

Nighttime Is the Right Time in Our Nation's Capital

Southern Living®

AUGUST 2004

73 Pages of
Idea Houses

Details & Tips You Can Use

**Great Grilling:
Big Juicy Burgers**

**A Shade Garden
Summer Oasis**

**Easy Homemade
Ice Cream**


**4 Suppers
Made Simple**

**Sound Advice
For Furniture
Shopping**

plus:

- Garden Checklist
- Healthy & Light
- Pillow Project
- Food Finds

\$4.99US \$6.50CAN 08>



0 92567 10400 0

southernliving.com
AOL Keyword: Southern Living

Aged to Perfection

This brand-new kitchen achieves an antique atmosphere with unusual materials and subtle color.



Ask Jane White-Spinner what she wanted for her new kitchen, and chances are the last thing she'd say is perfection.

Imperfection was closer to the goal. "When the man came to apply stucco to the walls, I drove him crazy," Jane says. "He said he'd spent years learn-



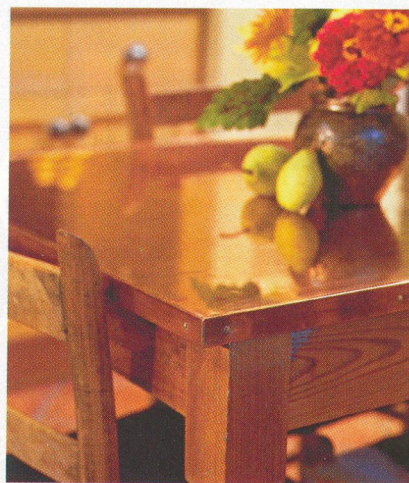
ing how to get things perfect, and I wanted it to be imperfect." She wanted dents in the walls and other characteristics of an older home in order to create an English cottage atmosphere.

Merry Accent

A quote along the top of the walls is a fun, decorative addition to the room. Jane made the stencils and painted the letters herself. "We actually had it in our other house. I enjoyed it so much that I painted it again," she says.

The quote, from Ecclesiastes, reads: "A man hath no better thing under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry."

left: The concrete countertop surrounds a farmhouse sink.



PHOTOGRAPHS: JEAN ALLSOPP

left: Neutral cabinets and walls set the stage for a playful quote. **above:** An old table finds new life with a copper top.

The words are fitting because Jane and her husband, Lucky, enjoy cooking, eating, and entertaining.

Something Old, Something New

Another attention-grabber is the kitchen table. A well-worn farm relic, it was updated with a restored top. A flat sheet of copper was applied to the surface of the table, and a copper rim was added along the edges. The rim has a lip that covers the edge of the top and is held in place with copper screws.

Another find is the pot rack hanging above the table. It was once used in Europe to dry clothes. The rack was lowered to hang wet clothes on it and raised to keep them out of the way. Because Jane has a modern laundry room off the kitchen, the rack now stores copper pots, metal baskets, and other gadgets.

Concrete Solution

When construction began on the house, Jane knew she wanted a sturdy and durable kitchen work surface. After first considering soapstone, she eventually chose concrete—an unconventional material that is gaining popularity.

"I love my countertops. I can do just about anything on them," she says. The material is durable like granite but has a more rustic look, just right for the perfected imperfection of this kitchen.

AMY BICKERS MERCER