

pai – French Style Villa “story”

## French Country Cottage

Designer – Patti Allen

Design Company – Patti Allen Interiors

Photographer – Bill Bolin

This little bungalow in the Dallas suburb of Plano has been the family home for the client for almost 30 years. The couple’s children had moved from home when her husband was diagnosed with a terminal illness. After his death, she has begun to move forward with her new life, without him, and make good on a promise she had made to him to remodel their home, to rework it in a way that is more appropriate for the life she is living now. Her directive to the designer was comfortable, warm and inviting. The designer has deftly combined the French country aesthetic which the client was drawn to with personal mementos of her life and interests to create a unique, picturesque and welcoming home for the client to enjoy for many years to come.

Color inspiration from the fresh fabrics, including a beautiful “sky blue” paint treatment for the living room ceiling, has lightened the entire atmosphere of the home. Formerly, the living area had been divided into three small rooms, living room, dining room, and kitchen. Removing the walls between these rooms is the only structural change made to the cottage. By removing those walls and replacing one of them, a load-bearing wall, with floor to ceiling antique leaded glass doors, the openness and lightness of the space is emphasized even more.

Whenever possible mementos of the client’s life are sprinkled throughout the home, as in those antique leaded glass doors, framed quilt blocks in the entry stitched by the client’s mother-in-law, and a print from the owner’s childhood, “On Guard,” by artist Arthur John Elsley.