

RUSTIC CHARM: 87 COUNTRY-INSPIRED DECORATING IDEAS

Southern Cottage

**Cozy
COMFORT**

**132 Pages
of Autumn
Elegance**



From the Editors of Cottages & Bungalows
FALL 2014 | \$10.99 US | on sale until 8/30/2014



FEATHER YOUR NEST
With Antiques and Collectibles

LIGHT & *Luxurious*

Rustic style gets a delicate,
light-filled interpretation.

By Jolene Nolte
Photography by Pieter Estersohn

Layered & Light. An antique, weathered French hobbyhorse introduces patina and a sense of history. Glass accents like the apothecary bottles and table lamps with clear, sculptural bases amplify the sunlight. Interior designer Barbara Westbrook also chose the curtains in a creamy base with tan embroidery and a subtle pattern—"I've always thought the role of curtains should be to frame a view discreetly, not to distract from it," she explains.



Subtle Sophistication. A simple color palette of whites, creams and wood tones makes for an inviting, light-filled and down-to-earth feel, yet everything you see has more to offer on closer examination. The rugs are antique American hooked rugs, while the bench is a French antique upholstered in cotton fabric with botanical embroidery in cream, echoed in the tan and cream Roman shades. The artwork above the bench is an antique German sign with an inscription dating it to 1867.



When it came to this home on Lake Keowee in South Carolina, interior designer Barbara Westbrook, along with her project manager Kim Winkler, opted to reflect the mountain lake surroundings through a palette that amplifies the light. *Barbara Westbrook: Gracious Rooms* showcases this home and many others that reflect her expert work of tailoring smart and welcoming spaces.

The Light Side

When Barbara thinks of this home, she says, "The thing that makes it unusual for a lake house in the mountains is its light palette." Rather than the dark wood, greens and reds of many lake/mountain homes, this home incorporates white and light blue. The downstairs media room is an exception, but the majority of the interior's palette allows the light to saturate and enliven the home and those within it. "Whether we realize it or not, we each have a built-in light meter that, more than any particular style, steers the look and comfort level of our interiors," Barbara writes in *Gracious Rooms*. The clients at this Lake Keowee residence prefer lots of natural light.



Turn Back Time. With its beautiful lake setting, ample light, simplicity and yet careful attention to comfort, the entryway of this home beckons you to a place where you feel as though time is suspended. The wrought iron banister and lantern lighting pendant create contrast and evoke Old World charm, as does the antique grandfather clock. The fishermen's baskets add visual interest with their texture as well as fitting in with the lakeside setting.

"The role of all material in this house, soft and otherwise, is the same: to convey a quiet sense of luxury."

French Class. Commenting on the large sign in the dining room, Barbara writes, "A charming old painted sign that's appropriate for a Georgia country house. It also happens to speak French." In fact, the whole dining room seems to speak French while also feeling very at home in its Lake Keowee setting because of its warm, natural palette and easy-going elegance. The antique French trestle table paired with eight 19th century French walnut chairs slipcovered in tan cotton burlap and ecru linen and two wicker chairs can comfortably seat a crew of 10.

Refined Rustic

"For the rooms that flow into each other—foyer, living room, dining room, kitchen—I chose a creamy white for the walls, capped by a warm beige for the ceilings. During the day, these rooms are bowls of sunshine; at night, they glow like a lantern," Barbara writes.

Another unique twist Barbara gave to this lakeside home is a sophisticated combination of easygoing rustic and polished elegance. "Even though there are some rustic pieces, it also has a little bit of a dresser vibe," Barbara says. For instance, there are no characteristic rustic beams. Instead, touches like the slipcovered chairs with pleated skirts reflect this sophisticated instinct.

Part of this elegance comes from unique pieces. Many of these include European antiques such as the French bakery sign, trestle table and chairs in the breakfast/dining room. "Americans swoon over a European accent—and not just the kind you hear. I'm no exception. Introducing European antiques and materials into a room can make it more beguiling," she writes.

The Right Texture

Barbara also reminds readers that it's not just color palette that creates a space's ambience. "Materials have everything to do with setting a tone," she writes. The antique American hooked rugs, for instance, are an artful, luxurious and distinct touch. "I really like the pattern and color. They're like little pieces of art, but they're not terribly chunky. To me, there's refinement to the hooked rugs that gives that little bit of dressiness."

"A lot of the window treatments have a beautiful hint of a pattern," Barbara says. In the living room and master bedroom, the window treatments are Chelsea Editions with predominantly light colors so as to delicately frame and soften the light pouring in rather than obstruct it. The delicate patterns, Barbara says, "where it's just a little leaf, feels lighter than if it was a heavy, large pattern and gives it a lighter touch."


Another unique feature of this home is how Barbara and Kim treated the guest bedrooms. Both are tucked under the eaves and are mirror images of each other in terms of their layout, helping the upstairs rooms flow together nicely. To give each



Material Matters. "The television in the living room isn't housed in any old cupboard, but in an antique armoire from Brittany that has the most fabulous brass handles and studding." The hooked rugs here and throughout the house, she writes, "are like putting fine American folk art underfoot." Wrought iron accents such as the lantern chandelier and firewood basket add a sense of age and contrast.




Light & Easy. The nearly all-white kitchen amplifies the light and creates a classic cottage feel. Antique English oak barstools add some warm texture. For the cabinets with glass, beadboard painted in a bluish gray creates contrast. The circa-1930 holophane pendant light with polished aluminum cladding echoes the stainless steel appliances for a vintage industrial touch.



*"Americans swoon over
a European accent*

—and not just the kind you hear.
I'm no exception. Introducing
European antiques and
materials into a room can make
it more beguiling."

Luxurious Simplicity. While the overall effect of the room is a light-filled invitation to relax and breathe easy, each piece is carefully crafted and selected. Every detail is a study in delicate, subtle refinement, from the pulley sconces to the lace canopy over the bed down to the bed skirt and up to the coffered ceiling.



room distinction, they used different colors, green in one and red in the other, and unique pieces in each, such as the painted antique candlestick lamps and three antique mirrors hanging by ribbon above the headboard.

Perhaps the most delicately sophisticated room is the master bedroom. The light palette and simple patterns keep it feeling at home in its country environment, while elegant designs and subtle touches—such as a painted white finish on the bench at the foot of the bed and delicate work on the window treatments and duvet cover—add refinement. Then "the bed itself is very refined," Barbara writes. "It's a one-of-a-kind iron bed made by a craftsman here in Atlanta, and you can see the pretty curl on the top of the headboard where we've tied on the headboard there. [...] The light fixtures that are mounted on either side of the bed are delicate in nature," she adds.

"The role of all material in this house, soft and otherwise, is the same: to convey a quiet sense of luxury," Barbara writes. Even the powder room reflects this delicate take on rustic style. The wallcovering features fern leaves pressed under what resembles rice paper, while the mirror and sconces have detailed carvings for that extra bit of texture and interest. With inviting lightness and subtle but pervasive elegance in every room, this home is a gorgeous and gracious getaway.



Barbara Westbrook: *Gracious Rooms*
by Barbara Westbrook with Heather
MacIsaac, published by Rizzoli, © 2015;
rizzoliusa.com.

