

AN ELEGANT OUTDOOR EASTER FEAST + NEW LOOKS FOR OLD CHINA

# Southern Lady

*Glorious SPRING*

COLORFUL FLOWERS,  
FRESH RECIPES &  
MORE TO WELCOME  
THE SEASON



# Old-World Élan

*A beloved collection of blue-and-white ceramics blends beautifully into a luxurious Texas kitchen cloaked in exquisite delft tile work.*

BY Lisa Frederick | PHOTOGRAPHY BY Michael Hunter



Before a top-to-bottom makeover, the kitchen in this Dallas abode fell short on charm—a mix of drab colors and formal trappings that didn't invite anyone to linger. But it held one tantalizing highlight: swaths of antique delft wall tile that caught the homeowners' fancy and inspired both the palette and the European feel of the renovated space. "She coincidentally collects blue-and-white [ceramics] and delft," says local designer Sherry Hayslip, who worked with the couple to redo the house after they bought it several years ago. "We wanted to maintain that elegance."

Because the wife is an enthusiastic cook who enjoys the company of family and friends as she stirs and sautés, one of Sherry's earliest tasks was to reconfigure an adjacent powder room and lounge into a prep kitchen that keeps mess and dirty dishes out of view. "That let this room stay pretty," she explains. "The idea is that it's a little gallery that integrates her collections and her actual life."

The bones of the space were strong, save for a skimpy island that Sherry supplanted with a larger one, but the surfaces cried out for an update. Deep gray cabinetry and industrial light fixtures that gave off a minimal glow cast a dim aura. "It was handsome, but it was kind of forbidding," Sherry says. She changed the cabinet finish to warm pecan and freshened the blue-and-white buffalo check fabric inserts. The new island wears a weathered blue wash and a pristine Calacatta marble top that contrasts with the wooden countertops elsewhere. To complement the color scheme, Sherry had an artisan hand-paint a set of antique chinoiserie stools faded blue, bedecked with gilt accents.

A custom pot rack above the island, laden with the owner's cherished copper cookware, makes the space appear cozier and adds an overlay of richness. "I really think the



pot rack is an amazing piece. It's simple, but it works with the period look," Sherry says. "She collects copper, and that gave her a chance for display. It also has hidden lights that illuminate the whole room."

The massive French fireplace at one end of the kitchen, crowned by a panel of newer delft tiles, proved the perfect anchor for a seating area where guests can chat or the homeowners can sip morning coffee. Sherry repurposed two wing chairs from the couple's previous house and reupholstered them in a medieval-themed print.

"I prevailed upon them to use those because they're tall and in keeping with the scale of the fireplace," she says. A fine Oriental rug and a vintage kettle warmer in lieu of a table tie the intimate vignette together; well-chosen blue-and-white vessels along the mantel amplify the personal air that makes the room so special.

"The best thing about this kitchen is the spirit of it," Sherry says. "When you walk in, you feel good. There's a drama to it, and there's an architecture to it that makes you think, 'Wow, this is a beautiful kitchen!'"