

Triangle

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2022

HOME

DESIGN & DECOR[®]

PLUS:
DREAMING
IN FRENCH

BOHEMIAN
CHIC



FUNCTIONAL *Style*



INSPIRED INTERIORS SUZANNE KASLER

SUZANNE KASLER TIMELESS STYLE

LIVING ON WATER

Padula chose the copper Fournier range hood purchased from Francois & Co. to be the centerpiece of her French country-inspired kitchen. Copper pans collected over the years double as a design element, and sconces from Visual Comfort offer task lighting. Pendants over the bar are antiques found from a dealer in High Point, and the custom Lacanche range is highly functional yet beautiful.



A French REVOLUTION

ONE MONTADALE NEIGHBORHOOD HOMEOWNER WAS DREAMING IN FRENCH WHEN SHE CREATED THE UNIQUE ELEMENTAL DESIGN OF THIS INSPIRED KITCHEN.

WRITTEN BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY

After living in northwest Cary for fifteen years, Libby and Bob Padula agreed it was time to build their dream home. With two kids grown and one teenager on his way out, they dreamed up a custom home and set about making it a reality.

Over the years, Libby Padula had been gathering ideas and plans for what she wanted in a custom home, but putting into effect what she envisioned was a task. “I’m only a designer at heart,” says Padula. “I bought my first antique when I was twenty-one—an old pine box that said Libby’s Fine Foods on it. But since then, my passion for antiques has grown, and particularly French antiques have caught my eye.”

A lover of cooking and entertaining, Padula spent a good deal of time designing her ideal kitchen, complete with a French-country feel and plenty of space for lounging and entertaining, as well as antique and interest-bearing elements.

“I knew I wanted a nice bright kitchen with lots of white, but I also wanted the warmth that the French-country aesthetic imparts,” she explains.

A perfect jumping-off point was the statement-making antique brass Fournier range hood she purchased from François & Co. Hanging above the island are antique pendant lights that Padula found from a dealer in High Point, and a pair of Visual Comfort sconces tie everything together from there.

In keeping with the French aesthetic, Padula customized a Lacanche range, which was made in France, and used it as the focal point in the kitchen. “I spent fifteen years cooking on a horrible stovetop, and I knew when we built this home that it was time to get the range I’ve always wanted,” she says.

For the backsplash, Padula wanted interest but didn’t want to upstage the range and hood, so she chose brick finished



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—LIBBY PADULA

with messy grout and painted white. Just above the range, she included a herringbone pattern. “The team installing it thought I was crazy when I asked them to keep the grout job messy,” she laughs, “but I knew exactly what I was envisioning, and the texture it adds is just what I was going for.” Paired with authentic Carrara marble countertops, complete with etching, from ROCKin’teriors, the overall look is thoughtful, warm, and decidedly French. “I know marble is finicky, but I just love it so much, and it’s the patina I wanted. I worked with Rebecca Rotella at Kitchen & Bath Galleries, and she helped me so much with the functionality of my kitchen,” Padula says. “I use every single inch of it, from the antique copper pots on the wall that I’ve collected over the years to the high-performing range. It’s highly, highly functional.”

Instead of a formal dining table, Padula opted for a sitting area to keep things inviting and warm. An interesting collection of midcentury-modern pieces, antiques, and thoughtful layering creates the perfect keeping room.

LEFT: Carrara marble countertops will patina over time, resulting in the Old World feel and charming aesthetic Padula wanted. Ample storage on the pantry wall hides appliances when not in use.

RIGHT: Padula recreated the charm of French-country kitchens by requesting a messy finish of her simple brick backsplash, which was then painted over white. Function meets design with a magnetic knife holder alongside an over-the-range faucet.

BOTTOM: The sitting room is layered with antique, vintage, and midcentury-modern finds. An eclectic mix keeps things “cozy and inviting,” Padula says.

Overall, the project was the ultimate love story of design and passions colliding, resulting in a truly personal, infinitely comforting, and enviously practical design—the unicorn of kitchen living. “Honestly, I love living in this kitchen day to day,” says Padula. “It perfectly accommodates my older children when they come home to visit, and it will transition well as me and my husband age.” ♦