

C'EST (SHABBY) CHIC

Spared from the junk yard, salvaged materials add glamour

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Long before it was the design of choice for contemporary homeowners, James Girouard, an architectural and interior designer based in New York and Palm Beach, was known for creating stunning open floor plans. “That’s how I got my reputation in New Jersey,” says the former Boonton Township resident. “For 35 years, I’ve been taking out walls in existing homes. Friends would come into my ranch, see the vaulted ceiling and open kitchen and say ‘Oh my God!’” The owners of this center hall Colonial in Wayne, New Jersey’s former boxing commissioner and his wife, the proprietor of an online gift shop, wanted this and something more: A shabby chic look combining contemporary ease and old-world charm. For this, Girouard went to Olde Good Things, a non-profit salvage company in Pittsburgh that removes old railings, doors, windows, tubs, fireplaces and more from renovating homes and businesses. “You can’t find these old styles anywhere else”, he says.

UNOBSTRUCTED ELEGANCE

This image of the first floor was taken from the family room area, with the living room space to the left, the dining area to the right and the staircase to the second floor hidden behind the wall bearing the photo. Girouard removed the standard windows at the front of the home and replaced them with wider, longer windows to bring in more light. The column is from Olde Good Things.



GO WITH THE FLOW

The kitchen, situated to the right of the family room, features supportive corbels above the windows and flooring made of 8 inch-wide pine planks that originated in an old factory. Girouard opened up the entire back wall and installed French doors in the family room area. (Above) The dining table is new, purchased at the Design Center in Manhattan. (Left) The back-splash is made from traditional tumbled marble stone; the hood above the Wolfe range sports decorative gray detailing.







LET THE SUNSHINE IN

(Left) The sunroom to the left of the living room area opens up to the pool outside. "The owners are big entertainers who like to be outdoors and have all different groups of people at their home," says Girouard. The cove ceiling offers lighting and a fan for mild weather; air conditioning vents in the perimeter cool things down during Jersey summers. (Top) The chairs are an eclectic mix, with some coming from the Shabby Chic store in Manhattan's SoHo. (Middle) The tub and vanity are from the salvage yard, and have been re-glazed and refinished, respectively. (Above) One of the guest rooms continues the shabby chic look upstairs. >



SUITE DREAMS

The home's master bedroom suite houses what might be called a master bathroom suite. (Above) It features a vanity that's 20 feet wide, a free-standing makeup table and large chaise lounge. (Right) The wall covering in the master bath and bedroom was made by Girouard's wallpaper company in Florida, and is hand-screened painted burlap for a crackle finish. To the left of the salvaged column, the closet's oval doors feature reclaimed glass. The wood beams come from "an old olive oil factory somewhere in the U.S.," says Girouard, and have found new life as decorative elements in the Wayne estate. ■

