

French Connection

A historic home in Montecito, California, gets a lift that honors its European roots.

LIVING ROOM

For this sprawling space, designer Matthew O'Dorisio mixed vintage and new pieces to keep it "feeling collected and lived in." **Lounge chairs:** Mimi London in Fermoie fabric. **Coffee table:** Hollywood at Home. **Rug:** Stark. **Armchairs:** Hollywood at Home in George Spencer Designs fabric. **Curtains:** Carolina Irving Textiles. **Art:** clients' own.

interior designer Matthew O'Dorisio Interior Design and Decoration
writer Jessica Cherner / photographer Karyn Millet / stylist Lindsay Reid



EXTERIOR

"Pulling through the hedges, gravel crunching under your tires, it's like stepping back in time to the most romantic French country estate," O'Doriso says.



WHEN LOS ANGELES-BASED interior designer Matthew O'Doriso was tasked by repeat clients, a couple with three young children, to fix up their 1920s vacation home in Montecito, California, he didn't look further than the front door for inspiration. The four-bedroom, French Tudor-style home, with a central turret and immaculate landscaping, looked like something out of the French countryside, so O'Doriso allowed the interiors to follow suit.

Architect Sydney Stacey designed the home in 1927 and infused it with a European sensibility. "It looks like a little French chateau but then flips to Monterey Colonial style with exposed wood beams and terra-cotta floor tiles," explains O'Doriso, who honored the late architect in his

< LIVING ROOM

For a "formerly awkward area" in one corner, O'Doriso added an expansive banquette in an adventurous **Ferrick Mason fabric**. **Coffee table:** **Chelsea Textiles**. **Rug:** **Stark**. **Art:** Ulf Sandgren (left) and Ingvar Wiede.

revision. "It's an old house, so some rooms had the original curtain rods built into the wall. We had to build identical ones into the rest of the rooms."

Here and there, O'Doriso tweaked the initial design: In the daughters' shared bed-

room, he filled in an odd-shaped nook to make room for the girls to play. But, "We didn't let it lose its character," he says. Custom toe-to-toe beds were built along the length of a wall, maximizing utility and adding charm.

Like many of the rooms in the storied home, this bedroom is full of prints. "We used a huge variety of pretty patterned fabrics to give it an eclectic, modern French-cottage feel," O'Doriso says. One of the clients' favorites? A bold floral Ferrick Mason fabric covering a massive L-shaped banquette in the expansive living room. "It was a hard sell," he admits, "but the fabric is perfect for a banquette, and the clients love it now. It's fun when you have clients that let you do things like that." Another room in which he got to experiment with unconventional ideas was the kitchen, where the designer transformed a formerly tired breakfast nook with the same curtain rods he installed in several other rooms. Here, though, he used them as a place to hang back cushions instead of drapes: "It's the kitchen, so why don't we have some fun?"

The project took just six months to complete, but a celebratory spirit now infuses every room of the house. "It's casual," O'Doriso says, "but there's an element of formality to it, which is what makes it so beautiful." ■



Matthew's paint pick: Cook's Blue, Farrow & Ball. "So deeply pigmented, it gives you a jolt."

BACK CUSHIONS ARE HELD IN PLACE WITH CURTAIN RODS

"A little restraint allows you to really enjoy a room, instead of having to take it all in."



< **DAUGHTERS' ROOM**
The family wanted room to play, so O'Dorizio built both beds against the wall, opening up the space. **Beds:** custom in **Marvic**. **Textiles fabric, Rug:** **Stark**. **Wallpaper:** **Sister Parish**.



< **BREAKFAST NOOK**
"The original space was very big and too stark," O'Dorizio says. "There were talks about making it smaller." Instead, "We broke up the big nook with cozy back cushions and bright blue chairs." **Chairs:** **Hollywood at Home**. **Table:** custom. **Light:** **The Urban Electric Co.**

> **OFFICE**
Though O'Dorizio designed this space as an office, it's more often where the family watches TV. **Sofa:** custom in **McLaurin & Piercy fabric**. **Coffee table:** antique. **Drapes:** **Quercus & Co.** **Rug:** **Jamal's Rug Collection**.



PRIMARY BEDROOM

The table lamps arrived in a much brighter shade of blue than O'Dorisio imagined, but they were perfect in the space. **Bed:** custom by Valley Drapery & Upholstery in Robert Klime fabric. **Lamps:** Christopher Spitzmiller. **Bench:** Made Goods. **Drapes:** Zak+Fox.



PRIMARY BEDROOM

"It's a very tricky little house to place furniture in, but this charming cove was such a good moment," O'Dorisio says. **Lounge chairs:** Hollywood at Home in McLaurin & Piercy fabric. **Pillows:** Chelsea Textiles fabric. **Ottoman:** custom in Walter G linen. **Rug:** Stark.



PRIMARY BATHROOM

O'Dorisio designed the tiled room to match the home's European feel. **Floor and wall tile:** Ann Sacks. **Bathtub:** MTI Baths.



DINING ROOM

Watercolor artist Caitlin McGauley's hand-painted Tree Mural on grasscloth wallcovering makes the room feel like it's in a lush garden. **Table:** custom. **Chairs:** custom in James Malone Fabrics. **Rug:** Stark.