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## GRACIOUS Home GARDEN PARTY Bride Claire Scoville's ancestral home in the Berkshires, Hill House, was also the setting for her grandparents' rehearsal dinner, in 1937. The backyard sculptures are by her grandmother Ann. 112 | TOWNANDCOUNTRYMAG.COM

The notion of welcoming guests to your residence for a wedding is charming, romantic—and not without complications.

Here, three couples share how they pulled off "I dos" in their own back yards.

BY GEORGINA SCHAEFFER







"WE WANTED IT TO FEEL AS IF you were coming to a home and yet still surprise people," says Claire Scoville, an artist based in Venice, Italy, who chose for her spring nuptials her family's historic Hill House. The home is situated on a bucolic property in the Berkshires that was given to her greatgrandparents as a wedding present and has stayed in the family for more than 150 years. "This house is always alive, but somehow it became even more so during the wedding." That has to do, in part, with the way her family opened up the house. Nancy Thomas and Daire Rooney, of Mezze Catering, finished cooking everything for both the rehearsal dinner and the reception in the kitchen, and Lyndsey Hamilton, of Lyndsey Hamilton Events, took over the basement for two days to prep all the flowers. "The idea of having 150 people in your house is wonderful, but you have to think of the infrastructure of the event," Hamilton says. "We came up with a defined plan because Claire wanted people to mingle both in and out of the house." As with a European wedding, there was no assigned seating. Claire planned for the rehearsal dinner to be on the same terrace where her grandparents had theirs, near a garden she had planted specially for the occasion. But what made this wedding feel even more personal was the use of the family's antique vases, linens, and silver for both evenings. The result was a wedding that honored tradition and a sense of history, as if you had stepped back in time. •







PROUD PORTRAITS From top: The bride in the living room; the children's clothes were inspired by John Singer Sargent's Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose; walking up the driveway; Claire with her grandmother; flowers in an antique vase.





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