









She may be a Texan, but, in her decorating style, Cathy Kincaid shows a distinct English pedigree. So when a young couple asked her to update their rustic Victorian-

style East Texas farmhouse with a fresh and airy, polished look, it was a natural fit.

Lightening up the house came first.
Cathy always starts with one key fabric, which then drives all her color choices.
The English floral she chose for this house established a soft, pretty palette of blues, yellows, and whites that she used throughout in various paint colors, fabrics, and rugs.

The cottage's small size and open layout prompted special choices in furnishings to help visually and functionally expand the rooms, so the family could kick back and entertain without feeling constricted. A painted console table divides the great room into separate living and dining areas, but its low profile allows the room to still function as one cohesive space. On the

dining side, the elegant tufted sofa works like banquette seating for the dining table but can also supplement the living room arrangement on the other end.

To prevent the house from feeling cluttered, Cathy painted most of the ceilings and trim a soft off-white. The high ceiling in the great room helps lend a touch of grandeur, but low ceilings in the two bedrooms make their smallness even more evident, so Cathy painted the ceilings in both bedrooms a receding blue to give an illusion of more volume. Throughout, she hung framed art to add depth and mirrors to reflect light as well as magnify the space.

In the well-appointed cottage, Cathy didn't let the small size take away from the opportunity to add her favorite dressmaker details: trims on upholstery, monogrammed linens, and handmade lampshades by designer Charles Birdsong. "He crafts incredible shades that are scalloped, pleated, smocked, or ruched," says Cathy. "Details such as these make a house look finished."

GET THE LOOK

PULL COORDINATING PAINT COLORS FROM THE FABRIC

"This allows the rooms to have different colors while still being linked."



EXTERIOR DOORS

Something Blue; sherwin-williams.com



GREAT ROOM WALLS

Pale Powder; farrow-ball.com



TRIM

Slipper Satin farrow-ball.com



GUEST ROOM WALLS

French Gray farrow-ball.com





DON'T BE
AFRAID TO GO
GRAND. A BED
WITH HIGH
POSTS AND A
PELMET
ACTUALLY
MAKES A SMALL
BEDROOM
SEEM TALLER.

-DESIGNER
CATHY KINCAID

GET THE LOOK

REPEAT ONE CLASSIC PRINT

"Using the same small print in several different rooms helps strengthen the color thread." Chairs and bed pelmet and skirt: Seafoam Small Check (1005/33) by Chelsea Editions (chelsea textiles.com), available through DCH; 713/961-9292

USE STRIPES ON THE FLOORS

"Striped rugs make rooms feel bigger and longer." Master bedroom and great room floors (similar look): Alma Stripe in Blue/Natural (WW486); elizabetheakins.com

