



*garden pavilion*

# EUROPEAN

# INFLUENCE

LANDSCAPE DESIGN BY DANNY MCNAIR INTERIOR DESIGN BY PAMELA PIERCE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER VITALE TEXT BY TOM WOODHAM



*"Antiques really enhance a European-style design."*



OPENING PAGES: Designer Pamela Pierce and homeowner Kellie Hepper designed the French garden pavilion. Antique stone including door and window surrounds, all 18th-c. French. Custom band detailing. French lanterns halved and mounted flush. French antique urns and stone deer. Boxwood topiaries. OPPOSITE: Terrace of main house (Veranda Nov.-Dec. 2006) offers garden views. Vintage French chairs. DeLany & Long fabrics. French 19th-c. zinc urns on butcher's shop display tables. Antique French flooring. ABOVE AND FOLLOWING PAGES: Inside pavilion, Hervé Baume iron seating. DeLany & Long fabrics. Finial on bricklayer's tabletop with vintage base, tale chandelier, center table, 19th-c. table lanterns and 18th-c. stone floor, all French. Florals by Pamela Pierce.





Clipped boxwood hedges outline parterres in exquisite French-inspired garden cooled by evergreen and deciduous trees. TOP AND ABOVE: French garden elements include late 19th-c. stone cherubs from Provence atop vintage iron plinth, two 17th-c. stone capitals, Arras 19th-c. garden bench, vintage table and chairs, antique breadboards and Provençal yellowware. RIGHT: Hervé Baume seating. DeLany & Long fabrics. Paul Ferrante lanterns. Italian 19th-c. terra-cotta urn on French iron table. Biot jar with lemon tree.



# Finding a treasure trove in your own backyard

is rare, but it happened in Houston to designer Pamela Pierce and homeowners Jeff and Kellie Hepper. It began at Ruth Gay's antiques shop, [Chateau Domingue](#). Pierce, a devotee of French style, was helping display Gay's latest acquisitions when she spotted stone door and window surrounds from an eighteenth-century French chateau. "Where could I use those?" she wondered and then thought of the large open area behind her clients' house. "Kellie is always up for anything, and she loved the pieces. The house was too far along, so she and I decided on a pavilion."

The designer and client work well together. Says Pierce, "Kellie was right there with me once we got it going. We are always picking at a set of plans until we get the look we're after." What they got is spectacular: a pavilion built of eighteenth-century French stone that sits in *plein air* splendor in the Hepper garden.

Pierce likes the real thing, so antiques and vintage pieces take pride of place in her designs. "I developed this deep love of the European look—aged, classic yet uncluttered—long before I ever went to France." She admires such renowned international talents as John Saladino and Axel Vervoordt, but "I'm most influenced by Babs Watkins, a Houston designer. Babs makes it look so unconstructed, yet it looks just right. She and the Europeans do timeless so well." As does Pierce.

The pavilion needed a formal garden setting, so she engaged Danny McNair, with whom she had worked on previous projects. "Kellie had specific ideas about plants. I wanted boxwood, not a lot of color. And Danny pulled it all together."

Says McNair, "What makes this garden so dramatic is the simple plant palette along with very strong lines and geometric shapes, all designed around the existing mature trees."

"We use the outside as much as possible," add the Heppers. "We eat outdoors. The kids like to swim. The dogs like to swim. We have this treasure in our own backyard." □





PRECEDING PAGES: Anchoring rose garden, painted 19th-c. gloriette shades 19th-c. French faux bois fauteuils. THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Iron 18th-c. cherub "fountain" in stone "bassin." French 19th-c. grand fountain once supplied water in a town, or bastide, square. Provençal terra-cotta fruit-basket finials and antique French carriage lanterns flank pine barn doors, with antique hardware, which open to north garden and porte cochere. Pair of 18th-c. French iron candelabra on stone columns, c. 1750, flank 19th-c. faux bois garden bench with original paint; stone 19th-c. urns; white hydrangeas brighten background; crushed limestone underfoot. OPPOSITE: Stone surround, 1616, from Provence. Pair of 19th-c. jardinieres. Bell and bracket, c. 1900. Pair of 18th-c. Tuscan doors.