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A Bicoastal AFFAIR

East Coast polish and West Coast casual live happily ever after
in this storybook home in Pacific Palisades, California

BY **MIMI READ** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **DOMINIQUE VORILLON**





GARDEN STATE

The dining room wall-paper is de Gournay; the table is by Rose Tarlow. On the front porch (opposite), the wicker wing chair is from Victory Furniture. The Paul Ferrante hanging lantern is painted Farrow & Ball's Parma Gray.





Nestled in the rolling hills of Pacific Palisades, a tony Los Angeles enclave on the ocean, this shingle-style house is the perfect marriage of East and West—coasts, that is. With a wide front porch, tons of wicker, and plenty of antiques, the house has as much classic style as an old Hamptons beach retreat. At the same time, batik prints, mercury glass accessories, and a mix of English and American antiques infuse the house with laid-back California cool and Old Hollywood glamour, too.

The stylistic mashup is just what a family with teenagers had in mind when they hired designer Lee Ann Thornton to decorate their new home. They wanted timeless-enough interiors to suit their house's historically inspired architecture, but they also wanted a hip touch to reflect their L.A. environs. So Lee Ann figured the project called for a bicoastal blend of East Coast traditionalism and fresh Los Angeles sparkle, which just happens to be her specialty. Before moving out east a few years ago, the Greenwich, Connecticut-based designer called L.A. home, and both coasts have influenced her style. "My look is anything but trendy," says Lee Ann. "It's about gracious living with a romantic yet current feeling."

Lee Ann's first order of business was to connect the house's interiors to its garden. Filled with boxwoods, peonies, hydrangeas, lavender, and roses, the garden rivals those of cottages in the Cotswolds and sets a joyous tone up front that Lee Ann wanted to carry through the house. "As you walk up to the porch, past the pool and patio, you pass hundreds of David Austin roses," she says. "It's so cheerful, the blooms practically say, 'Welcome, come on in!'" Nearly the entire front wall of the house is lined with windows and French doors, which fill the primary living spaces—the

OPEN-DOOR POLICY

The house's primary living spaces open to the broad front porch (above). Opposite: In the family room, the tufted chairs are upholstered in Carolina Irving's Kandyli. The walls are covered in grasscloth by Phillip Jeffries; the Moorish mirror is from Hollywood at Home.

"THE WHOLE FRONT OF THE HOUSE OPENS UP TO THE GARDEN, SO THOSE COLORS WERE A NATURAL INSPIRATION FOR THE INTERIORS"



living room, dining room, and kitchen—with garden and pool views and sunshine. “The whole front of the house opens up to the garden, so those colors were a natural inspiration for the interiors,” says Lee Ann.

The designer brought the outdoors inside with both color and pattern. In the dining room, a verdant green hand-painted Chinoiserie wallpaper, plus petal pink curtains and chandelier shades, echo the palette from the view outside. In addition to garden colors such as pink and green, Lee Ann used a lot of blue—her go-to hue in a house near the ocean. Cushions on the front porch feature an indigo, aqua, and green print; the daughter’s bedroom is painted Tiffany-box blue. A delphinium velvet love seat turns the master bedroom into a cozy lounging spot. And the upstairs TV den—nicknamed “the snuggle room”—has two double-wide chaises upholstered in creamy crewelled cotton and surrounded by French blue accents.

SOFT TOUCH

A pendant fixture from Hollywood at Home and a Roman shade made with fabric by Claremont are soft counterpoints to the kitchen’s hard surfaces (left). Below: In the office, pink fabrics, such as the Raoul Textiles sofa upholstery, lend a feminine touch to the antiques, such as a desk from Rooms & Gardens.


Almost every room in the house now features at least one floral pattern; three rooms (the dining room, upstairs den, and master bedroom) have floral wallpapers, a hallmark of classic cottages. But mixed in with all those flowery patterns are bohemian prints in bright colors that add a touch of relaxed California cool. For example, in the office, Lee Ann gave an antique English sofa a trippy twist by upholstering it in an orange-and-pink batik fabric. The chocolate brown wicker furniture on the porch also got a modern update, with an oversize floral-and-paisley print for the cushions.



COVER UP

In the master bedroom, the printed grasscloth by Phillip Jeffries is one of three floral wallcoverings in the house. The green velvet chair is by Michael Smith.





THE HOUSE EXUDES
A DOWN-TO-EARTH,
WELCOMING VIBE,
THANKS TO LEE ANN'S
MIX OF CASUAL
ELEMENTS WITH MORE
FORMAL ONES



FLOWER POWER

Nearly every room in the house features a floral print of some sort. In the upstairs den (opposite), dubbed "the snuggle room," the wallpaper is from Osborne & Little, and the fabric on the skirted table and chaises is by Lee Jofa. The porch cushion fabric (above) is by Raoul Textiles; the wooden farm table (right) is an antique.

vibe, thanks to Lee Ann's easy mix of casual elements with more formal ones. For example, choosing natural-fiber rugs, such as the jute carpet in the dining room, gives even a room filled with sophisticated antiques a barefoot-friendly, beach-house feel. "Woven area rugs help keep things feeling fresh and light," Lee Ann says. Other natural elements, like the family room's bamboo blinds and the den's rush stool—in company with a few beachy accents, such as oversize nautical lanterns and shell-covered accessories—spread the easygoing feel throughout the interiors.

Lee Ann's combination of casual and pretty means the house boasts a sunny disposition all year long. There's just something about being in this house that boosts your mood," she says. "I've never been to a more cheerful, inviting place."

To be sure, the house is filled with the kind of antiques you'd expect to find in a more formal East Coast home. The dining room's Regency-style table and English sideboard are more typical of an elaborate dinner party setting than a beach barbecue. Nearly all of the upholstered pieces have traditional frames with rolled arms and turned legs. The master bedroom's four-poster British Colonial bed, complete with a caned headboard and turned posts, looks like it was lifted straight out of the 19th century.

Despite the provenance of the furnishings, the house exudes a down-to-earth, welcoming



For more information, see Sources, page 134.