

Southern Cottage

SUMMER

Chic

***132 Ideas for
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easy style***

FRESH LOOKS

***with classic
charm***



From the Editors of Cottages & Bungalows
Summer 2016 • \$10.99 US • Display until 6/28/16



Englewood Cliffs, NJ

The Art of Home

Pretty palettes, whimsical patterns and vibrant art put a fresh spin on classic style.

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STYLING BY TRACI ZELLER

Pillow Talk. Pretty sofa pillows in navy- and purple-hued fabrics were designed by Traci and based on vintage artwork she spotted in Paris flea markets. “We modernized the patterns by changing the scale and colorways. They’re colorful, but not too loud or dramatic,” she says.

Her traditional home is filled with furniture with classic lines and shapes, updated with a fresh color palette and designed with a modern family in mind.



Color Coded. The breakfast room window treatments featuring an updated suzani fabric by Lee Jofa inject color and pattern into the space. "You feel the movement of the pattern, and I love that it sums up all the colors in my home," Traci says.

Charming and classic, Southern homes are timeless in style and alive with sunny colors and playful patterns. A bit on the traditional side, they're a perfect balance of elegant and comfortable.

Such is the case for the Charlotte, North Carolina,

family home of interior designer Traci Zeller, who redefines traditional design with a unique color palette and personal art collection. "My style is crisp, classic and chic, and I wanted my home to be true to my aesthetic," Traci says. "I use my home as a laboratory, where I can test out designs and see how it all works for a real family."



"Decorate from the Art"

From quintessentially Southern hues such as green and yellow to pink and red, the colors in Traci's home are pulled directly from her art collection. "I really love art, so I take my hues from there," says Traci. "My husband and I enjoy buying art from local galleries and artists we've gotten to know, and I've used our art collection as a springboard for [the design of] my home."

Shock Value. Just when you think this is your standard traditional dining room, Traci mixes in a funky silver chest (for an element of surprise, while abstract artwork gives the space a contemporary edge.



Lovely Layers. The dining room is a study of texture on texture, from the vintage rug layered atop a hefty sisal to the curtains that pop against the chinoiserie wallpaper.



When choosing artwork to set off her color palette, she's usually drawn toward softer hues, but also likes to throw in a trendy hue or two for good measure.

"I don't necessarily shop for art in terms of color," Traci says. "I shop for what moves me. Once I have that piece of art I've fallen in love with, I tend to design around that. Soft colors speak to me and are livable for my family day in and day out."

Classic Chic

Her traditional home is filled with furniture with classic lines and shapes, updated with a fresh color palette and designed with a modern family in mind.

"Here in the South, we have not given up our formal dining rooms just yet," Traci explains. Since her family loves to entertain, their formal dining

Timeless Approach. Traci designed the kitchen with classic elements like subway tile and Shaker-style cabinets, which are great choices for investment spaces.



room has stayed put. While it's more formal than the other rooms, she took the formality down a notch by throwing a sisal rug underneath her dining table and chairs with a vintage rug layered on top. "Vintage rugs are great for dining rooms because they've already been through the ringer."

Her flea-market finds and vintage pieces often become the statement piece of a room. The living room, for instance, features a vintage glass-top coffee table with a double ram's head base around which the room is centered. "I needed everything else to complement that," says Traci. "It's beautiful on its own, but you can only have one North Star."

While the family's breakfast room for everyday dining at first glance looks formal with a crystal chandelier and antique-style dining chairs, gray faux-ostrich vinyl upholstery offers durability, and an oversized abstract painting makes it modern. "With artwork like that, you don't really need a lot," Traci says.

Hard Worker. The freestanding cabinet turns this hallway into an instant mudroom.



Style in Bloom. Botanical patterns in the guest bedroom Laura Ashley wallpaper create a lush yet relaxed atmosphere. Above, a “perfectly imperfect” pink agate-stone chandelier adds a glamorous touch with its organic lines.

Natural Beauty

Much of Traci’s home is inspired by nature, as the floral fabrics and wall coverings create an enchanting sense of space, while vintage pieces and natural textures exude warmth and hospitality.

In the main bedroom, a grasscloth-like, paper-weave wallpaper with a subtle Ikat stripe effortlessly adds texture and personality to the space. “It creates this gorgeous restful envelope, and I can then layer in the accent colors,” Traci says, such as the navy and light-blue aqua found in the Laura Ashley floral bolster bed pillow and carried throughout artwork and accessories in the rest of the home. “Florals are a great way to add color.”

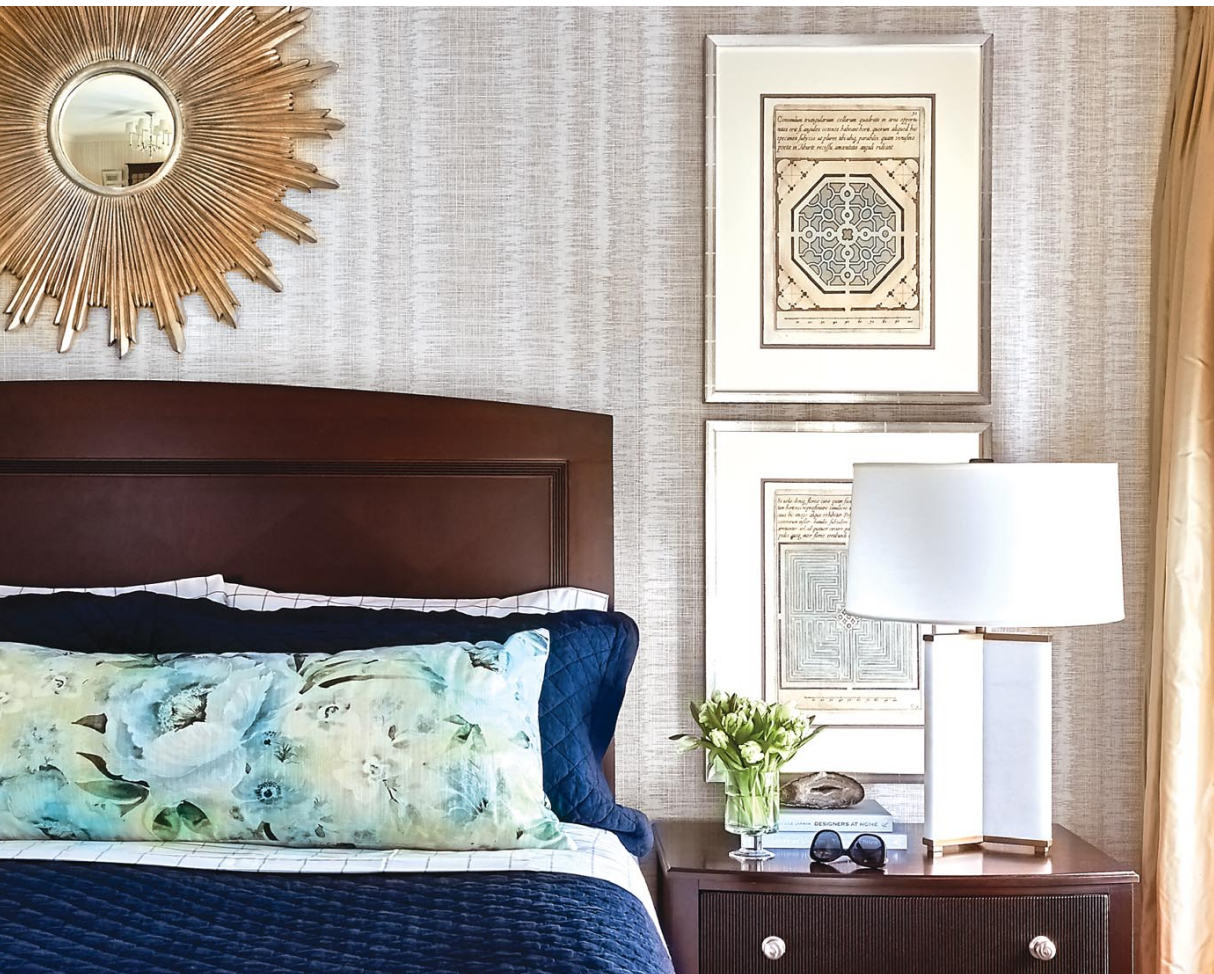
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1 Pretty in Pink. The sweet and serene Laura Ashley wallpaper pattern in the guest bedroom is repeated in the guest bath fabric curtain, where soft pink walls contrast beautifully. A truly bespoke feel.

2 Vintage Vibe. Artwork and accessories with vintage flair bring personality and pop to every space.





A dose of pattern can instantly transform a space, and in the guest bedroom, a darling aviary garden wallpaper by Laura Ashley takes center stage. Golden hues in the yellow lacquered ceiling and furnishings give the room a cheery disposition, while accents like the pink agate-stone chandelier, green bird scene artwork and vintage bamboo mirror that Traci lacquered in olive provide pop. “I layered a variety of floral fabrics to keep it soft and fresh,” says Traci. “I didn’t want to do just pink and green, so I used pink and yellow, and a little green. It echoes the beauty of nature and looks so pretty together.”

Cheat Sheet. When selecting furnishings and accessories, Traci advises, “Look to the colors you gravitate towards in everyday life. If you choose a classic form with an updated color palette, it’s automatically going to look fresh.”

Southern Hospitality. A wine room doubles as an entertaining space, where rich colors and nature-inspired patterns make it warm and welcoming.

