

The Houses of  
**VERANDA**



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## PROVENÇAL SPLENDOR

A recherché refuge in the South of France recognizes both period and place.



You already know the fantasy of the Provençal farmhouse, because its romance has been well documented in countless travelogues, memoirs and movies. The glowing plaster facades, the fields of sunflowers and lavender, tinkling glasses of rosé under the shade of plane trees. But Atlanta-based decorator Ginny Magher and her husband, Craig—who'd regularly spent time in France ever since their honeymoon and had long since fallen in love with the sun-kissed region in the country's south—didn't just want to read about that woozy dream or watch it unfold on the silver screen. They wanted to live it, and they were given the opportunity at the end of a winding rocky path in Paradou, an enclave in the Alpilles near Saint-Rémy.

When they found the object of their desire, it was only a shell with massive stone walls, large openings for doors and very few windows. But they were not deterred. They hired local architect Bruno Lafourcade to restore the *bastide*, or country manor house, according to strict French codes for building and restoration, while also adhering to the sensual visual vernacular for which the area has become so well known.

The two-year pursuit had the Maghers scouring flea markets everywhere, from nearby L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue to Clignancourt in Paris, for chimneypieces, mantels and beams that would look and feel correct. Furnishings followed suit: A simple antique Louis XV-style writing desk and cane-back fauteuil in the entry hall were both found in Fontvieille, near Arles. The kitchen has traditional terra-cotta floors and bright cobalt tile backsplashes. In the master bedroom, a custom canopy bed overflows with a floral undulating with vines. Magher also used it to line the walls.

For the Maghers, the farmhouse furnishes the kind of romance that far exceeds that of any book or film, and as a second home, it perfectly suits its halcyon purpose. "We come here to entertain family and friends," says Ginny. "It's like an open house all the time."

An outdoor seating arrangement abuts a former dovecote on the estate of Ginny and Craig Magher in Provence. Ginny uses another dovecote on the property as a studio. FOLLOWING PAGES: Except for an existing row of plane trees, the gardens were redesigned by Dominique Lafourcade, the wife of project architect Bruno Lafourcade. The rattan furniture was purchased in nearby Saint-Rémy.









ABOVE: A moss-covered vintage fountain creates a soothing focal point in the garden. Clipped boxwood globes and topiaries in terra-cotta pots add a layer of dimension. OPPOSITE: An 18th-century sphinx stands at the landing of the staircase in the entrance hall. A set of twenty Chantilly porcelain plates lines the walls.



The dining room feels lush thanks to a verdant shade on the walls and leafy tapestry upholstery on antique dining chairs. Magher made art from wallpaper by framing scenes from antique Zuber fragments. The overmantel was part of an 18th-century trumeau.









ABOVE: The kitchen is a casual space with reclaimed beams and terra-cotta floors. OPPOSITE: The old barn was converted into an orangerie. The dining table overlooks fields that bloom with sunflowers in June.



The master bedroom takes a twirling vine-and-flower pattern by Pierre Frey and repeats it to stunning effect: on the custom canopy bed, on the Louis XV-style suite of furniture and on the walls. The mantel is a reclaimed 18th-century original.



