

Country French *decorating*

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Romantic rooms
for today's most charming homes



featuring
designers

- Betty Lou Phillips
- Charles Faudree

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Anne and Ed Erbesfield agonized for months over the pricey 19th-century Regency-style paneling for the library, but now they couldn't imagine their house without it. Rich, full of character, and decidedly French, the paneling makes the library a favorite destination.



layers

of luxury



Soaring ceilings, authentic French woodwork,
and a collection of antique porcelain
imbue a new country French
manor with timeless appeal.

photographer: GORDON BEALL field editor: ELLE ROPER



Anne Erbesfield knew her new home in Atlanta's Buckhead community had to be French. Which meant that much like a great piece of literature, it needed nuance, a sense of the past, and a bit of mystery—elements certain to lure the eye and capture the heart. "In my home, I prefer not to have everything reveal itself at once," Anne says. "Design should be aesthetically pleasing as a whole. Then the layers should unfold gradually."

To create their large but graceful home, Anne, who is an interior designer, and her husband, Ed, worked with architects Bill Harrison and Rick Hatch, as well as builder Greg Cook. Armed with house plans, the Erbesfields set off to France on a treasure hunt of sorts, seeking furnishings that would add visual interest and foster an ageless appeal. The plans provided a road map, so Anne knew where she wanted antique pieces and what the appropriate sizes would be.

One antique commode literally went rolling by the Erbesfields while they stood in a shop in Villeurbanne,



ABOVE LEFT: The stone French Norman-style house features brick accents and a slate roof. ABOVE: Rich golds and yellows enhance the sumptuous living room, which is filled with antiques, such as a wooden 18th-century Italian chandelier and an Oushak carpet. LEFT: Ed and Anne with their Cavalier King Charles spaniels, Sunny and Star.

The *living room* and dining area are large, open spaces designed for hosting a multitude of friends, relatives, and children.



A large multi-panel Chinese screen enhances the architectural drama in the living room and helps tame the tall ceilings.

France, near Lyon. Anne tried to buy it then and there, but was told the 18th-century chest was headed to another shop. Undaunted, she followed the piece to its new destination. "And I bought it on the spot," she says.

Harrison encouraged the couple's quest for unusual objects and, in many cases, designed rooms around these distinctive finds. "I like working with old pieces," he says. "It can be a little challenging at times, but it also gives you an opportunity to create interesting solutions."

Case in point: the library, for which Harrison convinced his clients to purchase pricey 19th-century wood paneling that originally resided in a hotel on the outskirts of Paris. "He told us we wouldn't be sorry," Anne says. "He was right. The patina of old wood soothes my designing soul."

The home's disparate antique elements, which are mostly French but also Italianate and chinoiserie, are mixed with

BELOW: Anne creates beautiful tablescapes with dining treasures, such as these Mottahedeh dishes, Waterford crystal, and Varga amber glasses.





The dining room opens to the living room and foyer, making entertaining a crowd easy. Inari porcelain is displayed in a circa-1720 French vaisselier. The soft linen draperies were picked to highlight the porcelain's color.

“I prefer *timeless* design,
with a soothing mix of items centuries
old and the newly-crafted.”

—homeowner and designer Anne Erbesfield



The Louis XV commode (circa 1750) that Anne ran after near Lyon, France, now holds court in the soft and soothing master bedroom. The clock, bracketed by sepia engravings above the bed, is also a French antique.



THIS PHOTO: Anne and Ed found the porch's old terra-cotta tiles in a field in France. The rough-hewn antique beams and casual woven furniture add to the room's rustic ambience. BELOW LEFT: Antique wood beams frame the brick, stone, and slate-tile pool house.



newer elements, creating interiors that do indeed feel timeless—and decidedly French. For example, in the living room, a 1920s French-style mirrored coffee table sits beneath an 18th-century carved Italian chandelier, producing a juxtaposition in keeping with the spirit of “mix and match” that epitomizes country French decorating.

Anne’s many collections of antique porcelain reinforce the intensely personal style. Her pieces decorate walls, peek out of cabinets, and grace tabletops throughout the house. She admits she’s a porcelain addict, but with good purpose. Each relic enhances the collected-over-time look of her new home. “There is just something warm and engaging about a room that connects the past with the present,” Anne says. ♦



resources

Contact these design professionals
for more information about their services.

french at heart

Pages 8-9 Background pattern

Graphic derived from the Cavaillon wallpaper pattern, Pierre Deux French Country collection by Motif Designs. Cavaillon is available in eight colors (cream, red-gold, navy, red, navy-burgundy, blue-gold, yellow-red-blue, tea rose), but not in color shown. For more information and store locations, call 800/431-2424.

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Gone Country

ARCHITECT—John Knudson, AIA, Knudson Gloss Architects/Planners, 4820 Riverbend Rd., Boulder, CO 80301; 303/442-5882; www.kgarch.com

KITCHEN DESIGNER—Norman Van Nattan, OC Kitchens of Colorado, Inc., 6381 W. Alameda Ave., Lakewood, CO 80226; 303/234-9850

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Layers of Luxury

INTERIOR DESIGNER—Anne B. Erbesfeld, ASID

ARCHITECTS—Bill Harrison and Rick Hatch, Harrison Design Associates, 3198 Cains Hill Place, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30305; 404/365-7760; www.harrisondesignassociates.com

CONTRACTOR—George Cooke, Southeastern Construction and Management Co., 3198 Cains Hill Place, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30305; 404/365-7757

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT—Hugh Dargan, ASLA, Dargan Landscape Architects, 3109 Maple Dr., Suite 400, Atlanta, GA 30305; 404/231-3889

LANDSCAPE DESIGN—Greenmark Landscaping, PaverStone Construction, 5100 Winters Chapel Rd., Atlanta, GA 30360; 770/804-9900

DRAPERY FABRICATION—Kay Wyatt, 5120 Old Ellis Point, Roswell, GA 30076; 770/664-4024

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French Folly

INTERIOR DESIGNER—Suzy Stout, Suzy Stout Interiors

ARCHITECT—R. Michael Graham, Liederbach & Graham Architects, 500 N. Wells St., Chicago, IL 60610; 312/828-0900; www.liederbachandgraham.com

BUILDER—Steve Wendell, A.W. Wendell & Sons, Inc., 1121 Warren Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515; 630/968-2412

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT—Anthony Tyznik, FASLA, 28 W. 571 Roosevelt Rd., Winfield, IL 60190; 630/293-1040, ext. 102, or 630/879-3532

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Tradition Redefined

ARCHITECT—Ken Tate, Ken Tate Architect, PA, P.O. Box 550, Madisonville, LA 70447; 985/845-8181

cottage comforts

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Handcrafted Elegance

ARCHITECTS—Michael Abraham and Michael Culligan, Culligan Abraham Architecture, 211 W. Burlington Ave., Clarendon Hills, IL 60514; 630/655-9417

CONTRACTOR—Tim Thompson, Tim Thompson Custom Homes, 111 S. Vine St., Hinsdale, IL 60521; 630/654-3133

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER—Jane Dilworth & Associates, 2119 Warren Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515; 630/515-1230; www.janedilworth.com

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Sun-Kissed Charisma

INTERIOR DESIGNER—Penny Bianchi, McCormick Interiors, 1721 E. Valley Rd., Montecito, CA 93108; 805/969-1110

ARCHITECT—David Serrurier, Serrurier Architects & Associates, Inc., 8474 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069; 323/848-7449

CONTRACTOR—Geoff Crane, Giffin & Crane General Contractors, Inc.,

