

MARCH 2018

House Beautiful

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HOME
PROJECT



In the sunlit living room of a weekend home in Darien, Connecticut, designed by Ashley Whittaker, de Gournay Chatsworth wallpaper delivers springlike blooms year-round; the banquette is upholstered in a tweed and the tufted sofa is in a velvet, both by Clarence House. "It's a room where the kids can curl up on the banquette, or grown-ups can enjoy a drink before dinner," Whittaker says. Mirror, Mr. Brown Home.

IN FULL FLOWER

From a pastoral master bedroom to a living room bursting with blossoms, a Greek Revival weekend home in Connecticut is transformed by Ashley Whittaker into a floral fantasia.



On a skirted table in a corner of the living room, a Christopher Spitzmiller lamp—with a Bunny Williams Home shade—is in a deep blue that matches the lacquer of the library next door. The Leora Armstrong artwork is from Gerald Bland.

OUT OF THE BLUE

“As I design a room, I’m always considering the space next door,” Whittaker says. “What are the contrasts, what’s the continuity, what do I want to see more of? The library’s rich Prussian blue was inspired by the living room’s wallpaper—you see it in the bird feathers. I then pulled that deep blue back into the living room: It turns up on the table lamp, on the garden stool, and in the painting, as well as on the subtle welt along the seat of the side chair. Even the butterflies on the sofa’s pea-green pillows hint at that blue. You might not notice these little details, but they give both spaces a sense of harmony.”

PRODUCER LUCY BAMMAN PHOTOGRAPHER SWATCHES ALISON GOOTEE/STUDIO D



Like the look? Try these. **FROM TOP:** Chevalier wool in Soleil, Brunswick & Fils. French grosgrain ribbon in Peacock, Samuel & Sons. Chatsworth on India Tea Paper in Icefield, de Gournay. Tapa Stripe cotton in Sulphur Green & Off-White, Fortuny. Velours Olympia velvet in Frog Green, Clarence House. French Bullion fringe in white, Samuel & Sons. Zebulon cotton blend in Phenix, Pierre Frey.

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The story began with the enchanting botanical wallpaper that Ashley Whittaker selected for the living room of her clients' Connecticut weekend hideaway. Since this space is the first thing you see from the home's entry hall, "it needed to be a real showstopper," says the New York designer.

With its birds perched on branches blooming with roses, the de Gournay chinoiserie backdrop was the jumping-off point for Whittaker's design for the entire Greek Revival-style home—inspiring its fanciful mix of patterns and a palette that veers from jewel tones to sweet pastels. Among the unexpected choices: a dining room with lacquered aubergine walls, a butler's pantry in rich pomegranate, a breakfast room with baby-blue chairs and trellis wallpaper, and a master suite done up in lavender and celadon. Even small accents like the citron welt on the powder-room molding (a Whittaker signature!) were inspired by the living room's garden print. "It was truly the thread that stitched this project together," Whittaker says.

RIGHT: In the breakfast room, a punchy lantern from the Urban Electric Co. picks up the crimson tones in the floral Bruntschwig & Fils linen on the backs of the Oly chairs. The baby blue of Quadrille's treillage-patterned wallpaper coordinates with the Kravet faux leather used to upholster the chair seats. The braided rug is by Serena & Lily.



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The grid of the geometric paper offsets the formality of the chairs' floral print, so the room feels youthful and vibrant.



"I love taking a dark interior room and making it even darker!" Whittaker says of the powder room, which is sheathed in Tulu Textiles Balthazar Blue fabric. Sink, Waterworks. Mirror, Carvers' Guild. Sconces, Galerie des Lampes.



LEFT: A Phillip Jeffries hemp wall-paper brings informality to the master sitting room. Photograph by Yiorgos Kordakis from Voltz Clarke gallery. The desk chair is covered in a Quadrille fabric. **BELOW:** The master bedroom is its own oasis, with walls in Clarence House Arbre de Vie wallpaper. Table, Hickory Chair. Lamp, Hwang Bishop. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

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I'm constantly thinking about contrasting textures, like combining silky and coarse or velvet and linen. It doesn't matter how many patterns and colors you have going on—the room will feel flat if it's missing that sense of dimension.

