

THE SECRETS OF FRENCH DESIGN

Parisian style here at home

French homes are known for their old world elegance, effortless approach to luxurious touches, and an unmistakable juxtaposition of contemporary furnishings and timeless classics. Though it may take our architectural elements a touch longer to reach a similar historical flair as those sensational duplex homes in Paris (we are still celebrating #Canada150 after all), we can most certainly achieve the Parisian style right here in Canada with six key essentials.



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SHOWSTOPPING ANTIQUE BED

If we spend, on average, one third of our lives sleeping, wouldn't it make sense to indulge in a bed we absolutely love and in the best possible quality we could afford? Nothing speaks French allure better than an authentic, curvaceous antique bed with exceptional carvings, pristine caning, and a paint finish that is nothing short of spectacular.



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Photo: styleathome.com



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Photo: hymnsandverses.com



Photo: interiorgod.com

FRENCH COUNTRY

One of the most popular décor styles of all time is French Country. From super soft striped linens to well-loved furnishings full of character and charm, the shabby chic aesthetic duplicates that relaxed, French countryside vibe we all long for. To get the look, visit your local vintage shops, antique markets, and online resources. You will be surprised by the treasures available right in your neighbourhood.



1

Photo: styleathome.com

STUNNING CHANDELIER

From favourite movie sets in Paris to the glossy pages of Vogue Living France, no space is complete without a spectacular chandelier (or two) to wow our eyes and to provide overall illumination and ambience. This glamorous kitchen hits all the right notes with a dynamite chandelier and a pair of vintage Murano glass pendants to give this new kitchen instant character and heighten the luxe factor without being over the top.



2

Photo: homebnc.com

VINTAGE CHINOISERIE

A French word for European interpretation of artistic traditions from Asia, Chinoiserie was highly celebrated among royalty and elites in the 18th century where walls of sumptuous staterooms in palaces were decorated with breathtaking murals with a "façon de la Chine" expression. Lucky for us, hand painted wallpaper is now available, and here is a gorgeous dining room dressed head to toe in pure serenity.



3

Photo: blackroosterdecor.com

LOUIS XVI MEETS 21st CENTURY

Speaking about luxury from a bygone era, Louis XVI furniture is known for its signature restrained, geometric reference to classical Greek architectural motif, making one-of-a-kind antiques and reproductions in the Louis XVI style a popular furniture choice. This charming daybed had me at bonjour with its French-style tufted seat cushion, handcrafted carvings, and nailhead trim detail.



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PARADISE IN THE SKY

Let's face it, we all love the City of Lights. The fresh blooms in the markets, the sidewalk cafés, and, of course, the infamous narrow balconies of Parisian apartments with breathtaking views.

A terrace is truly a piece of prime real estate, being your very own outdoor paradise. To create your own Parisian-inspired terrace or balcony, look for outdoor fabric in stripes, add cushions on beautiful wrought iron furniture, surround the perimeter with planters full of greenery and vibrant blooms, and then enjoy the amazing view of your city with a cup of café au lait.



Photo: instagram.com