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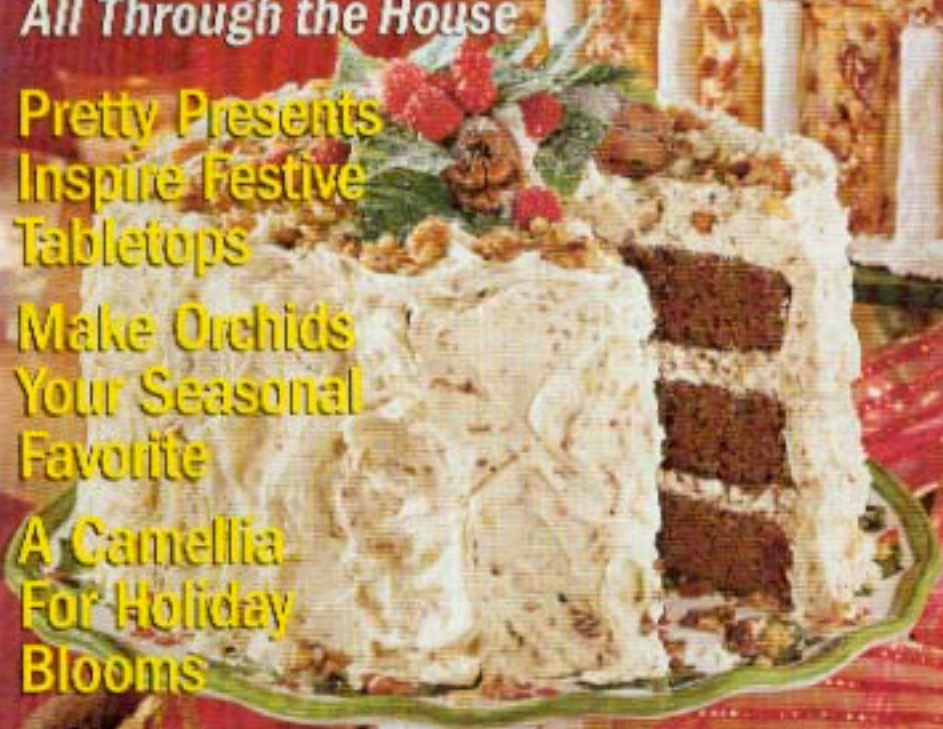
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Dining Room Dress Up

See how easy it is to soften the look of wooden chairs with a touch of fabric.

It begins with a classic story. A wedding takes place, and two sets of furniture collide. When designer Susan Noble Jones got married four-and-a-half years ago, her husband was the proud owner of beautiful dining room furniture. While the table and chairs were more traditional than Susan preferred, a simple fix kept both husband and wife happy.

Striving for an eclectic look, Susan knew slipcovers would be the perfect

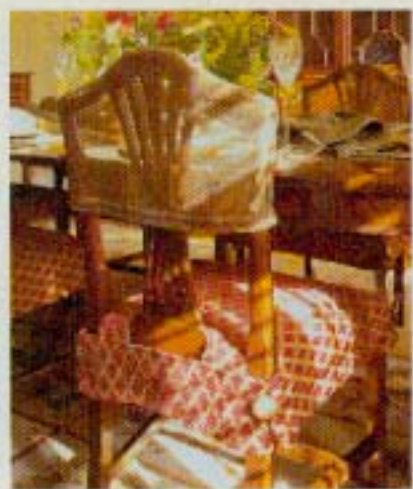
solution to update the chairs. Usually a slipcover fits over the entire chair, but Susan created a two-piece design. "My husband loves the chairs, so I knew I couldn't get away with a full cover," she says. The tops of the chair backs are wrapped in a sheer silk fabric. For the finishing touch, the edge is banded in a red-and-metallic gold braid. The seats are dressed in a tailored lattice-design velvet skirt that coordinates with the braided trim.

Covered buttons add a nice detail to the corners. The durability of the material makes it a great choice. "The play of the different textures against each other are pulled together through color," Susan says.

Because the slipcovers don't take a lot of material, Susan splurged on more expensive fabrics. The silk-and-velvet covers add richness to the space and give dramatic change to the dining room without a huge investment.

It's all about compromise. He gets his dining room furniture, and she gets a little fabric. Sounds like a match made in heaven.

JULIE FRAGIN SANDNER



SLIPCOVER CONSIDERATIONS

- Select durable fabrics. Heavy cottons or velvets work well on seats.
- For the chairs shown here, it took approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ yard of fabric for each cushion and $\frac{1}{2}$ yard for the back. This will vary depending on your chair dimensions and the width of your fabric. Measure carefully.
- Add fun trim to your slipcovers. Look at fabric stores for options if you are on a budget.
- Give your chairs a new look each season. A small amount of fabric will dramatically change the look of a dining room.

