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VINTAGE & VICTORIAN

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326

easy ways to add
vintage flair

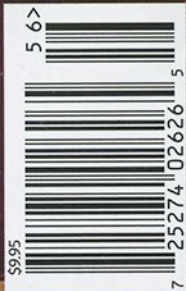
**TAG-SALE
GOLD**

8 finds for
easy elegance

THEN & NOW
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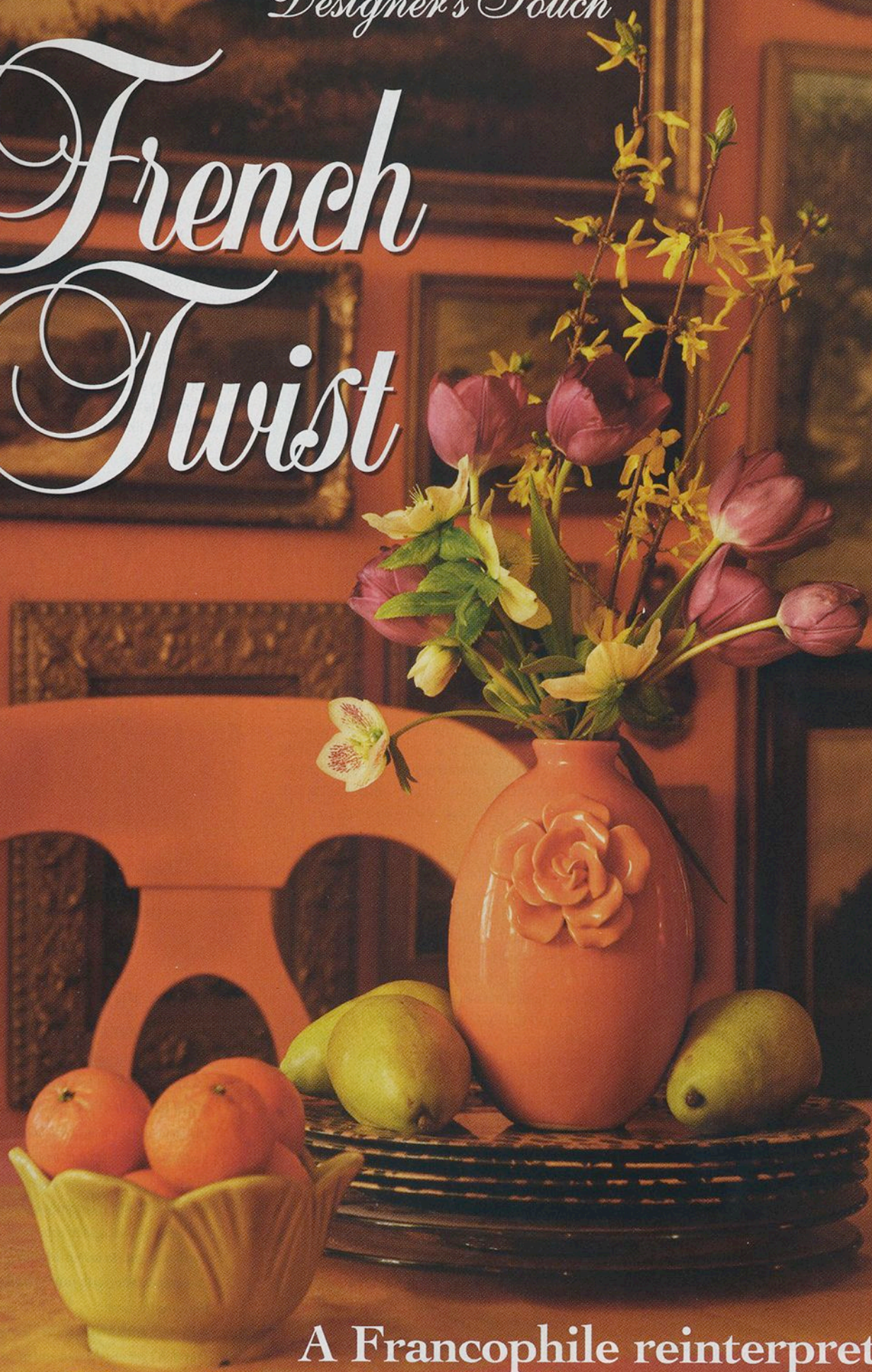
OLD MADE BRAND NEW
using color palettes, fabrics,
wallpaper & accessories

DISPLAY UNTIL DECEMBER 17, 2012



Designer's Touch

French Twist



A Francophile reinterprets
Victorian design for the 21st century.



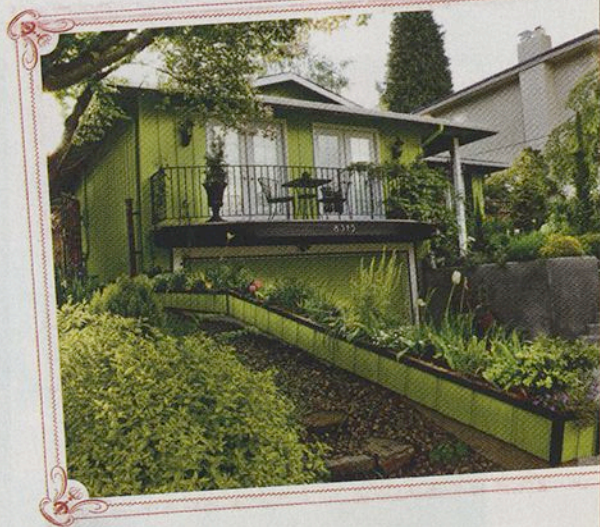
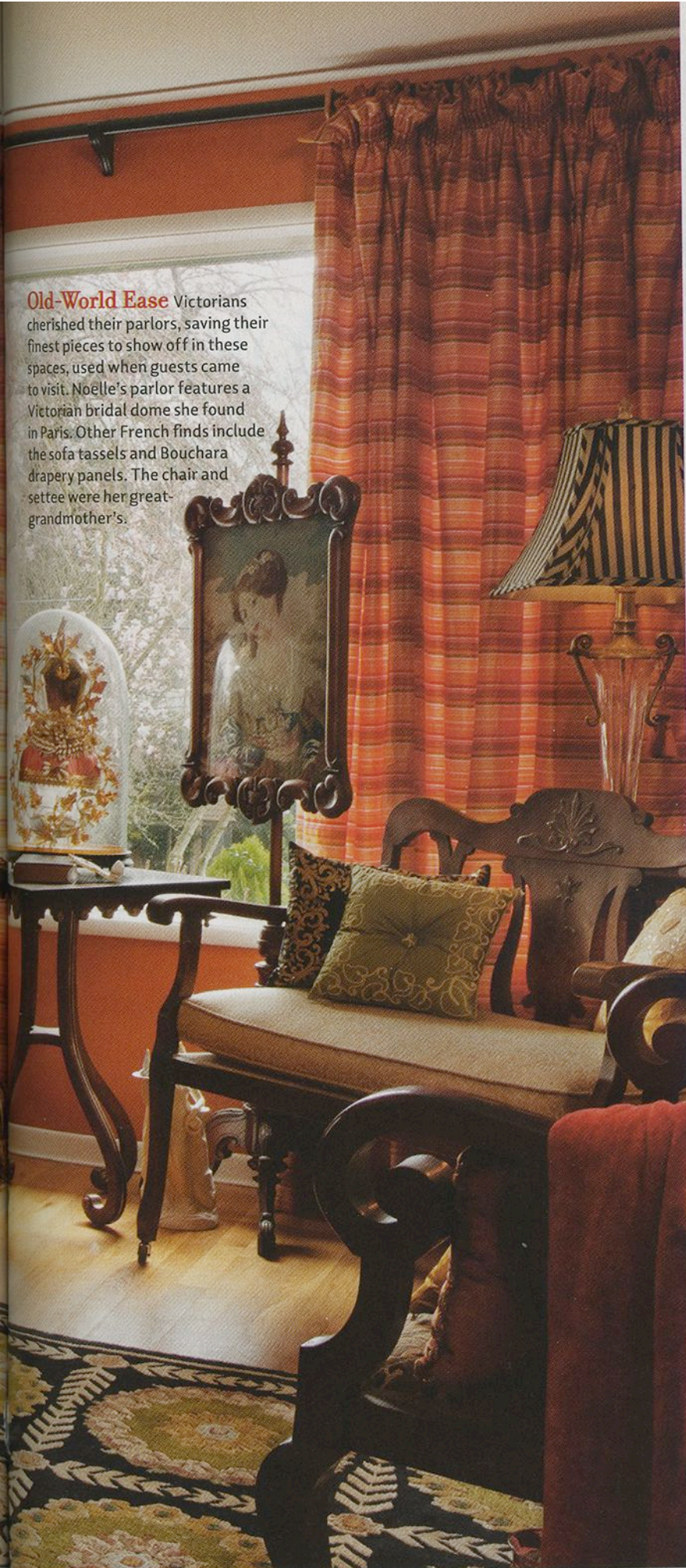
Tangerine Dreams (opposite) By painting two of her dining room chairs the same tangerine color as that room's walls, homeowner Noelle Penn encourages the paintings on the wall—the space's true focal point—to really stand out. **Tucked Away** (above) A Victorian secretary discovered at an auction is placed to attract attention in the parlor. An old lamp is transformed with a red lampshade custom-made to Noelle's design. Footstools in varying styles tucked beneath furnishings add to the overall rich texture of the room.



tip: PATTERN PLAY

What makes a mix of patterns work together is having a common element—in this case, a linear theme

Old-World Ease Victorians cherished their parlors, saving their finest pieces to show off in these spaces, used when guests came to visit. Noelle's parlor features a Victorian bridal dome she found in Paris. Other French finds include the sofa tassels and Bouchara drapery panels. The chair and settee were her great-grandmother's.



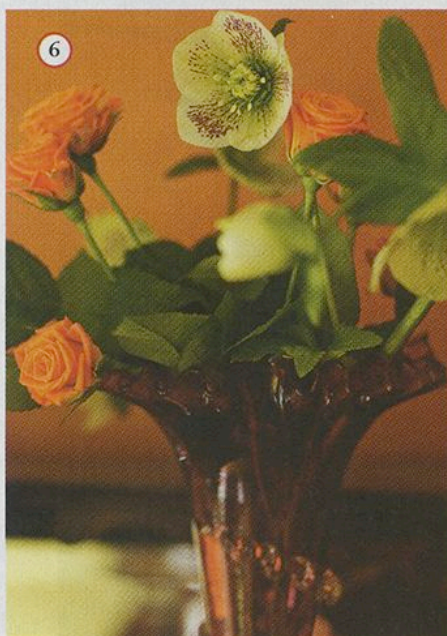
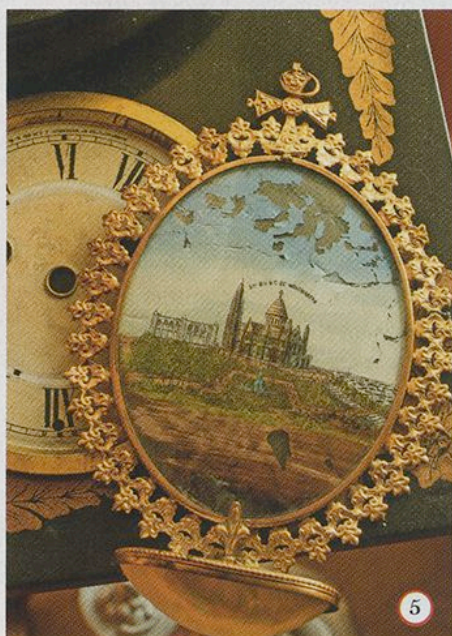
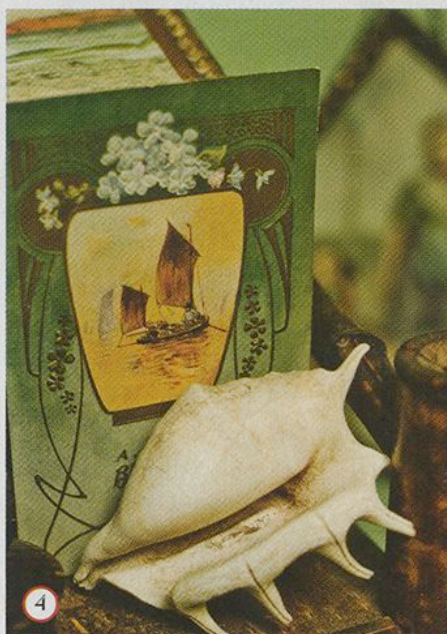
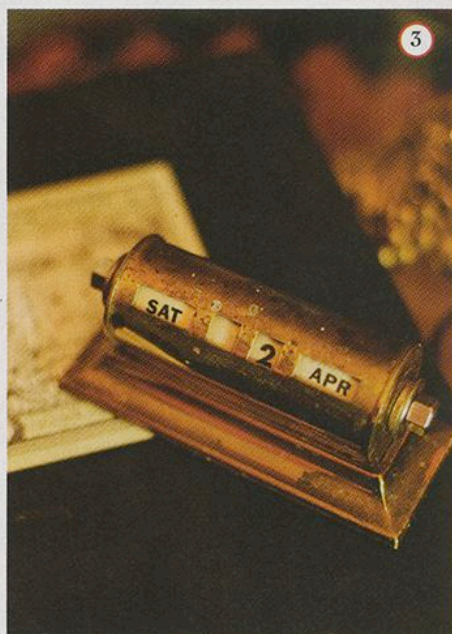
You might say that Portland, Oregon, interior designer Noelle Penn marches to the beat of a very different Victorian drummer.

Noelle shares her bold, out-of-the-box design tenets with Victorian wunderkind Christopher Dresser, an influential late 19th-century designer who wrote *Principles of Decorative Design* in 1879. At a time when William Morris was dominating the sedate, handcrafted British Arts & Crafts scene, Dresser was quietly transforming Victorian design by touting the use of primary wall colors; tripartite wall schemes; and industrial design for the masses, including futuristic teapots and toast racks that are still in use today (see some examples at alessi.com).

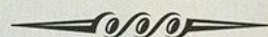
What Helps Small Rooms

Noelle turned to her favorite bright hues and plush fabrics to soothe the transition after a move from a 1904 Craftsman to a mid-1970s ranch. It took three remodels before the house matched her stylistic comfort zone. A 12' addition that widened the master

Shades of Green (above) The exterior of this formerly taxicab yellow 1974 ranch home got a complete makeover. Changes included excavating beneath the original garage as well as adding space for a laundry and home office, plus a charming wrought-iron balcony. A row of chartreuse plant boxes lines the concrete driveway for a one-of-a-kind touch.



NOELLE'S top 6 collectibles



1. Embroidery This embroidered pillow from the settee in the parlor features an inset of antique French fabric from a Deauville, France, flea market. The design is Noelle's.

2. Victoriana Miniatures and painted rocks were just some of the handicrafts popular during Victorian times. Hand-painting delicate motifs, particularly botanical ones, figured heavily in furniture decoration as well.

3. Antique Calendars Noelle found this brass calendar at the Alameda, California, flea market. It dates, no doubt, from the 1940s, when these items were often found on executives' desks.

4. Postcards Postcards, which were at the height of their popularity at the turn of the previous century, were often hand-delivered to their recipients. Noelle began collecting these items as a child with her parents, who taught her how to dicker for a better price. This embossed Victorian postcard was used as a birthday greeting.

5. Objets D'Art Victorians were great fans of objets d'art made of mother-of-pearl, such as this font with a mother-of-pearl cup below a reversed painting on glass of Sacré Coeur with ormolu trim. C'est magnifique!

6. Glass Vase Victorian epergnes featured several trumpets in their design. Hellebores from Noelle's garden fill the center of this cranberry glass epergne trumpet.

See more of Noelle's collectibles on page 82.



Cabinet of Curiosities A late 19th-century French antique curiosity cabinet featuring an amalgam of styles, including rococo, probably had another top tier in its original state. Found at a local auction, it is filled with cranberry glass, crystal and porcelain collectibles. The antique side chairs feature mother-of-pearl inlay.



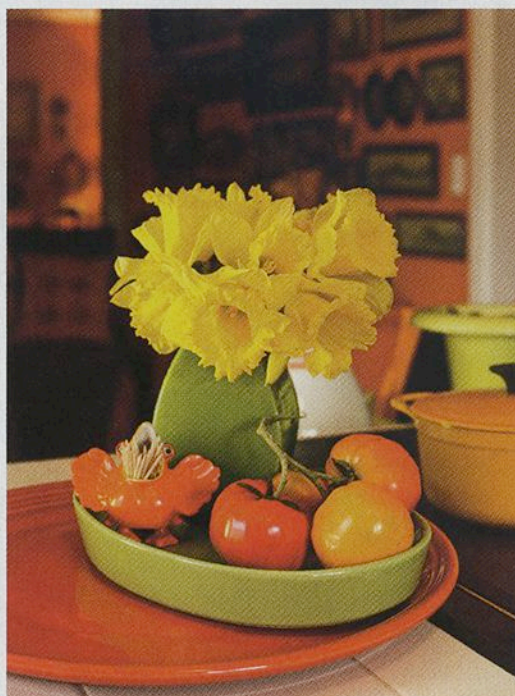
Gallery Style Noelle's aunt gifted her with an oil landscape, and then she inherited a half-dozen Louis Prang & Company Prints from her mother... soon, an art wall was born. Noelle varies sizes and uses sconces and other ornamentation to fill in the blank areas.

“It’s my homage to Monet, who painted all his furniture to match his walls. Also, it makes a small room look larger, because you look past the furniture to the art.”



bedroom enough to add a walk-in closet was the first step. The “mistress bedroom,” as Noelle calls it, has a Russian sleigh bed from the Versace Collection by Baker as its focal point.

A second remodel replaced the dining room’s tile floors with hardwood ones, widened that room’s tiny entry and borrowed from the hall bath to make space for a “real” sink in the master bath. Tangerine by Miller Paint inspired the gallery walls; somber Hudson River School-style paintings spring to life against the brilliant backdrop. Says Francophile Noelle, “It’s my homage to Monet, who painted all his furniture to match his walls. Also, it makes a small room look larger, because you look past the furniture to the art.”



tip: THE DISH
Let colorful dishes and glasses double as display vessels for every room in the house

Rainbow Redux (top) The previously modernized mid-1970s kitchen got a chic overhaul when Noelle added a pot rack spray-painted chartreuse to match the vivid cabinets. **Colorful Composition** (above) A Fiesta ware platter is the base for this whimsical vignette. Noelle uses bold hues to her advantage throughout her home, and, as evidenced here, she is not afraid to mix them. The trick is to marry tones that carry a similar visual weight.

The "mistress bedroom," as Noelle calls it, has a Russian sleigh bed from the Versace Collection by Baker as its focal point.

A Fresh Twist An ornate French piece originally used to showcase shoes becomes a bedside table in the "mistress bedroom." Other touches include the brass umbrella stand and the French-style tapestry rug, which has been in Noelle's possession for 35 years.



Color to the Rescue

The third remodel required digging 14' below the garage to create an office and laundry room where the garage once stood. The office's custom hot pink walls and a matching chaise longue stand in striking contrast with black and white Victorian accessories as well as Noelle's Victorian Sailors' Valentines.

The only way to salvage the tiny kitchen, Noelle says, was to remove the cupboard doors, paint them her favorite neutral—chartreuse—("For me it goes with everything") and fill them with a panoply of Fiesta ware colors that reiterate the colorful drapery panels found in the living room. The chintzy white cupboards that refuse paint and the corresponding white tile countertops are eyesores that will have to await remodel #4.

"Oh, well," says Noelle with a chuckle, "I only have a kitchen because it goes with the house."



A Place for Everything (above left) A mixture of toile Roman shades and harlequin prints adds texture to this corner of Noelle's office. Black file cabinets supply the necessary storage for the daily ins and outs of this interior designer's busy life. **Making it Work** (above right) The former garage, now an office, features a custom-made chaise longue in a hot pink fabric that nearly matches the walls. Inset bookcases display memorabilia, while white garden chairs dressed in black-and-white toile cozy up to a built-in desk. **Memory Lane** (above) Noelle trimmed her white piqué guest bedroom curtains in black velvet. The effect is luxurious. A black hanging shelf displays knickknacks that range from cast-iron banks to chalkware kitties. "My entire life is on those shelves," Noelle says.