



Elevated with *Antiques*

A 1981 home gets timeless French appeal with the help of antique textiles and unexpected elements.

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Styling by SUZANNE TUCKER



Lucite Luxury

In the dining room, toile wallpaper and oval-backed Louis XVI cane-back chairs around the dining table add charm to the space. A Lucite table beneath the Swedish crystal chandelier adds a modern contrast. Historic meets modern again atop the Louis XV mantel, where Chinese incense burners serve as planters, while artwork by David Hockney hangs on the opposite wall.

Cool and Collected

The color palette of the living room was drawn from the antique Serapi rug. A Tom Lieber oil painting hangs above a brown velvet sofa, a beechwood upholstered armchair from France circa 1725 and a small chest of drawers with a style popular in the mid-1790s.



The concept for your next design can start with a single inspirational piece. Such was the case for San Francisco-based interior designer Suzanne Tucker, of Tucker and Marks, when she was designing a 1981 French Normandy-style house; it was inspired by an Italian chest of drawers with cabriole legs in the bedroom. Suzanne realized that to achieve French elegance, not everything in the room needed to be of French style. Using a mix of old and new pieces, she merged beauty and functionality to get the look.

Suzanne set the tone of the home's foundation with traditional French materials, complete with a pitched roof, oak floors and French doors opening out to the garden.

"Because the home was built in the French Normandy style, we had lovely eaves and sloping rooflines that made the nook in the master bedroom a serene and tranquil corner," Suzanne says. "Functionality of a room and the color palette make all the difference when decorating. Capturing the mood is so much about color."

"I like to balance cool and warm. [In the living room], there is a coolness about the painting and the blues in the carpet, but you'll notice the milk-chocolate velvet sofa gives it that warmth, as well as the wood from the antiques," she says. All these elements work together to create a calm and rich balance.

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Simply Glowing

The family room features a limestone mantle, a late 19th-century Chinese elm wood alter table and a Louis XVI chair, finished off with beautiful crewel draperies that bring a sunny feeling indoors. An antique Swedish pine clock and a Han dynasty goat also grace the space, where neutral colors create a pervasive glow.

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