

# A home in bloom



A landscape designer shows how garden charm can move indoors to create an enchanting, family-friendly cottage.

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THIS PHOTO: Homeowner Teryl Clario tucked an antique writing desk into a corner of her small living room. The desk serves as a table for the adjacent sofa and offers storage and display space. A casual linen floral slipcover dresses a \$5 yard-sale chair. OPPOSITE: Teryl and Chuck provide the push while Jack and Luca enjoy the backyard tire swing.





"I decorate a home like I design a garden. This is a cottage, so it needs to look and feel like a cottage, both inside and out."

—COURTESY, JENNY

—HOMEOWNER TERYL CIARLO



## redecorate by rearranging

One of Teryl Ciarlo's tricks: If you're tired of something, try it in another room before tossing it. The bench in her living room used to call the dining room home. The Victorian table by the master bed was ready for the trash bin when Teryl realized the space might work in the bedroom. Try new pillows on the tired old sofa, she suggests, or top the desk with different accessories. You might even repaint or lacquer wood furnishings, as Teryl has done with several pieces in the house.

LEFT: French doors in a small dining room lead to the garden and outdoor living area. To emphasize the doors and make the most of the ceiling height, Teryl hung striped drapery panels just below the crown molding. ABOVE: As a seasoned collector, Teryl requires storage and display space for all her finds. This pine Welsh cupboard makes a fitting gallery for pottery, silver, and china. RIGHT: As a landscape designer, Teryl uses her backyard as a laboratory. Her cottage garden includes camellia, boxwood, garden roses, ivy, foxglove, and topiary. The garden is the perfect place to use a mismatched grouping of found pieces. Teryl suggests creating a cohesive look by painting furniture all one color.



custom. I love beautiful things, but I prefer to be resourceful. It's more interesting."

—TERYL CIARLO



**ABOVE:** Teryl embellished a chandelier bought at retail with clusters of blue baubles. Hung in an alcove over the master bed, the piece gives the bedroom Teryl's signature romantic touch. **RIGHT:** Teryl brought a bit of the California sky indoors by painting the walls a calming blue. Then she used blue and white throughout the room, accented with Chinese blue vases and re-covering the small stool in a blue-and-white stripe. The painted bedside table was a garage-sale find. On the windows, she repeated shutters from the living room. Keeping window treatments consistent in a small home helps the spaces flow seamlessly.

## teryl's favorite things

The blues of the ocean, creamy whites of the sand, and lush greens of Southern California were the palette of Teryl Ciarlo's childhood in Manhattan Beach. Up the coast, a favorite grandmother owned a farm with 40 rosebushes in her garden, a magical place where Teryl spent weekends. "My grandmother was a fabulous hostess," Teryl says. "She loved to entertain, so I would help her cut and arrange flowers for her parties. We were always working with our hands to make things beautiful." These memories inspired the look in Teryl's home. Recal your own childhood for decorating inspiration.

### STEAL THE CIARLO LOOK WITH:

- Shells, coral, starfish
- Blue-and-white color schemes
- Soft, faded floral prints
- Bare floors
- Old sterling silver
- Shiny things such as crystals and gilt
- Camellias, peonies, and roses

### SHOP CREATIVELY

Teryl furnished her Southern California home by trading items with friends, shopping garage and estate sales, hitting flea markets in Paris and Pasadena, picking up a special piece while traveling in Italy, and re-covering her grandmother's chairs for the living room. She will buy at a retail store when a piece is just right, like the vintage-look coffee table in the living room or the chandelier over the master bed.







A palette of ocean blues, sandy whites, and lush greens bathes the Ciarlo home in the hues of the coastal California landscape.



## play it again

If you love something, repeat it. Crazy for seashells? Use them in several rooms. Place a large one alone on the mantel. Mound smaller ones in a bowl in the bath. Starry-eyed over sterling? It's not for the dining room only. Use a sterling tray to organize perfume bottles. Use a footed bowl to hold a candle or a large bowl to organize magazines in the living room.

LEFT: Twin boys require twin beds. Teryl cleverly uses every inch of this average-size bedroom by positioning the beds against the wall, on either side of a window with a garden view. She brings a bit of the garden indoors with picket headboards, while other elements come from her love of the ocean. Antique toys and prints mix with newer ones, giving the room a vintage feel. ABOVE: This Jack-and-Jill bath is the only one in the home, so it has to be functional as well as good-looking. Teryl brightened it with white paint and covered inelegant sink plumbing with a fabric skirt. RIGHT: The nautical theme is concentrated in the boys' bedroom, where sailing sweaters provide decoration. The dresser's finish complements the stylish cottage scheme.

