

CLASSIC COMFORT

By Allison Joyce • Photography by Scott Rothwall



IN A COMFORT-DEFICIENT WORLD, GRANDMA'S HOUSE IS BACK IN STYLE—THE FURNITURE from a bygone era, big cozy chairs in soft fabrics, a feeling of tradition. That same classic yet cozy atmosphere is just what interior designers and neighbors Michael Carey and Randall Crim have created in the adjoining Laguna Beach cottages they rent.

"Fifteen years ago, if you looked at a room and said, 'That reminds me of my grandmother's house,' you meant it was the tackiest thing in the world," Crim says. "But as people's tastes mature, they appreciate a sense of tradition. Using older pieces in contemporary ways takes you to a familiar place. It puts a little bit of old in all this new."

At home (above), Crim has put his theory into practice. He transformed a dilapidated 1940s French nouveau chair by silver-leafing it and covering the cushion in red calfskin leather which has faded to a warm pink. The cocktail cart he found in an antique store in Laguna, the mirror above it in Kansas City years ago. Formerly a floral designer, Crim often selects his palette from nature. In his living room, a watermelon-toned wool sisal rug contrasts with the moss-green tone of the crushed-velvet sofa.