

NORTHWEST

# DESIGN & LIVING

VOL. 2, ISSUE 3

FALL 1993



In Suburban Seattle

# La Maison en Provence

By Joy C. Cordell

Photography by Galbraith & Wilson

When Christine, who loves French antiques; Wayne, who likes to relax and put his feet up when he comes home; and their children, active, numerous and growing, wanted to build a new home, they came to their architect and designer with an interesting list. The family already had located an eight-acre lot close to their present neighborhood east of Seattle.

The wishes on their list? The family desired a beautiful home where they could entertain family and friends, with both formal and casual spaces, a recreational sports cluster, and a detached carriage house. The sports wing would include a multi-purpose gymnasium, an indoor swimming pool, and an exercise/ballet room—with separate entry, locker/shower rooms and kitchen to accommodate use by church and scout groups. At the same time, the family wanted the home to fit well in the neighborhood, and take best advantage of a magnificent stand of conifers and sweeping meadow.

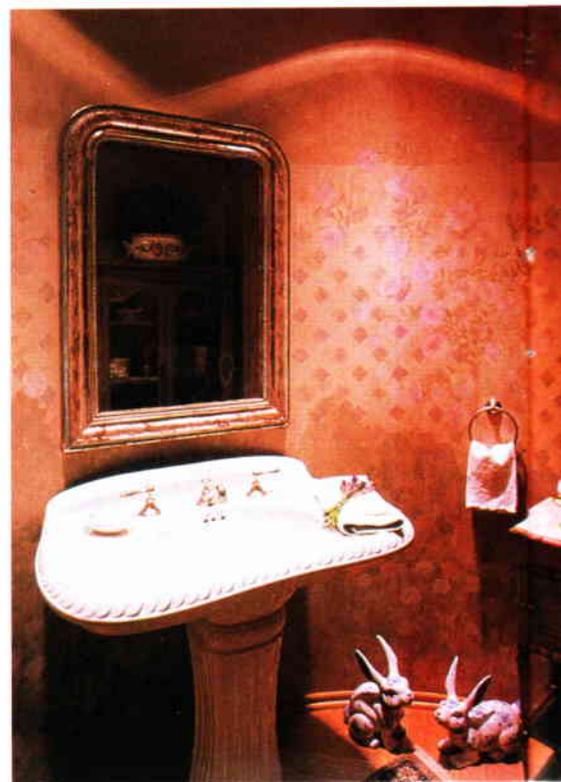
Together with architect Dennis Marsh, AIA, of Anderson Olason Marsh in Seattle,

**Lower left, the custom white oak pass-through frames an English brass and steel scales. Just beyond, the maple herringbone kitchen table serves as family gathering spot.**

**Below center, the powder room off the main hallway charms guests with its hand-painted walls, and**

**19th century silver gilt-framed mirror with original glass.**

**At right, the buffet à deux corps in pine, 18th century Provence, graces the formal dining room. Inside, a Majolica asparagus serving set. Restored Louis XV style chairs with a country French oak table. The room is paneled in white oak beadboard.**





**Lower left, the master bath brings country garden inside with *tromp l'oeil* lattice and wisteria on walls and ceiling by Larry Launceford and Breccia Onaciata marble on bath and counter. Accents are in antique metal: French pewter-finished sink and fixtures, 19th century French silver plate baskets, and 18th century French bronze chandelier.**

**Upper center, Louis XV style *bergère*, and hand-painted French nightstand, circa 1840.**

**Lower center, the family area looks out into the southern terrace and gazebo. A commissioned hand-forged steel and stone garden table replicates the Parisian garden theatre chairs.**

**At right, the master bedroom looks into Christina's sunny sitting room. In the bedroom, blush woven wall covering complements the English chintz bedspread and pillows. A child's steel/brass bed makes a bench at the foot of the bed. The fireplace is a Louis XV style reproduction mantle purchased in Europe and finished here. French doors lead to a connecting patio on the morning side of the house.**

Christine and Wayne chose an American shingle-style architecture—a sophisticated yet casual home appropriate for their rural site. The big south terrace gives the home an old-fashioned feel, and Christine says the family gravitates to the butcher-block table in the sunny kitchen. Did they meet their goals? We think so. The family says that friends and visitors alike remark on both the enormous size of the house, and that by contrast, each room is comfortable and feels as if it's done “on a human scale.”





**Lower left, the 20'x40' pool has full length windows and "garage" doors on two sides. A used-brick border frames the pool and a 19th century hand-painted Dutch armoire keeps pool "stuff" out of sight when not in use.**

**Upper center, the large family room features a Rumford fireplace done in peach Arizona sandstone, and 19th century French and English pewter. Custom-finished wood slat blinds cover the windows and French doors which lead to the terrace. A 19th century pine counter from Bordeaux separates the living room from the family dining area.**

**Lower center, the entryway integrates the interior with the exterior by using a diagonal lattice sandstone floor leading from front porch to the herringbone oak floor, 19th century walnut settee with rush seats, from Provence.**

**At right, French *faience* mustard jars on an 18th century fruitwood buffet with Louix XV moldings. The 19th century French gilt mirror with original glass reflects an 18th century pine wedding armoire with carved doves, sunflowers, and baskets. The first piece they bought, Christine says it "led to her addiction to French country antiques."**

Inside, the architectural materials flow through a range of colors from light buff to peach: sandstone floors, marble fireplaces, oak herringbone floors and woodwork. Stained beadboard on the walls provides durability and protection from little fingers, while also giving the home a sense of agelessness.

Pamela Pearce, ASID, helped Christine satisfy her longing for French country furnishings, scouring West Coast antique shops for 18th and 19th century pieces, and designing other furniture to complement them. The sitting room, featured on the cover, is Christine's favorite place; the carved details and curvature of the French wood accents give the room a easy yet primitive elegance. 

