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cottage
journal

SPRING

Classic
Charm & Style
at Home

Living & Shopping
in the **BIG EASY**



Good Shepherds Cottage

Thoughtful decorating, along with an ample dose of enchantment, makes this tiny Texas home as beautiful as it is accommodating.

The term ‘English cottage’ conjures up quaint images of a charming abode that’s surrounded by fragrant rose gardens and nestled at the end of a meandering, stone path. Switch the location from England to Heath, Texas, and the roses to camellias, and you’ve got the perfect description of John and Jo-Ann Arnolds’ captivating residence. Just a pebble toss from their grandkids, the Arnolds don’t exactly live large—their place being only 1,200 square feet—yet their home’s openness and flow presents a much more expansive impression. And with features such as exposed wood trusses and a vaulted ceiling that soars to 20 feet in the living room, the entire cottage abounds with a light, effervescent demeanor.

When the Arnolds’ family urged John, a former pastor, and Jo-Ann, who had been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, to move closer, the chief intent was to make the new house as personable and accommodating as possible. To ensure their efforts, the Arnolds turned to interior decorator Barbara Owens from Rockwall, Texas, for both help and inspiration. “I sought to create a home for John and Jo-Ann that looked as though it had been taken straight out of a

Style Idea

Wide, graceful openings between rooms, vaulted ceilings and ledges for displaying keepsakes and collectibles, enable a small home to seem much larger in scale.





The Arnold's only heirloom piece was this simple mirror (made by a family member), which hangs above a painted credenza in the living room. (Left and opposite) Gray-glass subway tile, paired with white-washed kitchen cabinets and a nearby breakfast nook/banquette, give this kitchen a bygone, yet fresh appeal.



fairy tale," Barbara explains. She was also mindful when selecting and arranging furniture and accessories to keep things uncluttered and easily accessible. Since the pastor and his wife brought few furnishings with them, Barbara was basically given a clean slate to weave her design expertise.

Not only was the purpose of this home significant, but its name also rang true for the Arnolds. "Since the couple started and had guided a church in Pittsburgh for 47 years," Barbara notes, "imagine their surprise to find out that their new address was on 'Shepherds Way'

in Heath!" Appropriately, the grandkids immediately latched on to this fateful coincidence, thus christening the place "Good Shepherds Cottage."

While Barbara endeavored to make the interiors comfortable and appealing, she put great emphasis on the couple's interests and preferences as well. "I found out that Jo-Ann loves birds and the color green, and John had amassed a collection of Bibles over time," she says. As a result, Barbara chose items such as a birdcage light fixture and pillows depicting parrots in the master bedroom. For John's office, she designed ample

Built-in shelves found in the living room and John's study enable the couple to show off their favorite mementos and family photos. (Opposite) Lovely hydrangeas and other hearty plants line the gravel path that leads to this storybook cottage.



bookcases to display the pastor's array of books and family photos. There are even slender rows of shelves tucked-in on either side of the living room window seat for Jo-Ann's sentimental assortment of tea pots and cups. And as a finishing touch, Barbara added sheer linen shades with crewel embroidery, along with cornice fabric depicting tree branches, leaves, and perching birds.

The most cherished item in this home represents an event, rather than a possession or memento from years past. Jo-Ann says, "At our granddaughter-in-law's wedding, she and her bridal party used this space to prepare for the wedding. It is a constant reminder to us just how special this place really is." And like their nearby grandkids, this endearing cottage has truly become a member of the family. 📖

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