



Hydrangeas bloom against centuries-old stone in the dining area off Charlotte Reiss's kitchen in rural France. A local carpenter fashioned new shutters in the style and mint-green color that are customary in the region.

Country Home STYLE MAKERS

IN THE FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE AND A SMALL TOWN IN GEORGIA,
TWO DESIGN INFLUENCERS SHOW US THEIR INTERPRETATIONS
OF THE UNIVERSAL WELCOMING EMBRACE THAT IS COUNTRY STYLE.

WRITTEN BY JESSICA BENNETT

DOWN HOME WITH *Elaine Burge*

Much like her art, this artist's abode is a celebration of pattern and color.

IF ART REFLECTS LIFE, Elaine Burge's days must burst with color and energy. The Georgia artist dips her brush into every color under the sun for her nature-inspired abstracts and vivid portraits.

Elaine's home, which she shares with her husband, Richey, and their daughters, Lucy and Bonnie, follows a similar color scheme. The quaint ranch house is nestled on a small plot of land near Riddleville, Georgia (population: 250), where they relish in quiet evenings under star-speckled skies with their four dogs, seven chickens, and neighbors that include a herd of cows and one "extremely boisterous" donkey.

Antique finds and colorful collections circulate fresh air into every room of the house. "My home is like a revolving door; I'm always switching out what I have on my walls," Elaine says. The eclectic explosion of color and style reflects her exuberant approach to life: "So much of life is fun and inspirational and joyous if you just take a minute to appreciate it." □

RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 110.



1

"I WANT TO EVOKE JOY AND ENERGY WITH MY COLOR COMBINATIONS, AND A LOT OF THAT INSPIRATION COMES FROM NATURE."

—ELAINE BURGE



2



3



4



5



6

1/Artist Elaine Burge in her studio. 2/Elaine painted a white-tailed deer skull in vibrant hues to mount above an antique dry sink in the dining room. 3/Mint barstools and floral curtains add color to the mostly white kitchen. 4/Antique bistro chairs and colorful garden stools found at a garage sale gather around a century-old farm table on the wraparound porch. 5/On the faux fireplace hearth, a basket holds Elaine's collection of vintage quilts. 6/In her daughters' bedroom, large-scale floral wallpaper creates a playful backdrop for furnishings, like the rocking chair handed down from Richey's mother and a bedside table fashioned from an old telephone pole.