

Food Finds Along the Mississippi Coast

# Southern Living

APRIL 2004

## Bloom Time Across the South

**Oven-Fried Chicken  
& Speedy Mashed  
Potatoes**

**How To Grow  
Prettier Azaleas**

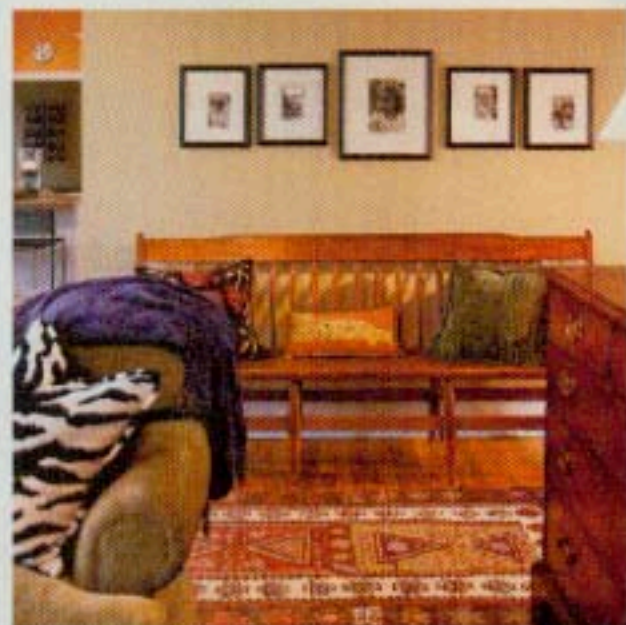
**Before & After  
Cottage Charm**

**Awesome  
Barbecued Ribs  
In Half the Time**

**Brunch Recipes  
From New Orleans**



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AOI Keyword: Southern Living



## A Room for Everyone

This space combines a couple's different styles for a look that makes both husband and wife happy.

Sometimes Susan Noble Jones and her husband, Robin, play a game with their guests. "We let people guess what was hers and what was mine," Robin says. It's not as simple as knowing that he, a lawyer, was an art history major and once preferred traditional furniture or knowing that she, a designer with her own business, thrives on contrast. In their Charlotte home, Susan and Robin blended their possessions seamlessly, especially in the family room where patterns, prints, and textures meld for a happy marriage of design.

### Merging Styles

It takes guts to combine a variety of fabrics, and it takes style to make the look work. In this room the down-filled seat cushions on Robin's wicker chairs contain the soft green found on



### SUSAN'S ADVICE

- Use various textures, such as a smooth cotton with a nubby chenille, and pull it together with color.
- Opt for inexpensive fabrics on larger items, and splurge on more expensive fabrics for accents.
- Put yourself in the room by collecting and displaying items that mean something to you.
- Use a bold pattern in small amounts so it will stand out.
- Create asymmetrical arrangements. For instance, the copper vases on the mantel balance the small painting on the other side. The painting works with the weight of the larger artwork because of its brilliant color.

above: A simple row of black-and-white photographs over a wooden bench offers a calm respite from the room's bold patterns.

the sofa, the yellow of the armchair, and the burnt sienna in the rug. The many patterns in the room work well together. The overstuffed chair's yellow-and-red print is small and lets the lighter color dominate. The rug has a bigger design in brilliant shades of coral, red, and green. The zebra-print pillows really pop because they don't compete with larger patterns.

Susan wanted the space to be comfortable for her, Robin, and Robin's two daughters, so she displayed a sculpture created by one of her stepdaughters on a shelf and hung her own photography over the bench.

### Defying Tradition

Another secret to the room's success is the eclectic manner in which treasures are displayed. The mantel arrangement, a composition in itself, is a prime example. A small, brightly colored painting leans against a larger, more subdued piece, while two copper vases stand side by side rather than on opposite ends of the mantel. The colors of the small painting repeat in the red-and-yellow lattice print on the armchair, while the large green painting mirrors the color of the chenille couch.

AMY BICKERS MERCER