



OPPOSITE: A generous antique cherry table surrounded by French chairs painted creamy white anchor the dining area of Roxanne and Joe Stapletons' new great room.

# histoire *d'amour*

An 18th-century fireplace and antiques from flea markets around Paris spark an Oregon couple's love of country French style.

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## Before breaking ground

on their new house in Oswego, Oregon, Roxanne and Joe Stapleton decided to make the most of a few weeks in France. They hoped to find a few intriguing items at the Marche aux Puces St-Ouen de Clignancourt flea market, but a chance meeting with a French antique store owner led the couple to explore a shop full of fireplaces salvaged from old estates including an 18th-century limestone beauty. Like so many Parisian encounters, it was love at first sight. “We bought it on a leap of faith,” Joe says. “It turned out to fit within a half-inch of the space we have!”

Inspired by their find, the Stapletons indulged in a spree for all things country French—limestone slabs from an old Parisian chapel, salvaged terra-cotta tiles and butcher block from centuries-old residences, beautiful French fabrics, and a bounty of gorgeous antique furniture and decorative accessories. As their collection grew, the style of their new home evolved from French grandeur to something more intimate, timeworn, and patina-rich.

Surveying the new acquisitions, designer Mary Roberts relied on a neutral palette to highlight the piece’s finishes and keep the 6,000 square foot home rooted in cottage-infused reality. “The palette fits my philosophy perfectly. You should be able to stand in the center of any room and turn 360 degrees and not have any one thing jump out at you,” says Mary. Dashes of deep color enliven the rooms, including taupe and red accessories in the living room and emerald green in the kitchen. Souvenirs of the Stapletons’ travels are handsomely displayed throughout the rooms, conjuring a wealth of happy memories. “The shelving in the great room has so many antiques from our adventures, you can snuggle on the couch, take a look around and remember,” says Roxanne.

Throughout the home, elegant French antiques mingle with charming vintage pieces and reclaimed materials that infuse the space with rustic yet refined character. Much of the wood in the house is reclaimed, including the fir kitchen cabinets, which were built of wood taken from dry docks and river logs. “Because the wood is so valuable and people don’t want to cut down old growth, they’re harvesting logs found on the bottom of the river,” says Joe.

The house turned out to be everything the Stapletons desired: a new riverside home full of history, memories, and French ambiance with a touch of the rustic. “When it was all done, we knew this was a house we’d stay in for a long time,” says Joe.



The 18th century limestone fireplace, which inspired the Stapletons’ love story for all things French, matches the scale of the great room while encouraging people to cozy up and enjoy gorgeous lake views.





ABOVE: A vintage clawfoot tub, found in a wrecking yard and refinished, is highlighted by lustrous new tile and a graceful French Provincial chair in the master bath. BELOW LEFT: Built on land that formerly hosted work shacks for railroad workers, the house boasts views of an old train trestle bridge over the river. BELOW RIGHT: A refinished vintage sink, salvaged barn-wood floors, and shelves stocked with antique dinnerware lend timeworn charm to the kitchen. A built-in breakfast nook tucked beneath knotty alder open cupboards is an inviting corner for casual dining and conversation. OPPOSITE: Hand-painted green for an aged look, the kitchen island offers character and storage. The kitchen cabinets were custom crafted from reclaimed fir from Long Beach dry docks and Columbia River logs.



