

# VERANDA

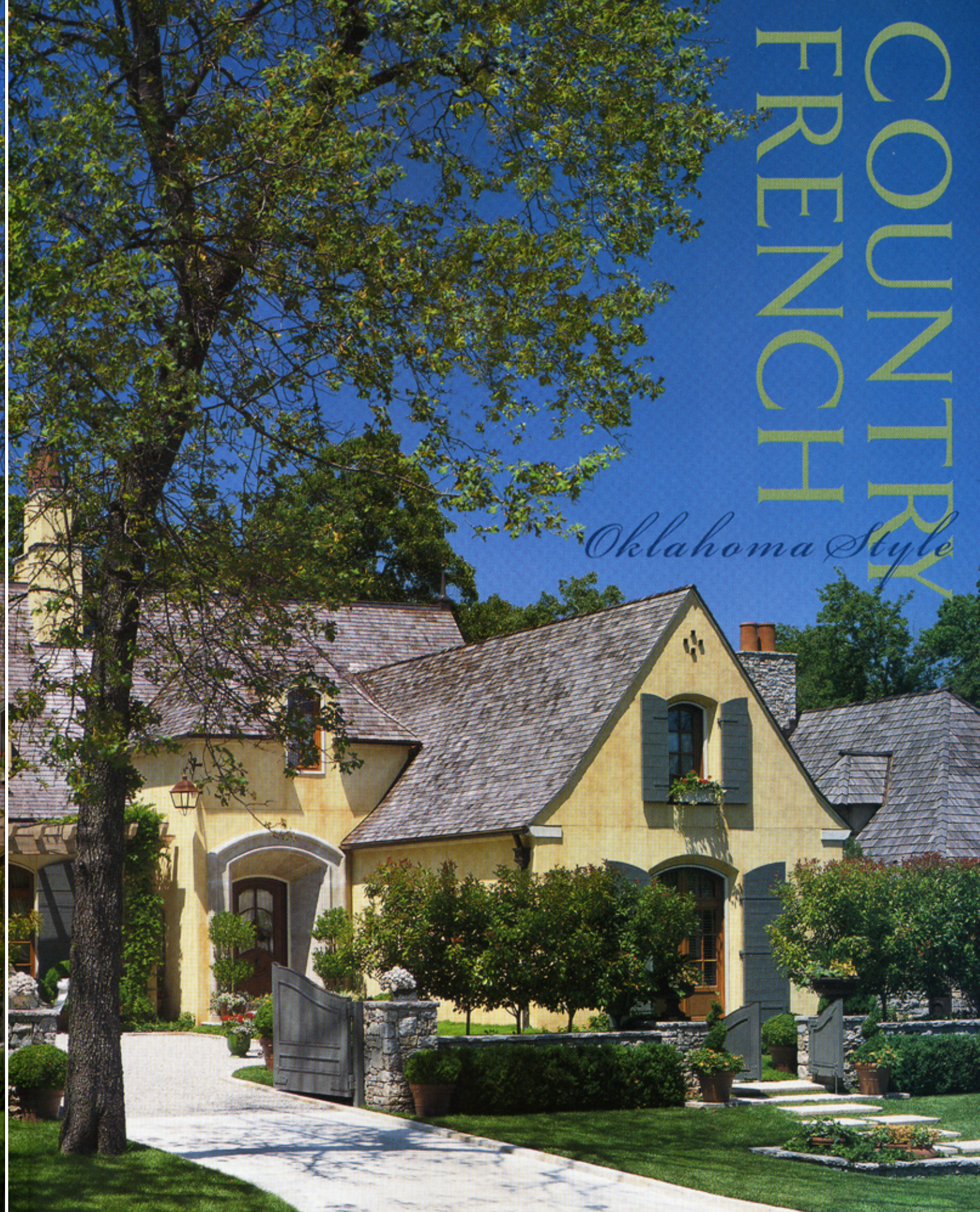


JUNE 2007 \$5.50US \$6.50CAN

0 6 >



0 74820 08785 5



# COUNTRY FRENCH

*Oklahoma Style*

INTERIOR DESIGN BY SUSAN ARNOLD ARCHITECTURE BY JACK ARNOLD  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BY DIANE CAGLE PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER VITALE TEXT BY JAN MAGIDS



Since a well-traveled client persuaded Jack Arnold to

design a country French home nearly twenty years ago, the Tulsa architect has dedicated himself to adapting venerable Gallic traditions to modern American life. Now, having designed hundreds of country French homes from coast to coast, Arnold has become a leading national authority on the subject. Flying to France as often as five times a year, he and his wife Susan, an interior designer who shares his affinity for the genre, strive to recreate in their designs the “romantic, relaxed feeling” they experience abroad. There is no better example of their country French aesthetic than their own two-year-old residence, where the details are extraordinary.

The architecture of the home is quintessential Jack Arnold and uses most of his signature features. Like the French farmhouses that inspire him, the couple’s home is only one room deep. He incorporated charming curved dormers and wood beams. To capture the changing natural light throughout the day, he created multiple places where light fills the rooms.

The home has an open floor plan and lush courtyards.

As both builder and architect, Jack understands how to adjust French design to American construction practices. “We build differently than they do in France,” he says. “Their houses are made of concrete block and masonry products, where we timber-frame our houses.” Heightening the European ambiance, he designed passages with thickened walls between rooms. He also designed the interior spaces with the couple’s French antique furniture in mind.

For the Arnolds, collaborating on their own home often meant late-night meetings. Susan had the final say on furnishings and fabrics: “It is very comfortable—not extremely formal or extremely casual.” She prefers a neutral, subdued palette and a delicate look, influenced somewhat by her Louisiana upbringing.

With its grand salon and French doors leading outside, the home flows well for entertaining. Painted pocket doors

OPENING PAGES: Architect Jack Arnold and interior designer Susan Arnold’s home evokes a French Provincial manor. Cast stone door surround and copper chimney pots all designed by Jack Arnold. Kemmerer Cabinet Company redwood shutters. Janneau windows and front door in Moabi wood. ABOVE LEFT: Scalamandré sheer fabric on door window. Antique bronze crystal chandelier. French mirror, engravings and lyre-back chairs with antique needlepoint seats, all 18th c. French garden table with Italian candlesticks. ABOVE RIGHT: Swedish banquette, c. 1800, in Zimmer + Rohde fabric. Louis XV trumeau, 18th c. Framed French beadwork, petit point and embroidery. Ottoman in Travers linen and Samuel & Sons trim. Drapery fabric by Scalamandré. Florals by Toni’s Flowers.



PRECEDING PAGE AND THESE PAGES: Louis XV tall case clock, 1821. Original Directoire needlepoint on fauteuil. French engravings. Mantel painting after Jean-François Millet. Louis XVI trumeau. Tufted armchairs in Old World Weavers fabric. Ardecora fabrics on sofa, striped armchair and outside backs of dining chairs. Keleen Leathers fabric on dining chair fronts and seats. Drapes and flanged pillows in Scalamandr  fabrics. Oval ottoman in Nobilis fabric. Louis XIV four-panel screen above console with Belgian jars as lamps. Antique Italian chandeliers. Iron tripod table.



*For Jack and Susan Arnold, their home became a laboratory for exploring ideas.*



PRECEDING PAGES: Pocket doors with beveled edges reveal kitchen. Jack Arnold designed cabinets for Bentwood Kitchens. Carerra marble wall tiles, countertops and sinks. Ann Sacks fittings. Provençal 18th-c. vaisselier contains Wedgwood and Staffordshire dishes and molds. Antique chandelier from Avignon. ABOVE: Powder room with custom marble sink and Ann Sacks fittings. Zoffany wallpaper. French terra-cotta floor. Trumeau, 18th c. Tole 19th-c. lanterns. Louis XVI chair with cushion in Scalamandré fabric. Pine *lit clos* doors, c. 1800. Antique bench upholstered in Pierre Frey fabric. RIGHT: In library, Louis XVI cabriolet fauteuils from late 18th c., upholstered in antique French toile. *Bureau plat* as desk with fauteuil in fabric by Bart Halpern. Iron garden table. Scalamandré fabric for drapery. Vaughan sconce. Maura Daniel lamp on desk. Rug by Design Materials. Swedish banquette, 18th c., with cushion fabric by Scalamandré.



separate the kitchen from the rest of the house. Prospective clients of each spouse are frequently invited to visit and view the Arnolds' work at its best.

Their home is also a laboratory for new ideas. Whether it is the scored concrete floors that Jack created to resemble reclaimed limestone or the unique irrigation system he built into the walls to water the flowers in the second-story planter boxes, he is always looking for a better way. Susan also preferred shelves rather than upper cabinets in her kitchen.

When elements have been unavailable in the marketplace, Jack has invented them. He established European Attic, now run by his daughter, Ashley, to manufacture copper finials and roof vents. He also launched European Copper to produce technologically advanced copper chimney pots.

"After all these years together and working with many clients, Jack and I really trust each other's judgment," says Susan Arnold. "His architectural style lends richness to my decorating, and we are usually in sync." □

ABOVE: Drapery, custom canopy and side panels in Scalamandré stripe. Bed skirt, bed pillows and custom wing chair in Pierre Frey fabrics. Bergère and tufted ottoman in Scalamandré fabric with Samuel & Sons trim. Pair of tabourets. Italian candlestick as lamp. OPPOSITE: Kohler tub. All fittings by Ann Sacks. Mirror by Jack Arnold. Italian chandelier. Chair and ottoman in Clarence House fabric. Wallpaper and fabric for drapery and tiebacks all by Scalamandré. Sconce shades in Jane Churchill fabric. FOLLOWING PAGES: In pool house, antique French folding chairs at trestle table; seat pillows in Perennials fabric. Clarence House fabric on chaise throw pillows.



