

Easy Country Provence Decorating- 7 Ways To Get The Look

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French country decorating has been one of the most popular decorating choices because it invites comfort into the home like no other style. Lived in furniture, distressed wood tables and chairs, cotton throws, aged plaster walls are just some of the hallmark elements found in this style.



Choose Earthy Colors

The French have always taken their inspiration from outside. Use vivid colors in your home, by painting your kitchen cabinets, or accenting with bright floral centerpieces. Colors like poppy red, sunflower yellow, cornflower blue, meadow green, and violet purple are typical colors found in France. Add several natural wood pieces such as accent tables, or chairs to balance out the color. Vivid colors can provide those saturated tones found in the summer. Depending in the look you are after, you could pick out accents (such as throw pillows, bed spreads, upholstery choices) in the richer tones, while using lighter airy shades for your walls. Choose fabrics such as curtains and seat cushions in paisley, stripes and floral prints to tie together the Provence look in your home

Black Painted Furniture

Painting furniture black in your home was a symbolic sign of loyalty to King Louis XVI after he was imprisoned and put to death during the French Revolution. What is now considered a classic color for French furnishing actually started out as a rebellious social statement. Painting black couldn't be easier. Go for egg shell, or satin for an authentic country look. Glossy furniture is rarely found in the country. Distress your furniture slightly to add that old age appearance we love to admire.

Decorate With Family Photos

You can create a family photo album on your walls, with your most treasured pictures. For a timeless look, try your photos in Black or white, as they tend to show the emotion and it will ease into any color scheme. Try also matting your photos with French styled wallpaper, or go for a classic choice with cream, or black matting.

Bouillotte Lamps

William Rieder, curator of decorative arts at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, says, "The persistent popularity of the bouillotte lamp is based partly on the world's love of French decorative arts of the late 18th and early 19th centuries." This artifact of not only beautifully illuminates interiors but accommodates today's different-sized desks and tables with its adjustable lampshade.

Tapestries

Needlepoint skills are prized all over the world and have been for hundreds of years. Tapestries have been hung on walls for hundreds of years and you cannot get a better period feel in a home than to hang a breathtaking tapestry. Expect to pay extra for these time consuming crafts, but also expect to find some great deals on ebay as people clear out their attics and sell some of these collectable gems.

Tin Boxes

I readily admit, I enjoy collecting tin boxes with the antique labels. I use them to decorate my pantry, discarding the modern packaging and replacing it with the old. If you like country decor style, these little boxes can add a bit of an old world accent into your kitchen or pantry. Collect vintage liquor bottle tins, and use them to store spaghetti. Tin boxes can be used to store soaps, cosmetics and candy, and are a must have for any Provence home

Bushel Baskets

Bushel Baskets were once used on farms to collect the vegetables, apples and fruits. The vintage baskets were made by nailing the different pieces of wood together to form a sturdy basket that never had to be replaced. Today they are collectible and make the perfect basket to display soaps, fruit, or decorations.

Go For Saturated Walls

Brown, beige, or greige walls can be breathtaking in country styled homes. Darker toned walls can look terrific with walnut wood furniture and leather upholstered french chairs. Pair darker earthy colors with raw wood pictures and furniture. With any dark color, you want to be sure to add lots of natural sunlight. Consider adding art work on the walls that will pop with color. Layer in rich wool throws with white being the primary color. Adding in cream, beige, and a couple brighter accents will allow the color brown to showcase a richer side to country decorating.

Picture Credits Below, [Traditional Home Magazine](#), [Judith Millers Colors](#) book on Amazon



Bouillotte Lamps tweedlandthegentlemansclub.blogspot.com



Louis XVI Style Brass and Tole Bouillotte Lamp [Southall Antiques](#)

Bouillotte Lamp [Rumi Antiques](#)



Bushel Baskets



I LIKE TO TAKE THE TRADITIONAL AND
MAKE IT PLAYFUL THROUGH D







In a living room of grand proportions, a painted Chinese planter visually separates two seating groupings. Two pairs of Italian armchairs, with the original painted finishes, provide versatile seating. Chinese garden seats in the Famille Rose pattern accent as decorative tables. Opposite: A bear's-hide ottoman serves as the coffee table.









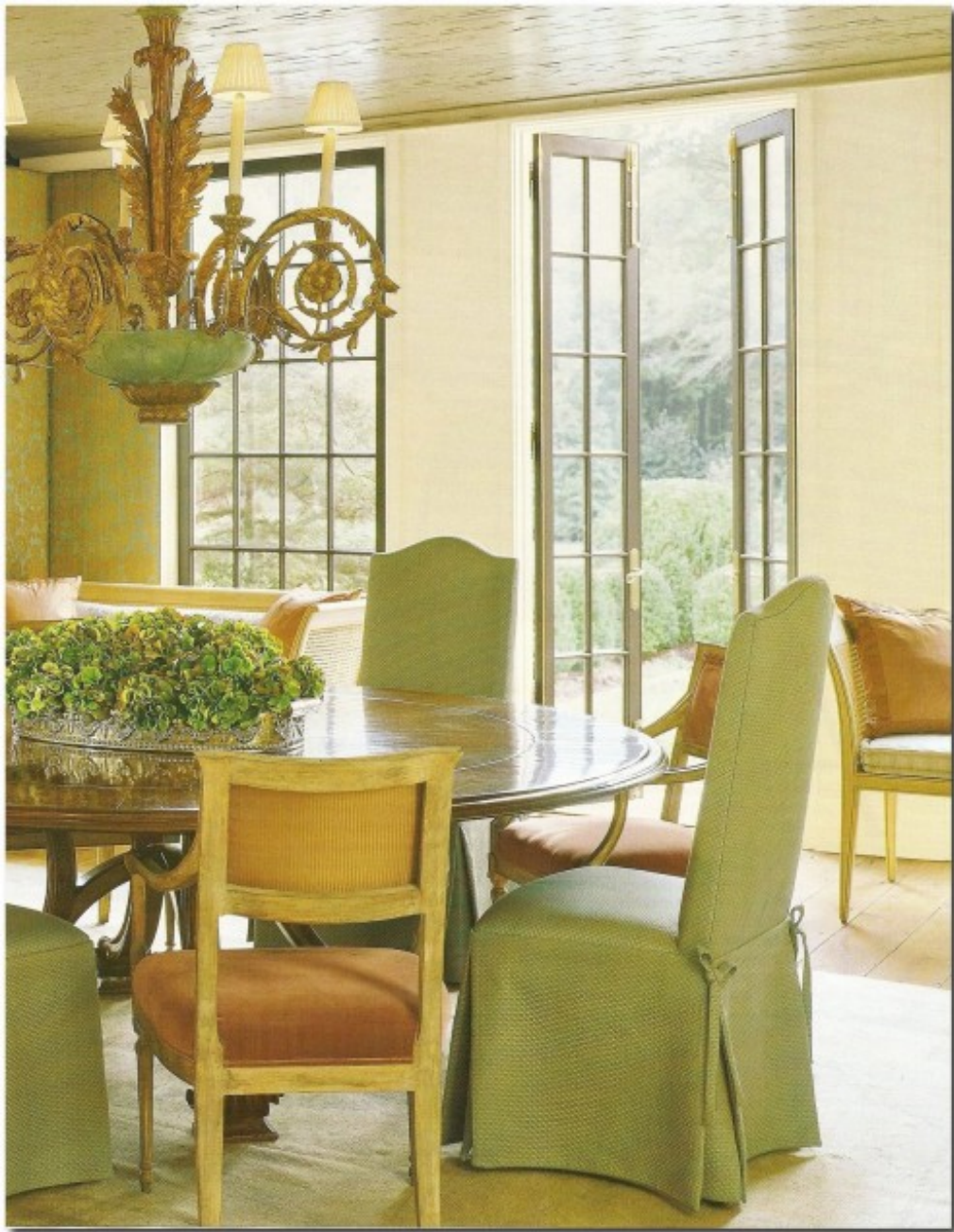


A Ralph Lauren-upholstered armchair provides a cozy seating area in a corner of the dining room. Oriental rugs on top of tiled add a layer of color and texture. Paintings of food by Marion Vinet, 1900-1950. The living room's ample and gracious proportions are enhanced by a symmetrical, balanced arrangement of furnishings and objects. A collection of white ceramics on the West Elm cocktail table are a mixture of antique and contemporary.





The kitchen was designed with Howard's customary eye to architectural detail. A substantial cornice conceals the stove exhaust while creating a focal point. Tongue-and-groove door panels are also a nice touch. Comfortable bar stools from Mrs. Howard pull up to the island for chopping or chatting. Walls are painted Indian White by Benjamin Moore; trim is China White, also by Benjamin Moore.









In what Howard calls the gathering room, the darkened ceiling creates "an architectural envelope," Howard says. "It's the old rule of making some things advance and other recede." A generous seating arrangement is grouped around the fireplace, melding comfort and ease with a subtly sophisticated collection of objects and art. "Like to use natural fibers and a mix of old and new. Nothing is too dear or hands-off. By compressing the paintings between mirrors and demilune tables, they don't say 'look at those old formal paintings.'"











A Han dynasty horse is displayed atop the living room's 17th-century marble mantel. 18th-century abornized side chairs are upholstered in a zebra-stripe silk velvet, and custom-made bookcases hold false volumes whose titles refer to family members.





USING GREENS, BROWNS AND NATURAL TEXTURES,
THE DESIGNER BROUGHT THE OUTSIDE IN.



