

Treetop Hideaway...For Grown-ups!

SUMMER 2008
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73 Magical Garden Rooms Inside & Out

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- ★ Romance Your Bedroom
- ★ Bring The Beach Indoors
- ★ Gain An Outdoor Room
- ★ Host A Garden Party

\$25

Room Makeovers You Won't Believe





Found Treasures



Create Instant Art. Vintage rose tablecloths were simply stretched and then stapled over artist canvases. They are used as inexpensive art on a hallway wall.

garden variety



Make A Merry Mix. Tina's beloved pillows cozy up the wicker furniture in her living room for a truly gathered-over-time look.

PHOTOS: DAN MAYERS

Floral fabrics and wicker furnishings top this Texas bargain-hunter's shopping list.

By Kathryn Bechen

A "decorating disease" runs in Tina Smith's family. "We call it 'pillow passion,'" laughs Tina. "We're obsessed with having pretty vintage pillows all over our home, and we can't stop buying them!" Sure enough, bright red accent pillows, many made by now-retired seamstress Louise Drain, dot the Smiths' lovely Cherry Hill Cottage. "She didn't even have to use a pattern," marvels Tina. "She just whipped them right up."

A veteran lover of cottage, country and vintage decorating looks, Tina feels the styles work well with her 1,600-square-foot home and make her feel like she is part of a simpler time. "I want my home to have a special feeling of coziness, welcome and comfort," she says.



Recycle Resourcefully. Vintage tablecloths add a festive touch of red to dining room chairs, while a green canning jar holder makes a unique vase for daisies.



Fashion a No-Sew Slipcover

Dress up chair backs with fancy folded fabric. Using a small square tablecloth or other fabric piece, fold roughly in half or where pattern will be best displayed. Line up the fold where the seat meets the back, pull slack at the sides around the back of chair and tie into a knot. Secure as needed with safety pins.

A large collection of decorating books and magazines fuel Tina's creativity.

Finding Inspiration

A bargain hunter who scours garage sales, flea markets, Goodwill shops, estate sales and "great junk stores" near her home in Henderson, Texas, Tina also finds pieces online and in catalogs. eBay is a huge favorite, especially for her trademark old ceiling tins and painted floral trays. The Canton Trade Days flea market in Canton, Texas, is another favorite place to shop. Says Tina, "I was at Canton Days so much I asked my favorite vendor, Laurie Anna's Vintage Home, for a job. I now work for her once a month."

A large collection of decorating books and magazines also fuel Tina's creativity and are her inspiration for display ideas. She is a home and garden blog lover, which she calls "another decorating disease." She even started her own blog, *CherryHillCottage.typepad.com*. "It's made me very happy to share my home and decorating ideas through my blog," Tina says. "I've made e-friends from all over the country."



Cook Up Country Style. The kitchen island, painted Heath Green (from Laura Ashiey paints, lauraashiey.valspar.com), takes center stage in Tina's cozy kitchen. The valances are napkins (from Wal-Mart!) folded over and hung on the windows.

Freshen Up For Summer! Tina's Top 5 Tips:

1. Bring a vintage birdcage inside from outdoors. Put a candle in it for instant ambiance.
2. Use lace or crocheted tablecloths on your dining or kitchen table for a light, airy look.
3. Put summery fruit like strawberries in a vintage bowl, and display on your kitchen counter or table for a punch of accent color.
4. Bring fresh flowers from your garden inside and have them all around the house.
5. Tie vintage floral tablecloths over the backs of your dining chairs for a "summery slipcover" look.



Embrace Femininity. A trellis from Lowe's Garden Center brings the outdoors in on Tina's guest bedroom wall. Tina's best friend, Monica Sanders, got the idea for the china plate collage from a display at Anthropologie.

Rethinking Collectibles

Tina loves to "repurpose" everything from fabrics to garden accessories. "The lace tablecloth on my dining table is really a bedspread, the vase is a canning jar container and I turned an old screen door into a message board by attaching a chalkboard to it," she says. A birdcage in her hallway holds note cards, and red-checked kitchen "curtains" are really napkins from Wal-Mart draped over a rod.

Three basic colors are used throughout Tina's home. To complement yellow walls and green accent furniture, she uses summery fabrics with red motifs and patterns. One of her favorite projects was mounting red rose vintage tablecloths of different sizes over art canvases and then stapling the fabric to the backs. "I was looking for inexpensive art for my large wall in my hallway when suddenly I got the idea to display my tablecloths as big floral art. It feels like an indoor rose garden."

Tina's husband, Milton, is her handyman and helps her with most of her projects. One adventure the couple still laugh about is when they mounted china plates around a chandelier on a bedroom ceiling. "The first plate we tried fell down and broke. But we kept trying and finally got it to work," she recalls. After the ceiling plate episode, which Tina wanted to try because she thought the little blue birds on the plates would look like they were flying against her "blue sky" painted ceiling, Milton finally asked her, "When are you going to stop all this decorating and collecting?" Laughing, Tina told him, "Never Milton, never, because it's simply what I do." He smiled good naturedly. "I had a feeling," he said.



Fashion Plates

For a fun, romantic look, Tina uses inexpensive china as wall (and ceiling) displays. We love the look and knew you would, too. Here's how to get it:

Wall Collage

Gather plates of various sizes and complementary patterns. You also will need nails and gold wire plate hangers (available at hardware stores or theplate lady.com/products.htm#01). To begin, put each plate in a gold wire hanger. Then, hang one large plate on the wall. Hang a second plate on the front loop of the wire hanger that is holding the first plate.

Continue hanging plates, staggering sizes, until you have created an overall pleasing shape. Keep plates close together and balanced, and be sure to let each plate's design show through.

Ceiling Display

Tina used Liquid Nails and blue painter's tape to mount the plates on the ceiling. To do: Put glue around the rim of the back of one plate and place on ceiling, holding it there for three minutes to set the glue. Once glue is set, put painter's tape over the plate and let set overnight to be sure glue is completely dry. Repeat with other plates, creating a pleasing arrangement. Remove blue tape on all plates after 24 hours.