

FORTUNY

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A guest bedroom is fresh and inviting with blue glazed walls and blue and grey "Impero" used for both the upholstered headboard and billowing curtains at the windows.

A PASSION FOR PROVENCE

When Odile de Shietere-Longchamp first saw the home, perched on a hilltop overlooking a medieval city in southern Provence, she turned around and left. It was raining; the house was in disrepair, narrow and dark, and badly decorated. But a friend convinced her to return for a second look, and this time she fell in love. It was a warm spring night, the air filled with the scent of jasmine and lavender and the sun just setting with a brilliant display of pink, red and gold. Odile found herself opening the windows and letting the light pour into the rooms, and slowly she began to envision warm and inviting interiors.

Nestled in a grove of mature Italian cypress on three acres, the setting was spectacular, with room for formal gardens and a pool. Odile let the Italian cypress inspire her, her mind turning to thoughts of Venice. What the house needed was color, detail and texture—frescoes on the walls, rooms filled with painted Italian furniture and softened with the rich beauty and color of Fortuny fabrics. Now she understood what she would do.

Like many homes in Provence, the house was ancient, built around a centuries-old grain tower with a series of additions added over time. Odile lightened the dark entrance and narrow hallway with eighteenth-century octagonal terra-cotta floor tiles, which she continued throughout the house to welcome and entice visitors inside. She began upstairs with the master suite's bath and dressing room, where panels of seafoam green and silvery gold "Granada" were hung to frame French doors opening to views of the gardens beyond. A pair of French banquettes comfortably upholstered in playful apple green and white "Alberelli" was set by the soaking tub for a convenient spot to dress after bathing.

Odile painted the walls of the master bedroom in a soft grey-green sage to complement the garden views outside, and added classically inspired trompe l'oeil panels in the center of each wall for more visual interest. After finding an eighteenth-century canopy to hang above the bed, she knew at once that rich red and gold "de Medici" would be the perfect bed drapery, edged in soft olive silk velvet.

Her husband's adjoining study was centered on a handsome stone-and-marble fireplace highlighted with veins of orange and gold, and Odile continued this palette with Louis XV gilded chairs upholstered in burnt apricot and silvery gold "Barberini," a seventeenth-century design inspired by the Roman family of the same name.





St. Thomas-style sofas wrapped in raffia and a pair of overstuffed slipper chairs reupholstered with bittersweet and antique white texture "Pergolesi" bring a feeling of Caribbean freshness to the loggia, which opens to the backyard and pool.

The gold museum tones of "Caravaggio" are a rich background for leather-bound books and antiques.



Doors were removed from a built-in bookcase, making a handsome display niche with shelves upholstered in "Caravaggio."

