

PALM BEACH COTTAGES & GARDENS

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Diversity in Design



Fresh Wallpaper | Housing Rebound | Vinyl Gets Chic



Refined Touches | An antique settee by Jean-Baptiste-Claude Sené (THIS PAGE) graces the entrance of homeowner Wolfgang Hofberg's study. **Euro Flavor** | A Philippe Starck light fixture (opposite) contrasts with an Art Deco-era painting by French artist Clément-Servau in the dining room. See Resources.



LANDMARK CHARM

THE OWNERS OF AUTHENTIC PROVENCE BRING A EUROPEAN FLAIR TO THE PRESERVATION OF A HISTORIC FLORIDA COLONIAL

BY SAXON HENRY | PHOTOGRAPHS BY TED YARWOOD



WOLFGANG AND SUSAN HOFHERR practice what they preach. The website for their popular antiques shop, Authentic Provence (with locations in Palm Beach and West Palm), declares that the garden is "an external expression of an interior world." Likewise, their 1925 Florida Colonial and its surrounding gardens are expressions of the couple's fascination for timeless beauty.

"We wanted to maintain the original character of the house," Wolfgang says. "In fact, we think ours is a perfect example of how

traditional interior architecture can be combined with modern furniture and accessories to create interesting surroundings."

With its finely crafted woodwork, the interior showcases a refined mix of contemporary furniture, antiques and fine art that the Hofherrs have combined with great success. This is due in part to Wolfgang's eye for quality, which he has honed during an aesthetically rich career. "I worked for many years in auction houses in Paris," he says. "Along the way, I collected many interesting items

The Right Mix | Contemporary furniture like Philippe Starck's Louis Ghost chairs (TOP LEFT) and a Mies van der Rohe Barcelona chaise (BOTTOM LEFT) mixes with an array of fine art and antiques in the combination dining room/front entrance. **White and Bright** | In the master bedroom, a French neutral leather headboard and crisp Italian linens (TOP RIGHT) are offset by bold German Expressionist art. **Piece by Piece** | One of Wolfgang's favorite acquisitions, a Georges Jacob settee (BOTTOM RIGHT), is part of an eclectic living room vignette that looks out onto a sizable back porch. **Open Wide** | In the living room, zinc rossettes salvaged from a turn-of-the-century New York building hang above twin Barcelona chairs. French doors open to a view of the pool (OPPOSITE), which has a Procelon mask fountain from Authentic Provence at the far end. See Resources.



Preserving Time | The Hobergs designed a built-in butch in the kitchen (OPPOSITE TOP LEFT) with wood from the original cabinetry of the 1920s home
Trompe l'Oeil | Wolfgang also designed the tauis bois dining set (OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT) in the back garden. **Passing By** | A walkway through the garden (OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT) connects the main house and the guesthouse. **Free Flow** | The muted fabrics and furnishings in the guest bedroom (OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT) exemplify Wolfgang's less-is-more design philosophy. A ladder from Holland is propped next to antique comb shell-shaped wooden papier-mâché molds.
All the Elements | Landscape architect Morgan Wheelock added planters with fruit trees (THIS PAGE) along the pool to add an infusion of color. See Resources.

and have brought them together in our Florida home.”

Wolfgang was born in Austria, and Susan studied fashion design in Hamburg and Milan. Their European background and continuing travels to the continent to acquire garden antiques has cemented their ability to mix periods and styles in that quintessential European way. They’ve commingled contemporary Philippe Starck furniture and lighting with German Expressionist paintings and African art, and paired Mies van der Rohe’s Barcelona furniture with Burmese Buddhas and exquisite French antiques. Yet the home remains remarkably spare.

“I definitely think less is more,” says Wolfgang. “You might say I’m somewhat static in my feelings, which I think shows in the interiors of our home.” While the rooms throughout are sober, pared-down furnishings are softened by dynamic fine art and sculptural accents, many of them antiques.

In the dining room, for example, an ultra-modern dining table and Starck’s Louis Ghost chairs look surprisingly comfortable next to an Art Deco-era painting by Clement-Serveau and an 18th-century console topped with an urn-shaped lamp made of lead. In the entry to Wolfgang’s study, a settee by Jean Baptiste-Claude Sené anchors a scene that includes German Expressionist art and Colombian artifacts.

Like the main residence, a small guesthouse has limestone floors and a mix of antiques and modern furnishings. The pale backdrop and dramatic canopy bed hung with flowing white fabric make the bedroom feel almost ethereal; only the art adds color. “I say that sleeping in the guesthouse bedroom is like sleeping in a gallery,” Wolfgang says.

A sizable porch on the back of the main house overlooks a 60-foot-long pool and a patio furnished with a



Unwind | Wolfgang and Susan Hofherr (LEFT) relax on a deck which is filled with Starck outdoor furniture. **Oversized** Six-foot-tall terra-cotta planter in the front yard (ABOVE) used by the Hofherrs in Tucson and is now part of their store's **Welcome** | With a history of their own, the front gates (we were designed by Wolfgang and manufactured in Austria) first met. **Puppy Love** | Susan and Wolfgang's daughter Xenia (THIS PAGE) carries Rocky, a Terrier mix, down a limestone walkway.

faux bois dining set that Wolfgang designed and manufactured. "Making faux bois is a hobby of mine," says Wolfgang, "something that I enjoy very much."

Though well versed in garden statuary, ornate furniture, the Hofherrs tapped landscape architect Wheelock, who has offices in both Boston and Tucson, to help them create gardens that would join the old and the new on the property while complementing the architecture. "In Florida, outside living is important, and I think connecting the outside and the inside should be done in a very fluid way," Wolfgang says. "Wheelock helped us refine our ideas, especially in terms of plants." Lush hedges and graceful gates, which Wolfgang and Susan had manufactured in Austria from 200-year-old limestone, provide privacy and an architectural landmark status.

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"We feel that it is so important to preserve this," says Wolfgang, who laments the destruction of speculative building has brought to many of Florida's personable early neighborhoods. "I will return someday, but this house will remain a part of America and I'm very happy about that." 🌞

