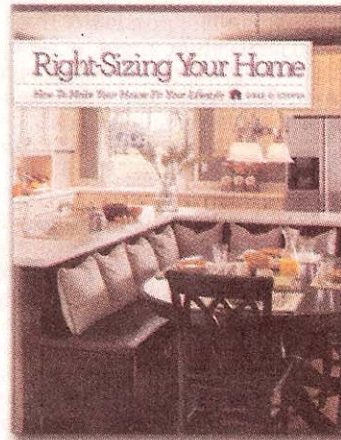


MELISSA COHEN | DEMOCRAT

Author, editor, home design expert and Roscoe resident Gale Steves will be reading from and signing copies of her latest book, shown at right, tomorrow in the Manor.

Meet the author

Gale Steves will be doing a presentation and signing copies of her book at Hamish & Henry Book-sellers, 34B Main St. in Livingston Manor, on Saturday, August 7 at 3 p.m. Call 439-8029 for info.



table, doesn’t mean it has to stay there,” Steves quipped.

“Everything moves,” she added.

Comfort and convenience is another theme Steves designed her house around. The dishwasher is elevated – bending down to access it isn’t necessary.

“I designed my house for public spaces,” Steves explained while showing off her daybeds, complete with built in speakers and a window seat. The clear cedar

exterior and chestnut barn beams, over 100 years old, frame the house while offering an exposed look.

The high ceilings open the rooms up and sunshine pours inside. The large open room can serve as a meeting room, work area, or dining room.

Steves’ multipurpose theme doesn’t stop in the bathroom., which also acts as her laundry room. The washer and dryer are



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This large open room in Steves’ Roscoe house can serve multiple purposes.

stacked on top of one another, and tucked away in a closet so a guest wouldn’t even notice.

The bedroom is also the winter dining room where Steves can eat by the fireplace.

“I wanted to create a house where I could eat all over,” Steves confessed. One of the treasures of the house is the views from each window. Each window offers a different angle of the property.

Steves compared the many windows throughout her home as a “picture frame looking out to a

larger space.”

“Many people ignore the living room. Some don’t even use their front door, and instead use the side door,” noted Steves, who urged potential home buyers – and renters – to “think about what you need.”

With so many people working at home, space is crucial. Steves fits into this category, and in response, made space and accessibility a priority.

“Many people turn their dining room table into a work space and

clear it off only twice a year for holiday dinner,” Steves pointed out.

According to Steves, “knowing yourself” is also key before buying a home; along with knowing how to deter certain house expectations.

“Don’t listen to the real estate agent who tells you this is the dining room. It doesn’t have to be the dining room if you don’t want it to be. You may not even need a dining room at all in your house,” Steves added.