

In With the Old

CASUAL SOPHISTICATION
MEETS EVOCATIVE VINTAGE
FLAIR IN THIS ALABAMA
COUNTRYSIDE ESTATE.



To offset the home's new-construction polish, designer Cindy Bergner incorporated details such as limestone flooring, antique French interior doors, and a custom refrigerator wall that feels like an old-fashioned case piece. An antique Herz rug enlivens the otherwise neutral living area. "We wanted everything else in that space to be background—a pleasing canvas to spotlight the architecture," she says. Twin swivel chairs allow guests to part in kitchen conversations.

"AS SEEN IN -
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The dining room mirror and chandelier, two of the first pieces the homeowner fell in love with, helped dictate the bold scale of the furnishings and accents throughout the house. Tall dining chairs, paired with a round table that facilitates group conversation, correspond with the room's high ceiling. "I wanted the backs of the chairs to be works of art, because they are the only art in that room," Cindy says. Blue-gray paint changes mood with the natural light throughout the day and echoes the painting that dominates the study across the hall (opposite). The antelope-hide chair, found at an antiques store, "makes that entire room happen," Cindy says.





**CURVACEOUS NOTES—
SPHERICAL PENDANT LIGHTS,
THE ORGANIC FORM OF A HIDE
RUG—TEMPER THE KITCHEN'S
STRONG GEOMETRIC LINES.**

An open kitchen plan with a tight work triangle streamlines meal preparation yet the homeowners don't feel isolated as they cook. Honed backsplash tile and a weathered limestone and copper range hood underscore the home's European charm, while simple surfaces and clean profiles freshen the overall feel. Dark-tone details, such as the bronze hardware and fixtures, break up the swath of creamy neutrals. Rather than adding a breakfast table in the little nook just off the kitchen, the homeowners wanted it to be a space where they could enjoy morning coffee and take in the views of the pastureland outside. "Everybody [who visits] goes straight to those little teal leather chairs, and they pull their feet up and grab something to drink," Cindy says. "It really is a peaceful place to sit and catch up."





Although the homeowner initially preferred a subtle, delicate look for the master bedroom (opposite), that changed completely when she saw the dramatic carved headboard in a showroom window during a buying trip. African mud cloth upholstery gives the ornate chaise a saasy spin; along with the grasscloth wallpaper, its texture helps engage the eye. "There's something very beautiful with the shadow play that happens in this room at sunset," Cindy says. "It's a wonderful dance." Large-scale damask wallpaper and a skirted slipper chair soften the master bath. "It's all stone and glass—it could have become very cold, both visually and literally, in a heartbeat," Cindy says. "I needed to bring a feminine touch, and I knew that paint was not going to do it."





For the homeowners' school-age son and daughter, Cindy designed bedrooms that perfectly reflect their personalities. "Their little girl came to me at the very first meeting, and she said, 'I love pink, I love purple, I want a sparkly chandelier,' and I want a neat desk," Cindy recalls with a laugh. "And I said, 'You shall have it.'" The custom-designed canopy features shirred fabric and tailored scrim panels that can be tied up so as not to interfere with playtime on the floor. Sophisticated notes, such as the gray linen headboard, can transition into the teenage years.

ROLLING FIELDS
AND LUSH FORESTS
PROVIDE A TRANQUIL
BACKDROP FOR THIS
PERSONAL OASIS.



The homeowner wanted the terrace and pool area, directly off the living room, to feel like an extension of the indoors. A stacked-stone fireplace at one end creates both a visual boundary and a cozy area for resting with a book on cool nights. Nearby, a well-equipped outdoor kitchen encourages alfresco gatherings and accommodates casual family meals. "It all functions as one big entertaining unit," Cindy says.



SOUTHERN STYLISH

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