



radiant
patina



A young designer marries age-old French beauty with today's comforts to create a luminous Texas home that's sophisticated and family-friendly.

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An antique French barometer, bought at the Marburger Farm Antique Show in Round Top, Texas, introduces old-world gilt to Brooke McGuyer Hutson and Scott Hutson's living room. Its pedigree is matched by a pair of antique Louis XVI wing chairs dressed in cut velvet fabric. The lumbar pillows by artist Rebecca Vizard are made from pale blue velvet embellished with gold metallic embroidery.





THIS PHOTO: A pair of lacy metal sconces enhance the whimsy of a vintage zinc dormer that Brooke had made into a mirror and hung above the family room's cast-stone mantel. OPPOSITE: Graceful cast-stone arches lend a European sensibility to the Georgian-style home.



From the very first brick, interior designer Brooke McGuyer Hutson was intent on giving her family's newly built Houston home the allure of age-old provenance. Working with an in-house architect through the Coventry Build-On-Your-Lot program (owned by her father, builder Frank McGuyer), she designed a European Georgian-style home that merges contemporary comforts with old-world charm. The resulting house fits herself, her husband, Scott, and their two young children just right. "I wanted an airy and inviting family-friendly home that also had the character and patina that French style embodies," she says.

That patina began with surfaces. Brooke chose a chalky pinkish brick for the exterior for its sense of age. Inside, artisans from Segreto Finishes added subtle dimension by layering the main-level walls with luminescent veneer plaster. Hand-hewn vintage beams and hand-scraped walnut flooring are juxtaposed with the walls' glossy finish to introduce Brooke's signature rough-meets-refined style. "I love how elegant French







An antique Gustavian wallpaper Brooke spotted in a French castle served as the inspiration for the dining room's hand-painted mural by Segreto Finishes. An 18th-century Italian crystal chandelier and silk draperies speak to the airy pattern's elegance, while a sisal rug and linen slipcovered chairs keep the mood relaxed.

THIS PHOTO: Proving you can be pretty and practical, Brooke surrounded a sturdy reproduction iron French bistro table in the breakfast area with circa-1910 painted chairs dressed in ruffled white linen slipcovers that bleach clean. The 1848 Swedish Mora clock features original convex glass. OPPOSITE: European style abounds in the kitchen where windows take the traditional place of upper cabinets, honed Calacatta Borghini marble graces counters and walls, and a stately cast-stone and plaster curved hood tops the range.





“It’s important to play with *opposites*—to mix the rough with the refined, the new with the old, the formal with the *casual*. It brings a sense of history to a room.”

—interior designer and homeowner BROOKE MCGUYER HUTSON

style can be, but I also love that it can be dressed up or down depending on your taste,” Brooke says. “Or—what I prefer—a mixture of both.”

The home’s sensibility continues with one-of-a-kind European antiques collected from secondhand stores and flea market shows across Texas. With their well-loved armrests and chippy paint, each piece has its own story. “Timeworn pieces add authenticity to a home; they make it feel acquired and give it an instant sense of history,” Brooke says. “Plus, they’re already

worn, so if they get dinged by the kids, it just adds to the charm.”

Not that every piece needs to boast a pedigree. Brooke smoothly combines centuries-old painted cabinets and side chairs with reproduction tables and upholstered seating pieces—“because, while beautiful, let’s be honest, an antique French canapé just isn’t that comfortable,” Brooke says. Tailored slipcovers in the family and dining rooms highlight the soft curves of new cushy seat backs and arms, nodding to classic French

BELOW: Brooke's favorites hues—pale greens and blues, and creams—lend her home an ethereal quality. RIGHT: Brooke found the nursery's 19th-century French daybed in pieces at a pop-up flea market in Houston. OPPOSITE: A gathered linen gauze bedspread reminiscent of a flirty ball gown lends romance to the master bedroom.



silhouettes with their graceful lines while keeping things casual and practical for children.

Old and new are united, too, by the home's romantic, muted palette. Pale blues, greens, and tans are layered with whites and creams to foster a calm look that feels like "a cloudy day at the beach," Brooke says.

While the colors soothe, Brooke ratcheted up interest with subtle yet rich layers of texture. The dining room chairs feature unexpected pattern on their backs, goblet-pleat headers distinguish the family room window treatments, and ballerina cross ties highlight graceful legs on the breakfast room chairs. "Dressmaker

details give a room that extra special touch and personality," Brooke says. "They customize a space by making it unique."

Crowning every room is a statement light fixture. Whenever possible, pretty chandeliers trump recessed or flush-mount lighting, especially in the bedrooms, where styles range from a sweet flea market tole treasure to a generous reproduction wood design. "Chandeliers are like jewelry for your rooms," Brooke says. "They add that special sparkle and make the whole house glow with beautiful ambience. And like a great antique, they give new rooms a sense of life." ❁

