





The opulence of the formal French living room is enhanced by an exquisite crystal chandelier, while the entire room invites conversation, music, and conviviality.

A Design Journey with Marilyn Rose

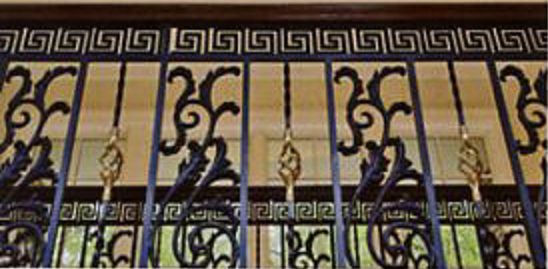
BY EVELINA EMMI RECTOR
PHOTOS BY NOEL ALLUM

For interior designer Marilyn Rose, contact with a client may be as brief as the time it takes to make a selection from the antiques and fine reproductions at her Locust Valley shop. Or an interaction may take months, as a design project proceeds from consultation to completion. In some cases, a working relationship can last for years, similar to that of a family doctor or lawyer. Happily, during her almost thirty year career, Marilyn Rose has found that the first encounter with a client can sometimes be, a la Casablanca, "the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

Almost a decade ago, Ms. Rose started working with a family whose future North Shore home was under construction. At their first conference, she was presented with a three dimensional model of the home, a brick Georgian, featuring a portico with bold pillars. That meeting started an ongoing design project which has resulted in a beautiful home that blends elegance, comfort, imagination, and warmth - truly reflecting the vibrant family that lives there. During the journey, a dynamic creative collaboration developed, and so did a special rapport.

Strikingly dramatic, the

front entrance of the home features a sweeping staircase that leads to a second floor gallery, which contains an oculus painted with golden vines. Myriad windows allow views of the terrace, garden, and pool to permeate the space. The contrast of black wrought iron railings with a classic Greek key detail and white Carrara marble floors with black cabochons is stunning. Regency chairs and a circular mahogany table add warmth and richness, as do gold accents on the railings, chairs, and table. Family photographs and a Baccarat vase of white tulips offer a note of welcome. The frames, and the



Above: The breathtaking front entrance contrasts light and dark, simplicity and complexity, against the backdrop of nature. Left: An oculus brings light and grace to the second floor gallery, above an elegant wrought iron railing. Right: Rich architectural details, pale yellow cabinets, and a vintage chandelier give character and warmth to the kitchen. Sentiment is expressed through the custom tiles behind the kitchen range. The wine bottles depicted represent the births of the family's three daughters.

elegant gilded candlestick holders that complete the table grouping, were purchased by Ms. Rose in Italy.

The formal French living room beckons with a subtle color palette drawn from an Aubusson area rug, fashioned primarily in

hues of beige, pink, and green. The walls are bathed in taupe, and the upholstered camelback sofas are covered in taupe tone on tone silk damask, with tasseled pillows. A magnificent five foot long crystal chandelier, circa 1940, hangs over a hand-carved



Italian coffee table with gold leaf and a glass insert top. Rolled-back ombre silk occasional chairs complete the seating arrangement. Simple ombre side panels hang from gilded poles to embrace the view beyond the French doors. The majesty of the



room is reflected in a mirror built into the custom woodwork around the fireplace. Flanked with shaded sconces, Louis XV reproductions, the mantle is accessorized with object d'art from the clients' collection.

In the family room, a cus-

tom-designed entertainment center in a mahogany finish repeats the exterior and interior column motif. Sofas in soft green and a Chippendale reproduction coffee table are surrounded by walls covered in a rich, dark green tone on tone striped wallpaper.





Above: In the family room, comfortable wing chairs provide a cozy spot for reading or conversation. Below: In front of a curved wall in the guest powder room, a wooden column holds a hand-painted gilded sink.



At the windows, a yellow linen fabric with a floral and wild game design celebrates nature within and outside of the room. Two over-sized wingback chairs flank the fireplace, with a round ottoman between them. The pieces are outlined in dark green to coordinate with the walls.

If the kitchen is the heart of the home, this home's kitchen is filled with heart. Cabinets glazed in pale yellow create a sunny atmosphere. Corbels on the island and the mantle of the range add character, and a French vintage bronze chandelier, originally made for gaslight, illuminates the island area. Custom hand-painted tiles behind the range not only reflect a wine connoisseur in residence, but also an endearing sentimental

touch: the wine bottles represented bear the names of the best wines from the years that the family's three daughters were born.

The guest powder room continues the white Carrara marble from the foyer, this time paired with beige and pale blue wallpaper. A curved wall shelters a wooden column that holds a hand-painted gilded sink with 24K gold-plated fittings. Above it is an oval gilded mirror. A *tole* *étagère*, crystal and gilt sconces, and vintage etchings complete the tiny jewel of a room.

The master bedroom is a tranquil and sumptuous refuge created with upholstered walls in a gold tone on tone stripe, crisp white woodwork, and a gold floral matelasse fabric, which is



Above: A regal and tranquil haven, the master bedroom features a hand-carved gilded bed, upholstered walls, and rich fabrics. Left: A charming bedroom offers the cozy shelter of a faux four poster bed, fashioned from floral chintz.



used on the bed and at the French doors. The matelasse side panels hang from rings on gilded poles, a simple treatment that enhances the garden view, which is further emphasized with two floral still life paintings. Under a tray ceiling, a hand-carved gilded bed is a focal point in a room that is truly fit for royalty.

Each of the family's three daughters had individual design consultations with Ms. Rose. As an example of the results, one of the bedrooms employs a sumptuous faux four poster bed created with a soft butter-yellow floral chintz fabric. A lovely peach tone, taken from the main pattern, is used for wallpaper, window treatments, and the upholstered bed. Custom-painted fur-

niture reproductions coordinate with the fabric. Since she has virtually watched these three young ladies grow up, it was a special joy for Marilyn Rose to help design perfect spaces for them.

Whether it's the surprise and delight of a trompe l'oeil Tuscan vista at the end of a hallway, or wall tiles that honor important family moments, or room after room of comfortable elegance, this home is a triumph of client-designer collaboration. Marilyn Rose has employed her unique gifts, helping to create a sophisticated home that fulfills the needs and reflects the tastes of her clients' warm and engaging family. And in the process, she has also forged a very special friendship. ■