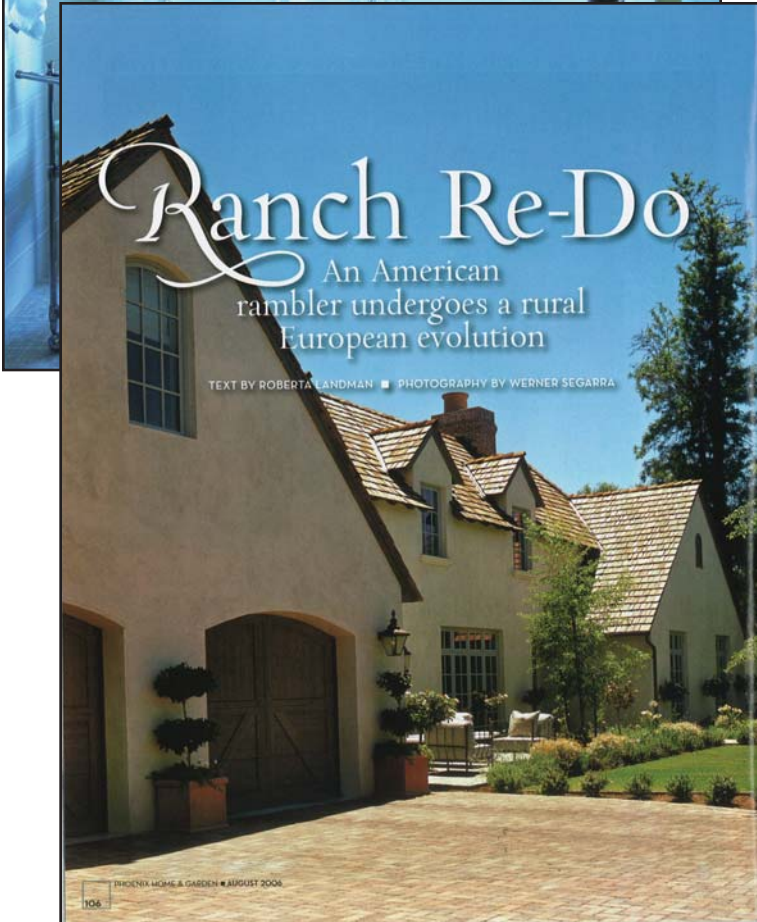


PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN



VALLONE

PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

How *You Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm After They've Seen Paree?*

Kathi and Ray Fidel can relate to the sentiment of this old song.

They were doing renovations on their 1950s Ranch house in Phoenix's Arcadia area when a French Country-style home up the street won their hearts.

The Fidels watched as the residence, also a Ranch Rambler, rose from the dust of renovation to become a two-story chateau—one Kathi says might have graced the countryside of France more than a century ago. Builder Brock Brunkhorst of Nance Construction Inc. had planned to make this his family's home, and it was not for sale. Short story: A second offer by the Fidels to purchase this "perfection of a house" paid off, Kathi Fidel says.

Redesigned by architect Mark Candalaria, a *Phoenix Home & Garden* Master of the Southwest, with interiors by Berkley Vallone and landscape design by Berghoff Design Group Inc., the residence charms both indoors and out. The interior has a family-friendly, casually elegant European ambience. The landscape is lush with green turf, ficus trees, and pots and borders filled with blooms.

In a neighborhood prized for lawns and "nice, wide streets with sidewalks on both sides," Brunkhorst says competition for buying Ranch homes is stiff. "There was a bidding war" for what ultimately became the Fidels' chateau. "The house had belonged to its original owners since the '50s, and needed a tremendous amount of work," he notes.

With renovation, all that remained of the old residence was a wall and a brick fireplace. Included in changes on the first level are a kitchen enlarged to restaurant size and the addition of a bonus room for the Fidels' two teenagers. On the second story, the house gained an office and a large master suite with separate sitting room and luxurious bathroom.

The look of a vintage French dwelling is enhanced by such



details as dormer windows, French doors, deep baseboards, plaster ceiling moldings, and custom metal air returns and vents with an antique look. Walls are plastered in a two-coat system, with a custom creamy hue contained in the second coat. "This is the old-fashioned way," says Brunkhorst.

Against this backdrop, Vallone says she worked with Kathi Fidel to create a "sophisticated rural European look." The setting invites with homey comfort, fostered, in part, by surprising combinations of textiles and other materials. In the living room, for example, upholstered pieces in linen and velvet make for a compatible blend. A floor lamp fitted with a mercury glass ball adds sparkle. Iron gates form the base for a glass-top coffee table. "It's beautiful, and it's a living room that is definitely used," Fidel says.

The same can be said for the rest of this livable house, she adds. And, perhaps best of all: "It was a dream stepping in after the worst part of a rebuild was done and behind us. The house was move-in perfect. We love it." □

PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN



VALLONE

PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN



Left: With thickly cushioned seating and a backdrop of mature trees, this sun-dappled patio awaits outdoor entertaining or private reverie.

Below: The family room is awash in cool, silvery tones, from cushy sofas upholstered in gray striped velvet to a vintage-looking mirrored panel above the fireplace. An oversize coffee table provides a perfect place to put up one's feet. Hanging above the credenza are nine prints from the Louvre museum in Paris. A TV hides in one of two custom media armoires flanking the fireplace.

Opposite: With its cafe sign bidding welcome and its antique chandelier, this quaint breakfast area resembles an old Parisian eatery. The reproduction table has a zinc top. Seating is wicker. Stairs lead to a loft office and master suite.

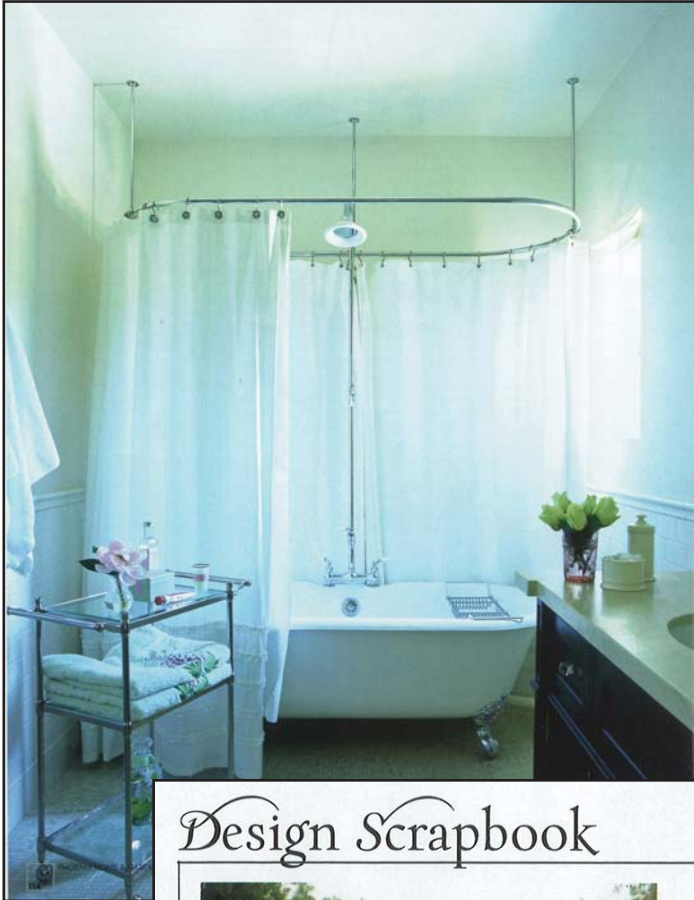


PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN • AUGUST 2006
112

PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN • AUGUST 2006
113

VALLONE

PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN



This page and opposite: Evocative of a former time, the girl's bedroom and bathroom are fit for a modern-day princess. The antique-gray carved and upholstered bed is dressed in a floral coverlet in soft pinks and greens. Shots of a bolder pink in the lamp and chair pick up the tempo. Draperies are made of embroidered linen. A clawfoot tub with custom shower curtain on a circular hoop invites a bubble bath. A metal cart stands ready to hold pretty towels and assorted lotions and such. Flooring is mother-of-pearl mosaic tile. Old-fashioned subway tiles form the wainscoting. The countertop is limestone.

See Sources, Page 206.



Design Scrapbook

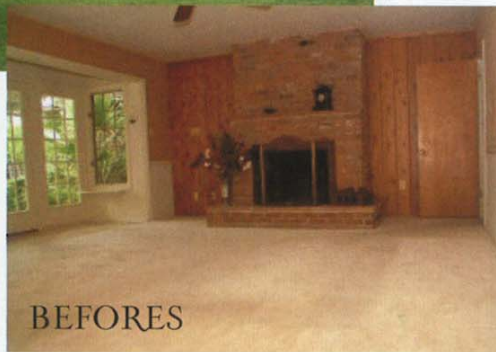


DESIGNER'S TIPS

■ "Stay true to the home's style when choosing a color palette," says interior designer Berkley Vallone. "Sometimes, the house itself or a piece of furniture will 'speak' to you. In the Fidels' home, the architecture had a very rural French feel, and this and also the first piece we purchased—an 18th-century French armoire in cream, white and blue—dictated the palette for the whole house. A Tuscan-style home would inspire the use of richer colors, such as golds and chocolate browns."

■ Pulling out hues from a fabulous "killer" carpet

Design Scrapbook



BEFORES

DESIGNER'S TIPS

■ "Stay true to the home's style when choosing a color palette," says interior designer Berkley Vallone. "Sometimes, the house itself or a piece of furniture will 'speak' to you. In the Fidels' home, the architecture had a very rural French feel, and this and also the first piece we purchased—an 18th-century French armoire in cream, white and blue—dictated the palette for the whole house. A Tuscan-style home would inspire the use of richer colors, such as golds and chocolate browns."

■ Pulling out hues from a fabulous "killer" carpet also might be the point for deciding on a color scheme, the designer says. "Starting with a rug makes the choices easier."

VALLONE