

*Casual Elegance, Personal Style*

# Romantic HOMES

## Girl's Dream Room Makeover

**All  
About  
Lace**

**Thanksgiving Tabletops**  
**Water Garden Wonders**



[www.romantichomes.com](http://www.romantichomes.com)

NOVEMBER 2004 • VOLUME 17, NO. 11  
\$3.99 • \$5.50 in Canada



*French country decor helps to relieve the stress of one couple's hectic work days.*

**D**uring the work week, Rosemarie Pauli orchestrates appearances, speeches and fundraisers for a high-profile political figure in Washington, D.C., leaving very little time for her to think about her own schedule.

On weekends though, she motors out of the capital city to the country, seeking relaxation and escape. To ensure a comforting stay, she chose the allure of French country decor to help whisk her off to calmer waters.

"When I get across that bridge [the Chesapeake Bay Bridge], I know I am home," she says, referring to Seven Swans, the home she renovated with husband Bill Sadlack. "I immediately begin to relax." Together, she and Bill embrace the peacefulness of Maryland's eastern shore, but with an eye focused on another coast thousands of miles away.

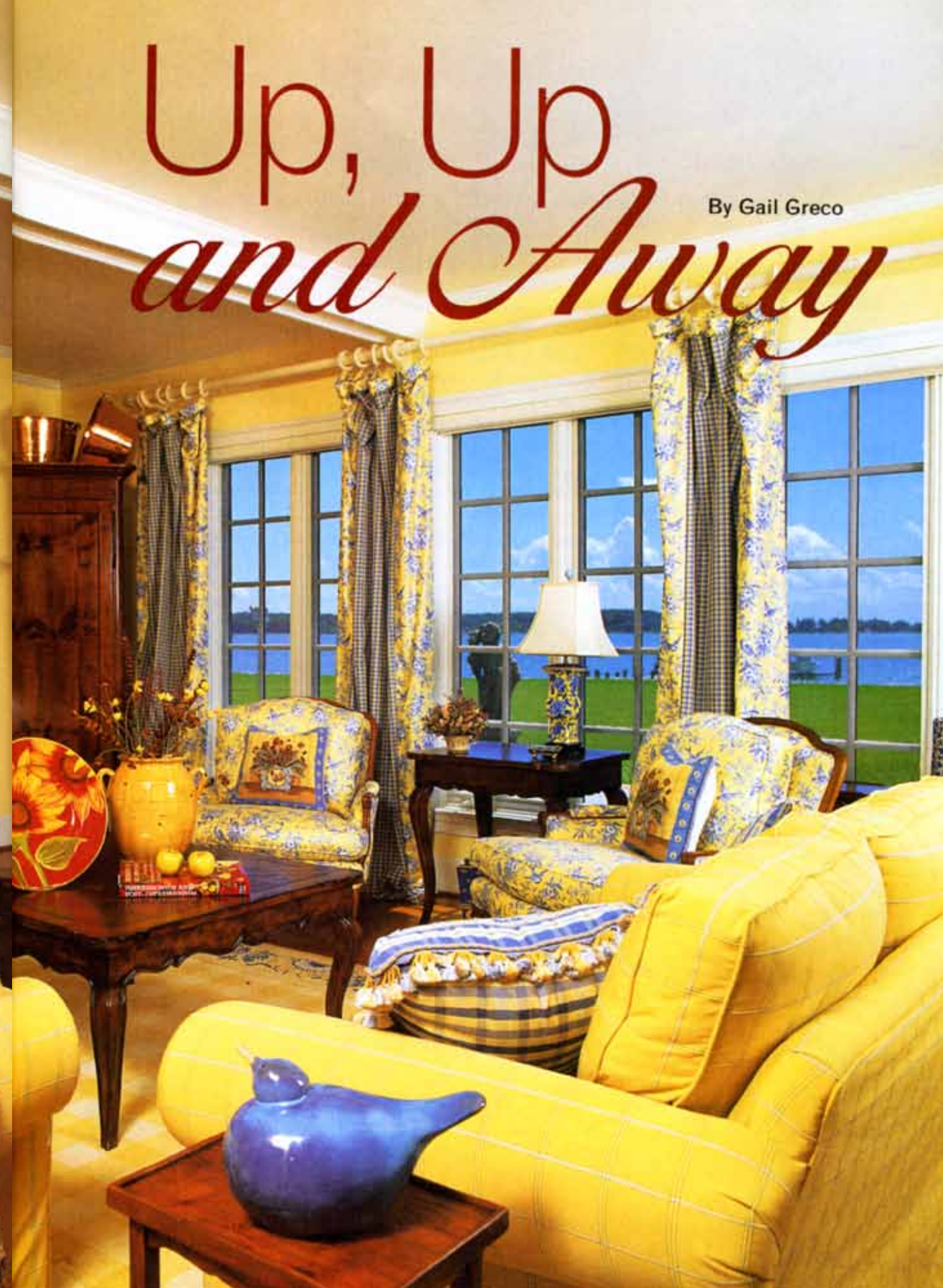
Just beyond the front door, a chandelier in the dining room glides into view, styled to resemble a hot air balloon. This soaring replica from the spectacular and legendary days of early aviation history in Paris (the first hot-air balloon was invented by two Parisian brothers in 1783) helps the rest of the home rise to the occasion and allows for a refreshing and different focus for French country decor.

The family room ushers in the Chesapeake Bay with blues mimicking the water, and yellows reflecting the Provencal sun. A brick fireplace, meant to look old in this new home, creates Old World charm. Fabrics on chairs and windows carry the colors, adding softness and billowy texture.



# Up, Up and Away

By Gail Greco



## Up, Up and Away

Yielding to her desire for escape from the city and remembering her own travels in Provence, she just let the colors flow.



"It was one of the first items I chose," Rosemarie remembers. "I was a little nervous, afraid it might be too whimsical, but it actually sets the tone for the easy elegant look I was after."

Art is another ubiquitous influence in the dining room. A stretched canvas version of Van Gogh's famous nighttime interlude called *The Café Terrace* and a dramatic, late-in-the-day landscape painting provide the

(Left) French artwork, such as Van Gogh's *Café Terrace*, sets the color scheme for walls and accessories.

room with its palette. The rich blue walls are as deep as sapphire, with tones bright enough to suggest Van Gogh's intent: adventure, excitement and a little mystery.

The yellow china on the wall and the table draw out the golden tones, highlighting the city street and country field scenes depicted in the paintings. Inflating the mood even further, wicker wine buckets mimic the hot



Destined for distant shores, a hot-air balloon light fixture was just the ingredient needed to transport a Maryland home into a French country getaway with a different lift.



air balloon's gondola. The baskets house cloth dinner napkins and Parisian souvenirs, meant for guests to take home.

Yellow melts across to the family room. But this time, the contrasting blue sprouts out of nature—from an azure sky and the shimmering turquoise waters of a broad creek, leading to the Chesapeake Bay. The color is more balmy than bold, caught like a gentle breeze on the sofas and artfully snagged on chintz for chairs. The drapes match the seating and hang from rings, accented by contrasting cuffs. A checked welting trims the cuffs and adds a finished look to the panel tops.

(Top) Cafe-style toppers are a clever way to soften the lines of typical straight-paned windows. (Right) The eat-in kitchen is completed by a table sporting cabriole legs and wheat-back chairs. Rush seats host Provencal check cushions.

Nurturing the natural country atmosphere, Rosemarie chose a dark wood French replica armoire (for the stereo cabinet) and a simple wooden coffee table. A glimmer of earthy red gleams off copper pots and other decorative accessories, adding a third shade to the home's color scheme that makes a particularly dramatic appearance in a guest bedroom.

That sumptuous guestroom blooms like a field of poppies with its brightly painted red walls. While such a color choice might have been easy for an artist like Van Gogh, Rosemarie second-guessed the deep color for a bedroom. However, yielding to her desire for escape from the city and



## Up, Up and Away

*Many of Rosemarie's ideas were fulfilled and even complemented by an interior designer she trusts.*

Although the accessories in this room appear to have been bought overseas, Rosemarie Pauli picked them out at a local gift shop.

remembering her own travels in Provence, she just let the color flow. Plus, once she found the beautiful creamy white mirror at an antiques shop, she knew it would settle down the room, bringing peaceful reflection and romance.

Many of Rosemarie's ideas were fulfilled and even complemented by an interior designer she trusts. One day she had walked into Bountiful, a

nearby Easton, Maryland shop, and found an antique sideboard with rustic cribs to hold Bill's wine collection. The piece oozed French country charm, with beautiful wood waxed to a fine patina. The antique had originally been hand-selected in France by the shop's owner, Jamie Merida, and imported to Maryland. Rosemarie soon realized Jamie's shop could fulfill all that she had in mind for Seven



(Inset) A majestic, creamy white mirror reflects and expands the room, adding a dreamy fairy tale ambiance. (Above) Clever window treatments accent the guestroom's cheery colors of yellow and red. Meanwhile, traveling hatboxes stand ready for a trip of the imagination.

## Up, Up and Away

*"I knew it had to be just right...something that would last and provide a totally different environment from the one I have during the week."*

Swans, and she wouldn't need to make a trip overseas herself.

To capture the flair of another side of France, Jamie coached Rosemarie on choices that resulted in a master



bedroom befitting courtesans at Versailles. "It's a bit of an anomaly," Jamie admits, "but being the master [bedroom], we wanted something grander and a little more elegant, but also something inviting and not stiff."

Together they found an unusual, traditional French print for the duvet and shams, with a teal tone similar to

the water outside the windows. Jamie encouraged deep pink and grey silk stripes for the window treatments in what else: a balloon style—to "move away from the predictable," he reasoned.

The master bed is an exciting French Colonial mahogany reproduction with carvings along the side rails

(Right) A balloon window treatment in silk and stripes inspires adventure and the unexpected.

and caning on the headboard and footboard. A subdued gray-green paint was mixed for the headboard to pick up some of the other colors in the duvet. Bill and Rosemarie can simply turn over in their luxurious bed and wake up to the beauty of the bay. Their plan for escape is working.

As they head down to the kitchen



Regal in appearance but comfortable in style, the master bedroom features a little bit of traditional and a lot of chic. (Inset) Teal and grey, yellow and pink—the colors of the home unite in splendor, seen in the details of this bedspread in the master bedroom.

for breakfast, another day is off to a promising start. Greeting them are arched valance window treatments, like cafe awnings that shield patrons sipping a morning beverage along a festive rue in Paris. The fabric weaves small hens on a field of dusty rose, trimmed in blue. Mounted on curved rods, the treatments soften the otherwise linear look of the straight windows. "It was a great way to change the style of windows without changing the windows," Rosemarie recalls.

The couple can take their own coffee on hand-painted stools by a center island or at a rustic, stained-and-chalky white table with wheat-back chairs. The table overlooks the family room, bringing the blue and yellow into the kitchen through French doors.

"It took time to bring the house to-

gether," Rosemarie admits—about two years in fact. "But I knew it had to be just right—not overdone and not trendy, but something that would last and provide a totally different environment from the one I have during the week."

As busy as she is, Rosemarie never leaves her work entirely behind. But phone calls, faxes, e-mail notes and calendar coordination are only little ripples in time when she is home at Seven Swans. Here she recharges her creativity and focuses her thoughts, proving that the escape from urban to rural and from stress to calm can be achieved through a thoughtful decorating mix of French country elements.

Styled By Gail Greco  
Photography by Tom Bagley