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TRADITIONAL INTERIORS

COLEMAN & KVALSVIK



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LETA AUSTIN FOSTER  
SALLIE GIORDANO & INDIA FOSTER



**BRIAN D. COLEMAN**  
Photographs by **ERIK KVALSVIK**

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Leta Austin Foster is among the twentieth century's most influential interior designers, according to *House Beautiful* magazine, and has been hailed by *House and Garden* as one of the "100 Greatest American Interior Decorators." Her attention to detail and dedication to always stay true to a client's vision are the backbone of her work.

Whether it's a nineteenth-century Virginia family home or a modern South Florida country club, Leta Foster believes that any space can be beautiful and comfortable at the same time. This philosophy has inspired the design of countless homes across the country. With an eye to fine detail, Foster and two of her daughters, Sallie Giordano (New York City) and India Foster (Palm Beach), have created comfortable, gorgeous living spaces along the East Coast that are shown here in exquisite photographs.

*Traditional Interiors* showcases Foster's designs, described in detail, that will inspire you in creating your own glamorous, comfortable space.





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## UPHOLSTERY & TRIM

Furniture needs to be comfortable as well as beautiful, and the upholstery done properly for it to be successful. The finishing trim should be the touch that coordinates and ties a room's soft furnishings together. Here we show a variety of applications, from richly appointed silk sofas to intricately stitched cushions and pillows and even delicately embroidered wall panels, to see how using the right upholstery and trim gives a room an enticing and tailored appeal.





**Facing:** Simple white organdy bed curtains and blue-and-white checked cotton window curtains with a matching smocked valance were chosen to complement the Mauny wallpaper from Paris. Note the monogrammed and embroidered bed linens; Leta began her Palm Beach shop with custom French linens to properly finish a bedroom's decor.

**Above:** China Seas "Lyford" of stylized pagodas and Chinese figures is an engaging backdrop for a set of

Victorian faux-bamboo furniture in a guest bedroom. The fabric and wallpaper colors were reversed, with white as the background for the wallpaper and blue as the background for the curtains and bed canopy. A plain white linen bias binding outlines the curtains, relieves the lively pattern; it was repeated on the cornice tops and corona above the bed. Beige-and-white silk taffeta gingham for the bed draperies and on a bench at the foot of the bed help anchor the busy patterns.



**Facing:** The original detailing of the breakfast room in this historic Virginia home was intact, from paneled wainscoting to a built-in plate niche. These architectural elements were carefully preserved and accented with Farrow & Ball's cheerful "Folly Green" and a vintage wallpaper from Mauny, in Paris.

**Right:** Classical elegance is emphasized in this entry foyer with faux-painted stone walls by Ivan Risov of Nimbus Studio. The walls reflect the stone floor and warm tones of the faux-finished wooden columns and front door panels. (Don't forget: doors are an integral part of the wall.)

