

Southern Living

QUICK DECORATING



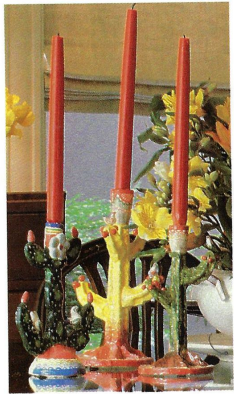


Rapid-Fire Style On A Budget

Antiques and classics are the backbone of this designer's Texas home. With this foundation of quality, she combines flea market and thrift store finds for an interesting mix.

Comfort And Personality Interior designer Cathy Chapman likes to decorate with furniture and artwork obtained over time, filling in with constantly changing new acquisitions.

The home that she shares with her husband, Paul, and two young sons shows how she does it. Cathy relaxes the formality of family pieces and collected antiques with high-impact objects such as a glass-topped coffee table and a cowhide rug.

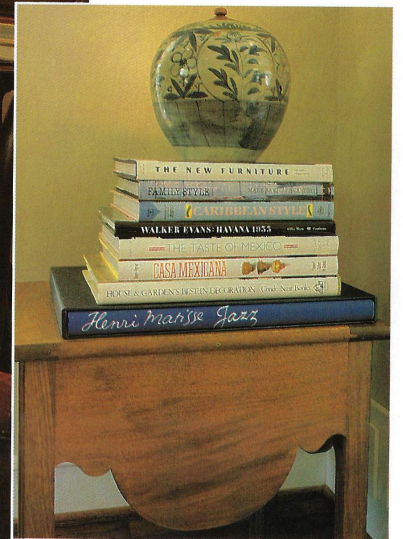
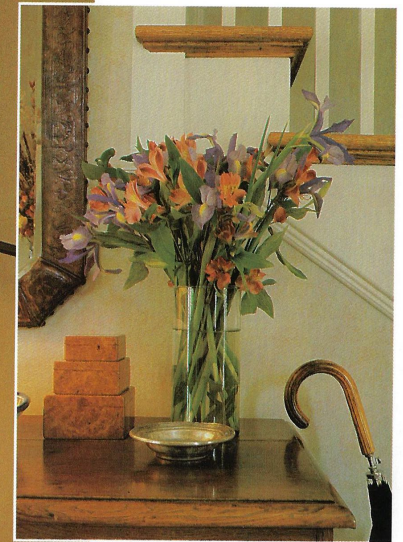


Pulling It Together One of the strongest focal points in the small living room is Paul's collection of photographs. To unify the group, Cathy matted and framed them simply and identically. While these prints are the work of the famous photographer Jacques-Henri Lartique, any black and whites—even your own masterpieces—will do. Hung in an orderly grid, snapshots lend interest to a room.

Part of the reason the photographs look great is the neutral wall color. It doesn't compete with them for attention.

To keep this room full of classic furniture from looking as if all the pieces were purchased at the same time, Cathy adds subtle interest with up-to-date accents such as the sleek black lamp—a bit of contemporary sculpture in her largely traditional room.

Something else that brings a bit of energy: Cathy's lively tabletop arrangements. She teams the colorful with the original when she slips red tapers into her picturesque cactus candlesticks. And she often works flowers, books, and pieces from her pottery collection into these compositions.





Traditional And Contemporary Still lifes make more of an impact, Cathy says, if they mean something to you. A folk-art armadillo and a vase of yellow roses sit side by side on the buffet to remind Cathy of her Texas roots.

Cathy is particularly adept at combining diverse elements. In the dining room, conventionally styled chairs that Paul inherited pair with a clean-lined glass-and-iron dining table. The glass

top doesn't visually crowd the room the way a wooden tabletop might. Overhead, the wrought iron Mexican chandelier has a contemporary look, even though Cathy found it in her grandmother's attic.

The black-and-silver framed Irish mirror was a lucky thrift store find; it is versatile enough to relocate to another room as her collection of accessories grows.

