

YOUR HOME CAN BE FEATURED



Styled by Maurice Victoria; photo by Carol Schalla

IN A MAGAZINE



At the front door, a cowboy boot collection greets city slickers visiting Cielo Ranch, Jack and Elaine Palance's Cummings Valley home. The Palances' dining room, far left, was decorated around treasures brought back from their visit to Morocco.

COVER STORY

By Chelley Kitzmiller Correspondent

These days it seems there is at least one decorating magazine for every style and taste. The featured homes are picture-perfect, with colorful fruits and vegetables on kitchen countertops looking as though the cook just took a break; dining room tables are uniquely set with florist-shop flowers and fancy-folded napkins; and bedrooms look too perfect to be slept in.

Are the rooms sets or are they real? And if they are real, who owns the homes and how does the magazine find them?

That's a question I had asked myself many times but just never bothered to find out. Besides, what was the point? I'm just an average gal, with an average house in Tehachapi that is by no means architecturally significant. Three years ago, my husband and I renovated our kitchen and dining room and turned the bedroom behind the dining room into a state-of-the-art office.

Once that was finished, we looked toward revamping the upstairs — three odd-size rooms (about 1,500 square feet) whose original purpose was a mystery since there was no bathroom. We decided to turn the entire upstairs into a master suite, which we knew to be all the rage in newer homes. We redecorated the larger of the three upstairs rooms and made it the bedroom, turned the small center room into an exercise room and plumbed the third room for a bathroom. The result is stunning — a master suite to rival anything I've seen in a magazine.

Last spring, I sat down with a copy of Country Sampler Decorating Ideas Magazine and thumbed through the pages. I bought the magazine because the

See **DECORATE** / Page 14

YOUR HOME HERE

While the majority of homes featured in magazines are found by the magazine's creative director and by scouts, it is possible for a homeowner to solicit his or her own home. Here are a few tips to help you.

- Study the magazine to make sure it features your kind of decorating style. Clean your house and put all clutter away. Set tables not just attractively but with imagination, using things that may not be practical but look great.

- Use a good camera and good film to take your pictures. Digital cameras work well, too.

- Pick a bright, sunny day to take your pictures. Open the curtains, lift the shades. If there are still dark areas, bring in flood lights; even goose-necked desk lamps will help.

- Note that in magazine layouts most of the pictures are focused into the corner of the room rather than straight on. Take several shots of one room, from different angles. Make sure the camera is seeing exactly what you want it to see. Using a digital or a Polaroid is a good way to determine what your camera is seeing before you take the actual picture.

- Write a simple query letter to the editor. Put a number on the back of each photo and reference it when you describe it (note the way a room like yours is described in a magazine). If the magazine is of the how-to variety, focus on what you did to create a particular look, such as faux painting, stenciling, a window treatment, etc. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want your photos back. Include your name, address, phone and e-mail.

— Chelley Kitzmiller



Styled by Maurice Victoria; photo by Carol Schalla

Chelley Kitzmiller's newly renovated kitchen is a gourmet cook's dream. The see-through fireplace is testimony to the author's love of the Old West. Pieces of blue bottles, vintage tins and cowboy memorabilia were set between bricks to give the structure the illusion of age and disrepair. The stove top is a hand-painted tile reproduction of an original Tehachapi pear crate label.



Decorate

Continued from Page 13

cover featured a house decorated in "camp" style, which has similarities to my Old West decorating scheme.

Many times over the years, I've asked myself how the magazine powers-that-be find the homes they feature within their pages. I decided the only way to find out was to call them up and ask. The editorial page provided me with a phone

number. The woman who answered put me through to the editor, Michael R. Morris. After describing my home to him, he suggested I send him pictures of my rooms and descriptions. I warned him that I wasn't a professional photographer but he said not to worry; send them anyway. And so I did.

Next thing I knew, he was calling me back, saying he would like to feature my new kitchen and upstairs bathroom in the upcoming Kitchen and Bath Issue. I then asked if he would also like to see a couple of my friend's houses.

ON THE COVER

Previously just an empty and difficult space, this dormer is reborn as an elegant bathing area.

Styled by Maurice Victoria; photo by Carol Schalla

The answer to that question appeared in the April issue of Country Sampler Decorating Ideas Magazine, featuring Elaine and Jack Palance's Cummings Valley ranch home. Elaine, an interior designer by trade, owns and operates Cielo Ranch Designs, which specializes in fabricating fabulous, one-of-a-kind bedroom ensembles. Jack is perhaps known by most for his role as Duke Washburn in "City Slickers II." In spite of his movie star fame, the Palances' medium-size ranch home is modest in size and design.

Elaine needed an animal- and grandchild-friendly atmosphere without sacrificing the casual elegance she enjoys. Mexican pavers throughout the downstairs helped her achieve that goal. Textiles of varying textures and patterns are used throughout, along with "City Slickers" accessories to give it that western flair.

"My style has been greatly influenced by the fact that I've been so blessed to have done so much traveling," Elaine said. "As a teen-ager, I lived in South America. Then, for 16 years, I was a sky goddess with an international airline. And from the time Jack and I met, we traveled almost everywhere as a couple, picking up art and decorating items that pleased us.

"As a result, our home is a little like an ice cream sundae — a little chocolate, a little vanilla, a little strawberry and then a scoop of pistachio thrown in for interest."

Lyndee and Scott Richmond's home is scheduled to appear in the October issue of Country Sampler Decorating Ideas, which will be available in stores Sept. 1. When the Richmonds bought the home, it was a nightmare, much too small for the family of six and badly in need of repair. Rising like a phoenix out of the rubble, the home today is testimony to good planning and a vivid imagination.

"It was the property, not the house on it, which attracted me," Lyndee said. "The house was such a fixer-upper that we didn't know where to begin, so we tore most of it down." The decor of the rebuilt home is a study in classic country elegance. Lyndee's vintage flow blue china collection is used as a continuing theme throughout the downstairs. Going where few people dare to go, Lyndee has used brick red and goldenrod yellow paint to make her walls



Photo by Chelley Kitzmiller

Stylist Sunday Hendrickson and photographer Rick Szczechowski look for just the right angle to photograph Scott and Lyndee Richmond's cheerful back entry.

Dining Out

GRAND OPENING

Sam's Trattoria

Italian Restaurant

Hours:
Monday
 11:30am - 3:00pm
Tuesday thru Friday
 11:30am - 3:00pm
 Dinner 5:00pm - 9:00pm
Sat. 4pm-10pm
 Now Open Sunday For
 Dinner 5:00pm - 9:00pm

15% Disc.
WITH THIS
AD

-Pasta
-Veal
-Chicken
-Seafood Dishes

20454 Nordhoff, Chatsworth
 (cross street Mason) **818•772•9366**

Bellissimo!

Fine Northern Italian Cuisine near Warner Center and located in Red Lion Inn & Suites.

Cavaliere

R I S T O R A N T E

20200 Sherman Way, Canoga Park Ca. 91306 Reservations: (818) 676-0885

HOUSE CALLS

Some magazines that accept homeowners' queries include:

Country Sampler Decorating Ideas and Country Sampler Decorating Ideas Kitchen & Bath Makeovers: Mike Morris, Editor, 707 Kautz Road, St. Charles, IL 60174; e-mail: mmorris@sampler.emmis.com. Mail and e-mail queries accepted.

Victoria Magazine: Cynthia Searight, Creative Director, 224 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019. Mail queries only.

Victorian Homes: Erika Kotite, Editor, 265 S. Anita Drive, Suite 120, Orange, CA 92868-3310. Features homes built between 1850 and 1905. Gardens, too. Mail queries accepted.

Romantic Homes: Rebecca Itner, Associate Editor, 265 S. Anita Drive, Suite 120, Orange, CA 92868-3310. Mail queries accepted.

Mary Engelbreit Home Companion: Editorial Department, 6358 Del Mar Blvd., Suite 450, St. Louis, MO 63130-4719. Looking for unique, eclectic, quirky and funky entries.

the look of Old Tucson, circa 1870, which is the same time period of my last three books. My novel research provided me with some ideas of how things should look — crumbling adobe, veining, cactus, etc. Now, when I step into my bathroom, via an Old West bat-wing door, found by a friend in an Exeter antiques shop, I step back in time.

Country Sampler Decorating Ideas, a Chicago-based national magazine with a circulation of 210,000, showcases all styles of country decor. It bills itself as 'The Magazine That Shows You How' and caters to the average homeowner who wants to tackle some of his own decorating projects.

Within the pages of the story on my house, there is a 'how-to' article on creating an adobe-looking wall and setting artifacts into brick to create a warm, tumble-down effect. A resource guide in the back of the magazine gives detailed information for purchasing materials, appliances, paints, etc., pictured in the various photographic layouts.

"We love receiving photos of our readers' homes," said the magazine's editor, Mike Morris. "In fact, we've featured a lot of our readers' home in our magazines. We don't do 'show-home'-type magazines. Most of the locations we feature are average, everyday homeowners decorating on a budget — just like me and you."

Country Sampler isn't the only magazine looking for homes to feature. If you would like to show off your home, gather magazines that feature decorating styles similar to yours, then take pictures of your house and query them.

Chelley Kitzmiller is a historical romance novelist. Her most recent novels, "Touch the Dawn" and "Fires of Heaven," are now in e-book format at Hard Shell Word Factory — www.hardshell.com.

come alive.

"My goal in redesigning it was to make it a comfortable gathering place for our family of six," Lyndee said. "At the same time, I wanted it to be a home I could be proud of, a home that was pleasing to the eye and people-friendly."

This past April, Country Sampler Decorating Ideas Kitchen & Bath Makeovers featured my kitchen and bathroom. My love of the Old West has also become my decorating theme. I have cowboy and Indian-style furniture, textiles, pictures and memorabilia throughout the house. When it came to decorating my new kitchen, I knew I wanted to use the enamelware I'd collected, and I wanted to incorporate lots of color. I was really hungry for color after years of earth tones.

The upstairs bathroom was my biggest challenge. I wanted