

Southern Living Decorating

FALL 2003

STEP-BY-STEP



100 DESIGN
IDEAS
UNDER
\$100
plus
40 Rooms
You'll Love

\$9.95US \$13.95CAN



33>

0 92567 10439 0

southernliving.com
AOL Keyword: Southern Living

right: Nestled within a grove of trees and dappled in sunlight, this small but stately home sits back from the road. far right: An open living room, dining room, and kitchen make entertaining a breeze.

Call it what you will—fate, karma, or kismet—but some things are just meant to be. Take this house, for example. Years ago, architect Lea Verneville purchased a stack of vintage architectural magazines from a secondhand shop. He noticed an article on a small, charming cottage built by architect Frank Forster. On a whim, Lea clipped the article and squirreled it away. “Years later, when I saw this lot, I thought of that particular house—it was simply meant to be,” says Lea.

He took Forster’s house as his inspiration and made some definite changes to make it his own. “Being a bachelor, my needs were simple: I wanted a small home that would be my retreat, a home that would comfort, nurture, and inspire me,” says Lea.

The result is a new cottage that is both fine and fashionable. It’s small—a little more than 1,600 square feet, in fact. Lea explains that the basic plan is a 19- x 42-foot rectangle with a projecting side screened porch that serves as the friends’ entry. The first floor is the main living area. A charming master suite is tucked away toward the back of the first floor and leads to the open living and dining area. It’s cozy enough for two, but the flow and open spaces make it perfect for large gatherings. ▶



PHOTOGRAPHS: JEAN ALLSOPP / STYLING: LISA POWELL

HIDDEN Jewel

*This small but quaint home
proves that good things
do come in small packages.*



A screened porch is the perfect spot to gather, winter or summer.



above: A wall of windows sheds light on the wonderful furnishings that accent this cozy cottage. right: Lea's collection of artwork includes both serious and whimsical pieces on display in this charming home.

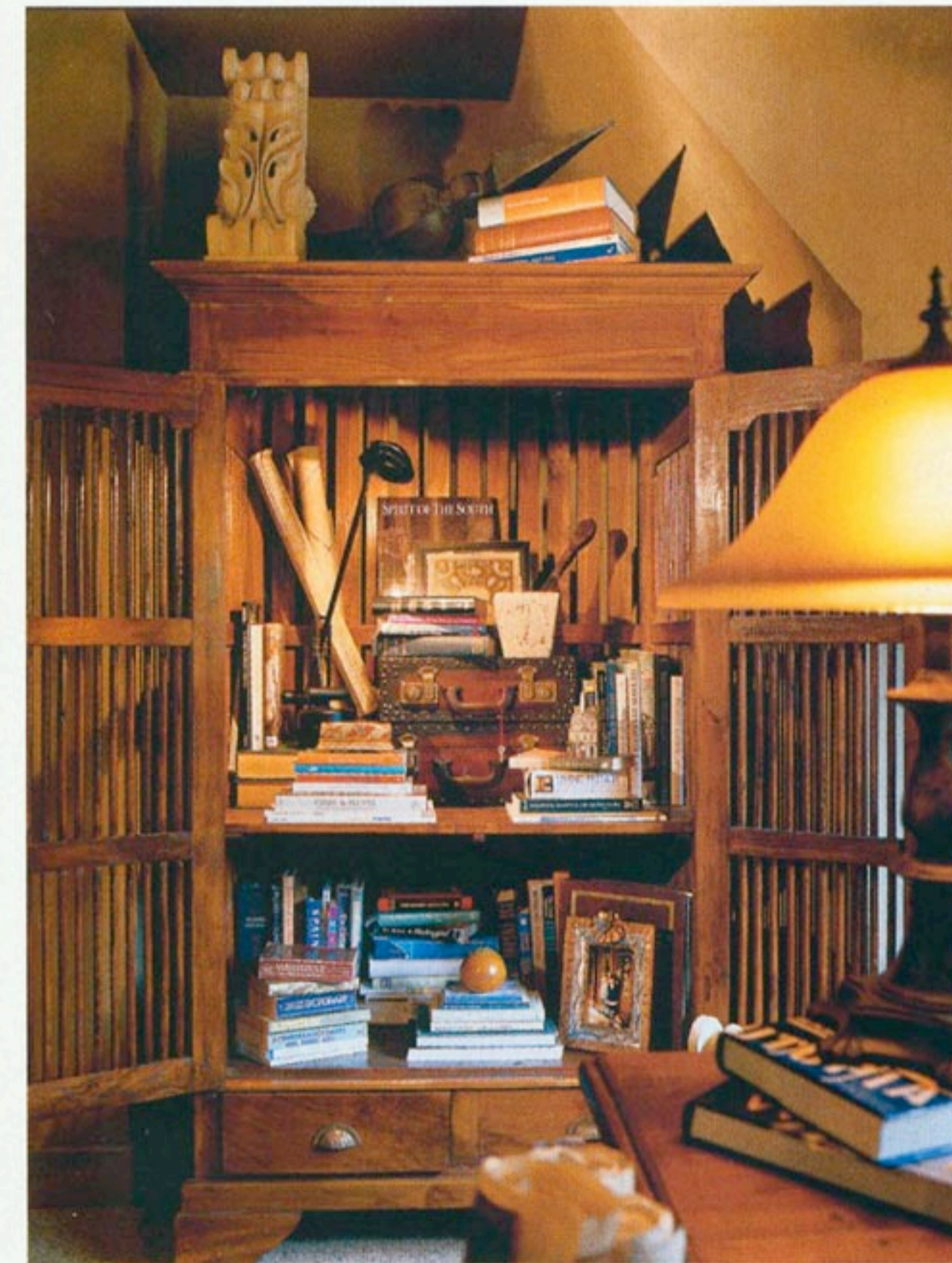
A stairway that leads to the second floor is an integral part of the house. "The stair is positioned as a discovery," says Lea. "It's located behind a wall with several large cutout openings that frame two quirky sculptures made of copper and plumbing parts."

The second floor is open to the downstairs, providing a balcony that overlooks the main living area. A sitting room, an office, and a private guestroom take up the mere 650 square feet of space found upstairs.

Outside, the home resembles an English cottage. A stucco finish and subtle colors offer definite curb appeal. "I wanted to engage the street with the design," says Lea.

Lea's dogged attention to architectural and design details paid off both inside and out. The interior of the house is filled with wonderful items of all shapes, sizes, and colors. Here a vase in the living room,





on an ottoman that doubles as a coffee table, holds dried hydrangeas. Pictures of his parents, special collections from trips, and an assortment of fun artwork serve to spice up more serious pieces.

Soft fabrics in neutral colors are punctuated by the colorful and bright. The warm wooden tones of antique pieces and masculine touches abound. A multitude of windows lets light into the space. Area rugs warm the concrete floors, and plants spruce up dark corners.

New furnishings mix with antiques and flea market finds. "One of my favorite features of the house is the old cypress louvered shutters purchased in New Orleans," says Lea. "I like the transparent feel they offer between rooms, especially at night," he says.

Everyone who passes by stops to look at this charming piece of architecture. Lea likes to tell this story about one such event: "With my kitchen bay windows cranked open early one evening, I overheard two ladies cycling past. One woman exclaimed, 'Mary, look at that cute house!' And the other replied, 'It looks just like a little jewel box.'"

This hidden jewel is just that. Encrusted with the loving touches of an architect and homeowner, it's a treasure trove of discoveries. ALICIA K. CLAVELL

100 DESIGN DETAILS UNDER \$100

- 1 Use a pair of tall candlestick lamps side by side on a tabletop. Elevate one of them by placing a book or box underneath.
- 2 Add life and color to a room with a variety of plants such as orchids, bromeliads, and palms.
- 3 Convert blank walls into gallery space by featuring your favorite framed prints and pieces of art. Use picture lights for illumination.
- 4 Utilize a deep windowsill as display space for noteworthy crafts and collectibles.
- 5 Find an old farm table to substitute for a conventional kitchen island, or have a rustic table built by a carpenter.
- 6 Leave the doors of an armoire open, and add a lamp to highlight pleasing arrangements of books and other objects.
- 7 Select muted wall, trim, and floor colors to give continuity to compact spaces.
- 8 Consider using a circular pedestal table in the corner of a room instead of the usual end table.
- 9 Give elegance to a small bedroom with beautifully framed prints and pillows sewn from rich fabrics.
- 10 Collect architectural fragments to use as sculptural accents. Feature them on bookshelves and tabletops.



left: Every nook and cranny in this home leads to a new discovery. Here favorite photos and accessories are grouped for impact on a table. top: Books, accessories, and favorite photos are neatly displayed on tables and in armoires. above: Shades of gold and black punctuate this cozy master suite.