

Renovated as a
homage to the
south of France,
this home hosts
rustic architecture
and timeless
furnishings with
amiable presence.

Tribute Français

PRODUCED BY ELEANOR ROPER PHOTOGRAPHY BY DEBORAH WHITLAW-LLEWELLYN



THIS PHOTO: A rare antique cartoon—re-created as a tapestry—is the focal point of the entry wall behind an antique French bench.



LEFT: Stucco, quoins, and an abundance of arches and shutters erase any memory that this engaging country French home was once a Georgian-style red-brick house. RIGHT: New French doors, stained dark for authenticity, open a previously solid dining room wall to the screen porch.

Four thousand miles may separate Atlanta and France, but Francophiles Leanne and Chris Shaw decided to transcend the distance by remaking their home into a charming country French house—a remarkable feat, considering the home’s origin as a red-brick Georgian two-story. Architect Linda MacArthur stepped in to help the Shaws gain the classic French style and feel they wanted.

Changing the facade from Georgian to French required hiding the red brick beneath a top coat of stucco. A pointy English center gable and the squared-off edges of the lower level’s windows and door were next to go. “We changed the center element from a gable to a half-round,” MacArthur says, “and we changed the windows and front door to arches. We also went from a single door to a custom double door, which has a more European look.” Long, pale-blue shutters and elegant patinated light fixtures dot the stucco as French accents.

Inside, an addition doubled the depth of the kitchen on the main level and includes a downstairs playroom and a master bedroom upstairs. “We decided to design the kitchen like a big, open kitchen in Provence,” MacArthur says. “Instead of having a breakfast room, we put the table out in the middle of the room.” Like most of the other pieces the house, both the table and chairs are 18th-century country French.

Rustic ceiling beams lend rugged character to the renovated space. “The beams in France have a real structural purpose, so there are tons of them. That’s why we spaced ours really close together,” MacArthur says. “We also have some timbers as posts in the kitchen as a result of our research, and we consulted books to determine whether our decision to stain instead of paint the doors was correct. It was.”

The Shaws’ delight with their home’s transformation—indoors and out—is ongoing. They continue to receive an occasional visit from a Sunday driver curious enough to “knock on the door and say, ‘What did you do?’” says Leanne, who never tires of answering that question.

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THIS PHOTO: New arched windows in the living room add European ambience, which is underscored by shutters from a local antiques shop.







Rustic and natural materials, salvaged details, warm woods, and *elegant antiques* create a rich and warm French milieu.



OPPOSITE: A flea-market-find mantel, salvaged from an old home, dresses up the master bedroom's prefabricated fireplace.
 ABOVE: A wrought-iron balcony, stained French doors, and a timber-clad hipped ceiling infuse the master bedroom with French character.
 LEFT: The entry received continental flavor with a wrought-iron staircase railing hand-forged by a local artisan.
 Furnishings here and throughout the house, many of them 18th-century French antiques, have been collected by the owners through the years.





OPPOSITE: The cheery green island was distressed and rubbed with gold paint. A dark-stained door offers access to the screen porch. LEFT: Old stone salvaged from Europe and a mantel made using 150-year-old beams from a home in Providence, Rhode Island, combine to create the screen porch's focal point fireplace.

Floor plan

