

town & country

HOW DO YOU DECORATE A GLORIOUS CENTURY-OLD MANSION IN BUT ALSO WELCOMES YOU HOME? THE ANSWER IS

A STYLE THAT NOT ONLY BEFITS ITS ARCHITECTURE, FORMAL COUNTRY STYLE.



As you wind your way through the maze of pretty tree-lined streets in Toronto's downtown Rosedale neighbourhood, there's a surprising sense of country.

Children play hockey on streets with such bucolic names as Maple and Elm. In many ways it's the wild – overgrown ravines and parks too numerous to count – juxtaposed with the serene – elegant turn-of-the-century architecture – that creates the perfect backdrop for a formal country house.

Enter developer John Emery. Known for his success in revamping old mansions into showpieces, Emery's attention to detail and finishes creates restored houses to reckon with. Forget about a slapdash renovation: his talented crew can spend up to two years refining a home. When you enter an Emery house, there's the perfect mix of old (high ceilings, intricate mouldings) and new (gas fireplaces, wine cellars, ☺

Left: Architectural interest in the vaulted ceiling, moulding and French doors mixes gently with soft fabrics and sunny colour on the light-filled third floor. Gold cushion, baskets, vases, leather notebooks, mantel clock, throw and lantern, all Elle Carpets & Home. Above, left: The original garage is now a home office. Folding chairs, Elle Carpets & Home. Above, right: A sweeping verandah becomes a grand new entranceway in the renovation.



heated floors). This combination is just the right background for formal country style. It might sound contradictory: "Formal" suggests elegant, even untouchable, interiors while "country" suggests a more relaxed and cheerful approach, but good interior design should be a balance of ideas that work together in order to create rooms that are as beautiful as they

are approachable. And formal country is just that – a mix of refined antiques, tailored fabrics and soft, muted colours with natural textures and mismatched furniture styles that offer timeless, comfortable appeal. Following is *Home & Country's* guide to creating formal country style in our favourite room in the house: the living room.

Top left: A whimsical floral arrangement brightens the serene master bedroom. Bed linens, lamp, Elte Carpets & Home; floral arrangement, Surroundings. **Top right:** A sparkly chandelier brightens the breakfast nook. Vintage linen keeps the space relaxed. Chairs, flatware, napkins, all Elte Carpets & Home; floral arrangement, Surroundings. **Above, left:** Slate-of-the-art convenience meets old-world charm in the kitchen. The island's different finish makes it feel like a piece of furniture. Stove, Wolf; casserole dish, dinnerware, tea towels, toaster, all Williams-Sonoma. **Above,**

right: Looking over the light-filled great room, the kitchen is the real heart of the home. Basket, Elte Carpets & Home; lasagna pan, Williams-Sonoma. **Opposite:** New and old blend seamlessly in the master bath. The tub is original and sits in a bay window. Sink, faucets, towels, toiletries, all Gingers; basket, mirror, Elte Carpets & Home; floral arrangement, Surroundings. **Next page:** Mirror, vase, wooden box (on sideboard), decanters and baskets, Elte Carpets & Home; coffee cup, Williams-Sonoma; beige silk fabric on pillow, Robert Allen; floral arrangement, Surroundings.