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# VERANDA

*The Fresh  
New Look Of*  
**ROMANCE**







9117  
Luxus Mohair  
Chestnut

she says. But the grand room also needed layers to humanize it. Kasler used soft sherbet- and toffee-colored velvets and silks on the furniture to play off the busy carpet and the architectural stone columns. There are also several seating areas to ensure accessible nooks for relaxing or entertaining with ease. “It’s important to be chic *and* comfortable.”

The dining room skews formal, with walls papered in faux shagreen and a chandelier dripping with crystal teardrops. But elements such as a sea-grass carpet and an antique gray painted French sideboard keep things grounded. To give the room balance, a set of mirrored false doors were added to the left of the fireplace to match the working set on the right.

Kasler had worked with Baker on the library when the house was originally built. “I found a photo of an antique library in which the backs of the bookshelves were painted,” she says.

Kasler chose a rich Russian blue to achieve the same effect here, with darker pops of rust, red, and orange for contrast elsewhere. Those tones appear on a brighter scale in the masculine family room, with butterscotch-leather-covered stools and a bright blanket draping the sofa. Everything else was kept simple. “It’s a strong room architecturally, so we left the doors and windows in a natural finish to keep things casual.”

The family room opens onto the formal kitchen, which encapsulates the fine balance Kasler achieved. The limestone hood, zinc-topped table, and paneled cabinets have the feel of a Provençal estate. But a sleek hanging lamp and urbane Louis XVI-style chairs in a scuffed powder-blue leather point to more modern, worldly influences. It’s a blend that’s cultivated, cosmopolitan, and, best of all, warm. □

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“I LOVE THE JUXTAPOSITION OF AN UNFRAMED CANVAS PAINTING AND A FINE FRENCH CONSOLE.”

cious overstuffed cushions in the dining room. Upstairs, in the large master bedroom, an understated canopy makes for a luxe cocoon.

When upholstering all those stately French bergères and fauteuils, Schwab opted for sturdy natural fabrics and for cotton rather than silk damasks. “All our fabrics are approachable. They bring in a quiet elegance,” she says. When arranging furniture in rooms meant to feel uncluttered, restraint was key. “Since we wanted to keep an openness to the house, we didn’t fill every space.” Unexpected pairings further temper the formality of the antiques. “I love the juxtaposition of an unframed canvas painting and a fine French console.”

For the master suite, the wife craved the romance

of a boudoir and a bathroom that resembled a sitting room, taking elegant Gallic cues. “I’m a casual person, but a part of me loves the lines of classic French furniture,” she says. Sumptuous pale yellow silk curtains rustle at the bedroom windows. The bathroom is furnished with a plush settee. “Even the mirrored medicine cabinets look like trumeaus.”

Today it’s not just the homeowners who can appreciate the historic home’s transformation. The couple frequently host philanthropic events, accommodating a hundred people for dinners served below the dramatic double horseshoe staircase, or two hundred for cocktails in lofty, beguiling rooms.

“I still pinch myself,” says the grateful, houseproud wife. “It’s such a privilege to live here.” □