



# MAGNIFIQUE!

*Country French style is right at home,  
thanks to studies in France  
and subtle old-world details that nestle  
a new house in an old area.*

BY NANCY INGRAM



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**B**efore building, even the children in the Phillips family studied country French architecture. Their homework paid off with an A+ house. The Phillips home shows why the country French style is so popular, and it's a great example of "in-fill," or making a new house look instantly at home in an older neighborhood.

John and Jane Phillips and their three daughters knew the style they wanted—a gracious, old-world look of substance—and they knew where they wanted to put it—a corner lot that had been a wooded part of a Tulsa estate, nestled among homes built in the 1920s and '30s.

The Phillipses found an ally in Tulsa architect Jack Arnold. His career

*Period details and methods plus skillful landscaping help this new home fit into an older neighborhood. Friends have been frustrated searching for the new house on the street, says homeowner Jane Phillips.*

Architect: Jack Arnold, AIA. Builder: John Woolman. Landscape designer: Greg Dixon. Kitchen designer: Roger Sholmer. Photographs: Gene Johnson. Illustration: Carson Ode. 4,922 square feet.

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Here's a winning rejoinder to anyone's claim that "they don't build them like they used to." You can be equally true to tradition.

has taken him from contemporary to traditional themes, and his pursuit of authenticity has taken him abroad to study the homes of France and other European countries.

Arnold's growing collection of books and photographs provides a starting point for determining clients' tastes and goals. "Looking at things from the past can serve us well today, as long as we adapt them to the way people want to live now," he says.

Look at the touches of tradition that help this new house fit in among its old neighbors.

- Exposed timber and brace framing on the porches
- Mortar set even with the surface of the limestone and used-brick walls
- Brick sills and arched lintels
- Stone chimney with brick cap
- Cedar-shake roofing with multiple gables and dormers
- Used-brick edging along the lawn

Outside paving of stone and brick, set at floor level, unifies inside and outside areas, smoothing the transition between rooms and yard.





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The traditional tone continues inside, where the home's formality falls away naturally as you move from the front entry back to the family room and kitchen. To the left of the entry is

▲  
*"The space was there and we have volumes of books, so we thought 'Why not?'" John says of the library and bar, tucked behind the fireplace.*

the dining room; to the right, a sunken living room. The dormer windows that add so much tradition to the front facade add more contemporary drama inside, where they bathe the living room's vaulted ceiling with sunlight. French doors link the living room and a stone-paved veranda.

Linking the formal living room with patio space was natural for the Phillipses. "We are not a formal family," Jane says. "We entertain casually

▲  
*"Openness and volume were high on our priority list," Jane says. Notice how the transoms keep patio doors in scale to the room.*







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▲ *All the comforts of home are here with Jane Phillips in the family room and kitchen. The upholstered furniture faces a fireplace and television. Family mealtime is spent around the table behind the couch. A pantry, laundry, and powder room are nearby.*

and I did not want the living room to seem off-limits."

There's no "off-limits" question about the family room and kitchen. "This is the heart of the house," Jane says. "This is where we spend most of our time." The lower ceiling adds coziness to the space and, she points out, "from this vantage point, I can see into the living room and enjoy its scale as well."

Arnold borrowed another often-overlooked detail from the past in designing the wide archway between living room and family room. "In older traditional homes that were masonry-built, the load-bearing walls were thick," he says. "The archway duplicates that feeling and ties the spaces together."

On the other side of the living room, the master suite reaches back to a poolside sun-room. Its soothing

▲ *The dining room is the home's most formal area, when it isn't being used as a study hall for the girls. The graceful window arch recurs throughout the house.*



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spa is a welcome comfort to John, a surgeon. "After a long day in surgery, a soak in a hot tub feels great," he says. The spa had been destined for a detached poolside cabana until the Philipses thought about the convenience of adding it next to their vaulted master bath. The addition extends the master suite wing, which provides privacy to the pool area.

His daughters helped design their own bedrooms, including 12-year-old Sarah, whose room has a balcony and a loft play area. □

For sources, see Buying Guide, page 112.

The master suite includes not only this vaulted bath but the poolside sun-room beyond, complete with hot tub.

In 12-year-old Sarah's bedroom, Jane says, "we added dormer windows for extra light and built a little loft 'playhouse' above her bathroom."

Michelle, a college student, knew what she wanted in her bedroom at home—a window seat. The surrounding bookshelves were a practical addition.

