



In a beach house, vintage garden statues mingle with a Louis XV settee.



Watkins's Signature Style

CLASSIC FRENCH LINES *Montgolfière* chair, to the trade; cotefrance.com.

QUIET PRINTS *Plaisirs D'Indochine* cotton, to the trade; brunswick.com.

WROUGHT IRON *Tournai* table, \$10,900; authentic provence.com.



Bare floors and windows set off sculptural furnishings.



Sparkling elements contrast stone and weathered wood.

LUXE RESTRAINT

With a less-is-more approach, the late designer Babs Watkins created lavishly serene spaces.

She had a knack for calibrated rooms that split the difference between sumptuousness and simplicity to land on a gorgeous middle ground: sophisticated, romantic spaces trimmed in judicious frills that never wavered into the saccharine. In our 30th-anniversary year, we're celebrating the decorators who have made a lasting impression on *Veranda*, and the work of the late Houston designer Babs Watkins takes pride of place.

Watkins was a nuanced practitioner with a keen sense for color. One influ-

ential project in Galveston was cloaked nearly entirely in shades of aqua. In another French-inflected Houston house, the walls ranged from subtle pewter shades to powdery blues and creamy whites.

She placed furniture with the reverence of art: The sinuous legs of a wrought-iron table echo the arms of a crystal chandelier; the lines of a Louis XV chair mirror the contours of a gilt Spanish bed. Her secret ingredients—plenty of light and air—ensured that the results were always sublime.

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STATEMENT LIGHTING *Fleville* chandelier, to the trade; vaughandesigns.com.

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