

Decidedly French and Italian Style

VILLA DECOR

Betty Lou Phillips



Introduction

Though we travel the world
over to find the beautiful,
we must carry it with us or we
find it not.

—*Ralph Waldo Emerson*



Another view of the room on page 23, this one features the antique stone chimneypiece—an ornamental structure surrounding the fireplace opening—with a patina that is impossible to reproduce. The antique tapestry, desk, and chimneypiece were all French finds.

Facing Page: Simplicity is key to a sophisticated yet no-fuss, family-friendly room. The sofa is covered in Marvic Textiles and chairs with slits in their skirts boast Brunswick & Fils, while tape culled from Clarence House adds further interest. References to the past also abound: the bookcase, coffee table, and wine table are all antiques, unearthed during a stay in France.



This unpretentious antique, purchased in Paris, offers a less-conventional spot to stock fresh towels and keep sponges, soaps, and lotions close at hand. The master-bath floor is laid in a rhythmic pattern.

Facing Page: Soothing neutrals and an enduring passion for history give a master bedroom the layered look that usually comes with time. Night tables, lamps, and the iron bed were bought in Paris. Turning an old iron gate into a headboard was a task that fell to Potter Art Metal in Dallas. The Nancy Corzine harlequin fabric, like other fabrics in the room, required careful matching of patterns. Glowing Venetian plaster walls also were labor intensive, as one would expect.

Hutch: From the Old French *huche*, meaning bin or chest. A cabinet or cupboard with open shelving, or shelves flanked by doors, that rests upon a buffet.

Ménagère: A low cabinet with open shelves equipped with racks and guardrails, making it ideal for storing crockery. Also called a *vaisselier*.

Pier table: A *console* table originally intended for the area, or pier, between two windows.

Vaisselle: A cabinet or hutch fashioned during the reign of Louis XIV in Lorraine, France, an established center for manufacturing porcelain, where wealthy landholders yearned for a piece of furniture appropriate for displaying fine china. Less well known is the *vaisselier's* more regal cousin, the *grand vaisselier*, developed in nearby Bresse for holding homemade liqueurs.



Inarguably, this kitchen owes a heaping portion of its allure to the quilted copper backsplash and custom hardware by Brad Oldham, Dallas. But like our French and Italian cousins, we also prize copper cookware, which efficiently handles routine tasks by heating quickly and evenly at low temperatures, then cooling quickly too.

Facing Page: With the magnetic charm of Normandy, a morning room shares its architectural grandeur and reveals the undulating woodlands surrounding it. Raised paneled walls are pegged with black walnut, while the Napoléon III table is lauded for its book-matched burled walnut top. The antique terra-cotta tile once covered the roof of a South of France *château*; barrel tile then topped it—long before being ferried to the Ann Sacks Collection, where it was sidemarked for this home.

