



Designer Roxanne Packham custom-ordered a sofa made from recycled wine crates to allude to the region's specialty: wine-making. The repurposed wood combines with burlap pillows, a linen tufted cushion and oversize casters for a vintage industrial edge.





VINEYARD *retreat*

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A wine-country home gets
a cozy—not cliché—
treatment, with natural décor,
soft colors and vintage flair.

dESIGNING YOUR HOME BY drawing inspiration from a region is a special way to create a unique, relaxing retreat. The homeowners of this darling cottage in the California wine country of Los Olivos wanted to do exactly that. However, as their designer, I was keen to avoid the decorating clichés that come with modeling your décor after a motif. Instead, we wanted to cull their look from the natural beauty of the landscape, where the garden beckons



visitors to relax under olive trees. Set on a charming street, walking distance to restaurants and boutiques—there's even a lavender farm and apple orchard nearby—the homeowners were looking to create a respite from busy city life that was soothing, serene and personal.

When the couple found the home it was dated, but it had good bones: hardwood floors, a cozy floor plan and charming window alcoves. My design plan was to draw references from the trendy neighborhood with fabulous fabrics, color and texture, while avoiding the cliché pitfalls of themed décor. No pictures of wine bottles, glasses or corks here! With a little beadboard on the ceilings, wainscoting and thick crown molding for the walls to create detail, I was able to transform this dingy vacation home into a haven for a few generations of family. Here's how the look is achieved:

Maximizing the alcoves into window seats was a great way to build out rooms for usable space. **Piles of pillows in beautiful fabrics add a luxurious touch,** making them great spaces to relax and take a nap, read a book or watch a movie.

HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT COLOR

Though I wanted the predominant palette to be fresh and white, I did want color in the window seats as much for function as for interest. I chose a subdued lime-green to complement the grapes, olives and rolling hillsides of the region. By using color in careful moderation throughout the





Roxanne painted the woodwork white to create an airy, fresh vibe. Natural accents and iron accessories in darker tones add an earthy minimalist touch.



before





A mix of cross-back chairs, and slipcover chairs creates a rustic yet elegant breakfast nook. A silver service repurposed into a vase balances the rustic elements in the home and adds sophistication.





kitchen before



rooms, I was able to create spaces that were calm and enticing instead of overwhelming.

With white walls, textiles carried the color throughout the room. Casual yet elegant patterns on linen fabrics by Raoul Textiles of Santa Barbara was a great way to infuse the home with local style. Yellow pomegranate fabric adds luscious color and wistful design, while French plaid adds a lovely traditional element.

MAKE THE SPACE WORK

The home needed to sleep 10 comfortably and accommodate just as many bustling and moving about the living areas. Maximizing the alcoves into window seats was a great way to build out rooms for usable space. Piles of pillows in beautiful fabrics add a luxurious touch, making them great spaces to relax and take a nap, read a book or watch a movie.

Vacation homes also require convenient storage for weekend guests, so I placed lots of hooks, luggage racks and baskets as well as the traditional drawers and closets in every room. I used all-white bedding and towels so clean up would be easy—white can be bleached so it always looks fresh and the owners could easily supplement their supplies. Except for the artwork, I didn't include anything that didn't serve at least two purposes. Though the house is far from cramped, there isn't room for anything that isn't beautiful and useful.

ADD RICH FINISHES FOR A MODERN TOUCH

To work in the wine-country theme in an unexpected way, we chose a sofa made with reclaimed wine crates. Giant iron castors and burlap cushions add vintage rustic charm. A large basket becomes art on the wall, adding more texture and mood.

Something my silversmith grandfather taught me is to make sure every room has a touch of silver in it. Using a few shiny accessories was a great way to balance all the natural materials in the rooms. Put something fresh into a silver bowl on top of some books to complete a vignette or tuck a silver tray or two into drawers for an elegant surprise.





ACCESSORIZE RIGHT

Original artwork is my favorite accessory for infusing flair and personal style. Building your art collection shouldn't be stressful—collect art as you see it. Likewise, take your time adding finishing touches to a room. Rushing to complete it by swooping up a whole collection from a single store can make your rooms feel like a catalog. Handmade treasures from artisans give your rooms inimitable patina and dimension.

Books and magazines are a must for cozy cottage charm. Use a bookcase or shelves to style small personal vignettes—great for storage and substance. **CB**

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Roxanne chose twin beds in pairs for each guest room to maximize the number of guests the house can accommodate. Crisp white linens not only look fresh, they are simple to care for and can be easily mixed and matched.





Roxanne maximized space in every room by building in cushy window seats and cozy beds into nooks. It's easy to find a spot to curl up and relax no matter how many people are home.





Bay windows were the among the home's best assets. This large window in the master bedroom was outfitted with a built-in banquet that is the perfect place for a nap or a mid-day read. Large European pillows and a scattering of extra throws makes the area soft and enticing, adding to the home's luxurious feel.





The Green House Effect:

Tickle your senses with fresh plants and greenery.

Something we all overlook when it comes to home design is our sense of smell. Luxurious scents can add that finishing touch that takes your rooms from cozy to downright intoxicating. Here are some ways to use natural elements to infuse your room with heavenly scents.

POTPOURRI, CANDLES AND DIFFUSERS ARE THE EASY CHOICE—just be sure to choose varieties that smell fresh and natural, not pungent and aggressive. Also change out your scents every few weeks, as your sense of smell adjusts to aromas quickly and you're less likely to detect a scent after a couple of weeks of exposure.

THE SIMPLE PLEASURE OF HAVING FRESH FLOWERS in the home is priceless. Change the water daily to keep the flowers perky and sweet smelling.

PLACING NEW SOAPS IN SOAP DISHES is an often overlooked room-fragrance idea.

LEAVES, BRANCHES AND OTHER GREENERY aren't the obvious choice once you have fresh flowers at home, however, adding foliage, leaves and herbs is a wonderful way to naturally clean the indoor air, and many varieties add a subtle scent to the room.

CITRUS IS THE KITCHEN WORKHORSE. Not only will it add vibrant color and serve culinary magic, it perfumes the air with a purifying scent.



Chic simplicity is the motto of the home, and the look is epitomized in the master bedroom. White heavily-textured bedding is simple yet luxurious. Dark-brown tones in the throw, furnishings and natural accessories give the room an understated grace. The finishing touch is a thick seagrass rug that gives the bed a sense of being elevated on a platform.



For more information on the Los Olivos cottage, visit losolivoscottage.blogspot.com.

Roxanne Packham is an interior designer, allied ASID, author of *Inspired Design* and founder of Inspired31.org, along with her daughter, Hannah.

