



OPPOSITE: Built on the existing foundation of Christina and Ross McGarvey's old ranch house, the new 7,000-square-foot home features narrow, vertical windows, lime-washed brick, and a limestone portico that take their cues from venerable European country homes. THIS PHOTO: A French limestone mantel carved locally by Artistic Stone surrounds a gas fireplace.



*of heritage and*  
**HOME**

PLANS FOR THIS UTAH HOUSE WENT IN CIRCLES UNTIL THE HOMEOWNERS FOCUSED ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BUILDING A HOUSE AND CREATING A HOME.

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THIS PHOTO: Interior designer Elizabeth Wixom Johnsen altered the original plan's "big box" great-room by adding a mansard-style ceiling, beams, and dormers. Christina credits interior designer Kimberly Rasmussen with choosing furniture to enhance the family's daily experiences: "This room is our family gathering place." OPPOSITE: French-style molding and a Scottish crest top the entry door.



Christina McGarvey had an interior design background, a plan for a new house drawn in collaboration with an architect, a building site in her dream neighborhood in Salt Lake City, and ample motivation to upgrade from the cramped ranch she shared with husband Ross and their two young sons. The one thing missing: a sense of home.

"I couldn't move forward," she says, noting the family spent nearly five and a half years in their old house while she contemplated building modern, then midcentury, and then a hodgepodge of traditional styles. "I realized there's a big difference between building a house and building a home. I was looking for a feeling—of what felt like home to me."

Then a neighbor stepped in. Interior designer Kimberly Rasmussen and her principal design partner, Elizabeth Wixom Johnsen, quickly pinpointed what Christina couldn't: traditional European style. "Suddenly it clicked," Christina says. "My husband is from Scotland. When I first visited him there, we traveled to Paris and throughout Europe, and I fell





“Everywhere you look, there’s something to catch your eye or make you smile. The details are *incredible*.”

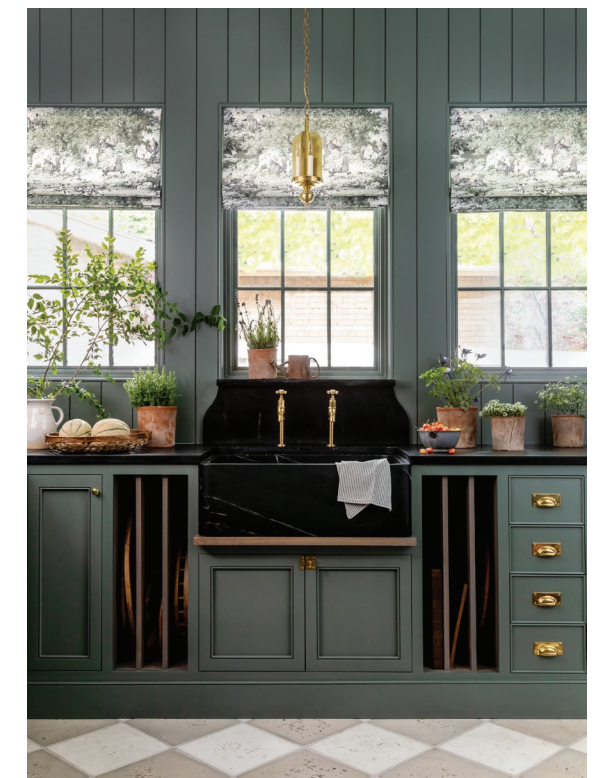
—homeowner CHRISTINA MCGARVEY

THIS PHOTO: The kitchen’s mantel hood references early cooking in European fireplaces. Furniture styling on the island’s central chest of drawers helps it integrate with the great-room furnishings. BELOW RIGHT: A soapstone sink and countertop, European hot and cold taps, and toile Roman shades stock the pantry in style.

in love with the architecture, heritage, and the great feeling of home there.”

The look was right in the designers’ wheelhouse, too. “We take great inspiration from the history of Europe,” Wixom Johnsen says. “We believe in re-creating what’s so right from years ago, knowing it will still have that same integrity today.”

Throughout the house, the team used materials, furnishings, fabrics, colors, and artwork thoughtfully to enhance the feel. Wixom Johnsen focused on adding historical architectural elements, such as the exterior’s protective brick parapet wall and portico, the great-room’s mansard-style ceiling, custom millwork, and dozens of details, right down to a rim lock on the front door. Natural materials such as European marble and soapstone for countertops, limestone for entry steps and deep windowsills, and wood for beams and floors stayed true to the past as well. “When you look at history, they used materials integral to the land,” Wixom Johnsen says. “And these materials just look better with time.”







ABOVE LEFT: In the McGarvey boys' room, a custom headboard system combines two popular European bed styles: the curves of alcove beds and a hanging cushioned headboard. ABOVE RIGHT: The paneled office is cloaked in a rich shade of green with strong hints of blue. "It's like earth meets sky," Wixom Johnsen says. BELOW LEFT: Gilded frames and a brass ladder sparkle in the office. BELOW RIGHT: The turned legs and marble counter on the powder room vanity speak to the past. OPPOSITE: An alcove outfitted with a banquette fosters a sense of coziness in the breakfast area.







LEFT: Dark gray tones, white oak vanities, brass fittings, and concrete floor pavers that mimic French limestone lend drama to the primary bath. “We believe that if it’s been done before and been successful, let’s celebrate that and do it again,” Wixom Johnsen says. OPPOSITE: A European piece of artwork painted *en plein air* from Emi & Co. draws the eye above a vintage iron bed in the primary suite.



“The integrity of *materials* is one of the things I *love* most about European homes.”

—interior designer ELIZABETH WIXOM JOHNSEN

Furnishings selected by Rasmussen complement the architecture with their French and English silhouettes upholstered in linen, toile, and plaid. The blend of existing, antique, and custom pieces appears collected over time. Similarly, the home’s soft white, gray, and rose palette feels timeless and light, with the notable exception of the office and butler pantry’s deep green, which was chosen to evoke a misty Scottish morning. New portraits hung alongside those of ancestors on the great-room’s gallery wall and a

plethora of silk pillows sewn by Christina’s mother add to the continuing legacy.

“Liz and Kimberly are so good at bringing in things that are historically accurate to create something timeless and intentional, yet it doesn’t feel themed,” Christina says. “When you build a home where everything is something you love—every pattern, fabric, and furniture shape—it’s amazing to walk in and immediately feel at home.” ❁

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