

Imagining how
this home could
have changed
over many years
birthed 1750s
details that
transcend time.

French. Evolution

PRODUCED BY LINDA HUMPHREY PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAISHE BLACK

Weiders crafted the
curlicue iron balustrade of
the stone staircase to
replicate grillwork found
in France.





LEFT: An intricately detailed marble fireplace in the living room was hand-carved by an Italian artist who lives in the hills above Florence. RIGHT: Though built in the 21st century, the home's design is based on an 18th-century European manor house.



Lovers of Europe's rural architecture, the owners of this new home felt they could imbue it with a similar old soul by imagining how their home could have evolved over time. Seattle architects Stuart Silk and Michael Troyer proved it possible. By using a 1750s house that had been remodeled many times as their muse, they created a courtyard layout that mimics many French country homes. The residence consists of three structures arranged in a U around a large square gravel forecourt. The main structure contains daily living areas and connects to the garage, which houses an office above. Facing the garage is a spacious studio and guesthouse built with rougher, more relaxed stone to add to the compound's beauty as well as its evolved-over-time look.

The stonework combined with rustic details, such as hand-wrought iron and a simple portico, lend a sense of age and humility to the home. The floor plan of the main house draws on a classical past but doesn't succumb to it. "A historical layout might have had a number of walls and partitions," Troyer says. "But we wanted more open spaces." Still, the interior is traditional in its symmetrical, cross-axial setup. The entry opens to a grand living room but is intersected by a hall that is anchored at either end by the kitchen and library.

Even the staircase was carefully designed to meet the goal of a classic house scaled for living. "We didn't want a *Gone with the Wind* kind of staircase," Silk says. "We tried to do a tasteful house that isn't pretentious. When you're dealing with stone, it can be hard to maintain simplicity, rigor, and scale."

Carefully selected antique materials and accessories throughout the house meet this end. The hardwood floor, for instance, was pieced together in the classic Versailles pattern by an artisan in the French countryside. In the end, that elegant old-world look is the secret to the home's success. Its stony facade suggests a land—and a sensibility—found oceans away.

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The golden light and *saturated hues* of southern Europe inspired the home's toned-down schemes and warm neutrals.



ABOVE: In the formal dining room, the golden hues of the fireplace's Siena marble inspired the walls' rich coloration. LEFT: The limestone on the walls of the breakfast room comes from Texas, and the reclaimed beams started life in an East Coast warehouse, but the room's rustic feeling is true French countryside. Iron light fixtures throughout are antiques the owners found during travels to Europe. OPPOSITE: The kitchen accommodates the cook while blending seamlessly with the rest of the house—and its imagined age. To that end, wood panels conceal most of the appliances, including refrigerator and freezer drawers.





ABOVE: An 18th-century bibliothèque adds architectural interest to the sitting room between the master bedroom and the adjoining bath. LEFT: Arched passages provide softly appealing transitions throughout the interiors. RIGHT: The upper-level master bedroom features a rare antique marble fireplace with its original cast-iron lining; it is centered between French doors that lead to a small terrace overlooking the formal gardens, woodlands, and Puget Sound.



THIS PHOTO: The formal parterre garden in the side yard holds more than 60 types of roses and 30 varieties of perennials. OPPOSITE: A fountain caps a view down a garden path.



Floor plan

