

Vacay Time!
ESCAPE TO A SPANISH ISLE

Entertaining
ALFRESCO DINNER PARTY

Color Crush
GORGEOUS EMERALD GREENS

TRADITIONAL HOME

July/August 2017

**WEEKEND
IN THE
HAMPTONS**
26 IDEA-FILLED
ROOMS FROM
OUR LUXE
SHOWHOUSE

**STAY COOL
BY THE POOL**
CHIC PATIOS
& OUTDOOR
SPACES FOR
RELAXING

**Bring Home
the Look:**
PROVENCE
IRELAND
MOROCCO
MALLORCA

destination
Design

**PUNCH YOUR
TICKET TO
TRAVEL-
INSPIRED
DECORATING**

FRENCH connection

WRITTEN BY JENNY BRADLEY PFEFFER PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD POWERS





VINTAGE MATERIALS AND A COMMITMENT TO QUALITY MAKE
A NEW HOME FEEL CENTURIES OLD—IN A GOOD WAY



IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, MAY NOT

be the first locale that comes to mind when referencing Provençal-style architecture, but that was hardly a deterrent for Gerald and Theresa Alexander. One peek at the cornflower-blue shutters, terra-cotta tile roof, and nuanced stonework of the château-inspired home they share with their two children, and you'll swear you've been transported to the lush, rolling hills of Provence—minus the jet lag.

That's due much to the vision of builder and architectural designer Rob Glass and the inspiration he drew from a visit to the Château des Alpilles—an early-19th-century manor house turned hotel—in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence.

“Rob has a keen eye for truly making a home feel soulful and not too new,” says interior designer Ohara Davies-Gaetano, who worked alongside Glass to execute Gerald and Theresa’s concept. “This house conjures emotions of being in a place far away.”

Those emotions lean heavily on reclaimed materials—Dalle de Bourgogne stone, antique flooring, hand-carved doors, 19th-century limestone fireplaces, and vintage door hardware—chosen by Glass and used throughout the home. Authenticity was the cornerstone of

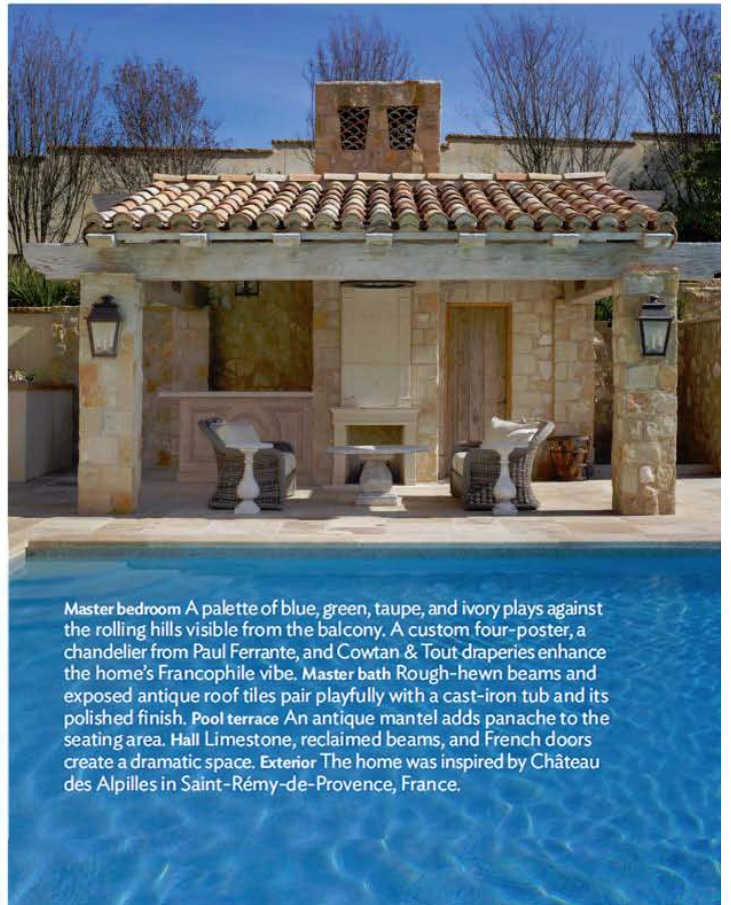


Great room Designer Ohara Davies-Gaetano incorporated subtle shots of blue on the armchairs as counterpoints to the stone walls and neutral linens. Family Theresa and Gerald Alexander with Anya and Austin. Preceding pages Organic materials—a Belgian bluestone table and wicker chairs from Gløster—anchor the outdoor seating area. Antique intaglios hang above a carved console table from Bliss Studio.



Dining room A tassel chandelier from Paul Ferrante hanging from the dramatic groin-vaulted ceiling accessorizes the custom dining table and chairs. The antique carved doors lead to a wine cellar. Kitchen The limestone walls, gesso-finished cabinets, and Parefeuille floors practically glow in the California sunlight. Office A Gustavian grandfather clock holds court under reclaimed beams.





Master bedroom A palette of blue, green, taupe, and ivory plays against the rolling hills visible from the balcony. A custom four-poster, a chandelier from Paul Ferrante, and Cowtan & Tout draperies enhance the home's Francophile vibe. Master bath Rough-hewn beams and exposed antique roof tiles pair playfully with a cast-iron tub and its polished finish. Pool terrace An antique mantel adds panache to the seating area. Hall Limestone, reclaimed beams, and French doors create a dramatic space. Exterior The home was inspired by Château des Alpilles in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France.



neutral shades simultaneously complement and soften the stone walls. A gilded cloud formation over the antique limestone mantel plus elegant side tables add polish while a pair of low-slung armchairs dressed in a dusty blue fabric provide color against the backdrop of the large-scale fireplace.

Instilling a sense of assembled history into the house was one of Davies-Gaetano's aims: "Since the architecture and the construction of the home were executed so well—truly creating the feeling you were in a home in the South of France—I wanted the decor to really feel like a collection of items, both new and old, collected from various parts of the world."

That worldly theme carries throughout the house, layering global elements against a strictly Provençal backdrop. The beautiful patina of an 18th-century Gustavian grandfather clock warms the home office. In the groin-vaulted dining room, seemingly disparate objects create a cohesive space. A delicate yet impactful chandelier adds a hint of romance and tames the arched ceiling and overscale custom table. Abstract art—offering the room's only infusion of color—flanks antique carved doors that lead to a wine cellar.

"We collected items from travels across France, Belgium, Northern Italy, and Spain," Davies-Gaetano says. "The melding of pieces from so many locales furthers the historical quality of the home while incorporating modern elements for everyday living."

Much of that living takes place in the family's stone-clad kitchen, where French farmhouse collides head-on with modern America. Woven rush stools gather around a large island ideal for family time and homework. Cabinets with a gesso finish merge with limestone walls. Materials—from the Parefeuille floors to the aged Massangis limestone counters—add a lived-in quality that suggests another place and time.

In the master bedroom, a sophisticated mix of furnishings and a quiet palette play against a breathtaking view that, if one squints, could almost be of French vineyards and fields of lavender. "We told Ohara that we wanted muted colors—blues, taupes, and ivories," Theresa says. "She created this space that was exactly what we wanted, peaceful and serene."

Paired with the intricately carved limestone mantel, dark herringbone wood floors, and rough-hewn beams, the soft scheme adds just the right mix of femininity and verve. In the master bath, the juxtaposition is radically apparent; a heavily patinated exposed ceiling lined with antique roof tiles playfully opposes an elegant tub with a polished finish.

"I love the fact that this home feels inviting, warm, comfortable, elegant, and refined," Davies-Gaetano says. "It was done with perfect respect to the past and present." ■

Interior designer: Ohara Davies-Gaetano **Builder/Architectural designer:** Rob Glass