

# House Beautiful

## *Romantic Decorating*

**LIGHTEN UP  
WITH SWEDISH  
COUNTRY STYLE**



# Boston Uncommon

*Although it had an extraordinary terrace, the apartment was an undistinguished box. But that didn't faze designers Lee Bierly and Christopher Drake, who created a home that is contemporary in comfort but classical in spirit*



*Opposite: French limestone in a traditional truffled pattern paves the foyer, where the walls are painted and glazed to mimic stone. Iron armchair by Gregorious Pineo.  
Above: Lutyens bench by Andrew Crace, J-Art Iron upholstered seating, oval-backed iron chairs by Rose Tarlow-Melrose House.*



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laborate crown moldings and lofty 14-foot ceilings were what Lee Bierly and Christopher Drake had in mind when they went apartment hunting. The Boston-based designers appreciate elegant proportions, classical symmetry, and unruffled restraint. They didn't really expect to be interested in a new condo that was just an ordinary white box still littered with sawdust and Sheetrock, but when they stepped through the French doors onto the terrace, they were thrilled. There, right in front of them, stretched one of Boston's great views—the Public Garden, with its flower-rimmed paths and venerable swan boats paddling across the pond. And the terrace itself was big—1,500 square feet—which presented all sorts of possibilities. “Chris and I sit on several boards and we often entertain,” says Bierly. Already they could envision candlelit dinner parties for dozens of guests under the stars. “It's rare to find a private outdoor space this big in downtown Boston,” says Drake. “Besides, who could resist the opportunity to plan a garden from scratch?”

So instead of starting the decorating scheme with a rug or a favorite fabric, they began with the garden. Drake enrolled in a class in landscape design at Harvard, and Bierly pulled out snapshots of all the important gardens they had visited over the years in England, Italy, and France. Working with landscape architect Keith LeBlanc, they divided the terrace into outdoor rooms defined by boxwood hedges in planters and obelisk-shaped topiaries, with gracious allées leading to intimate enclaves. Yew, azalea, and rhododendron ensure that the garden looks invit-

*A Portuguese needlepoint rug from Stark carries a few flowers into the living room, where symmetry prevails.*

*A pair of Billy Baldwin slipper chairs upholstered in Bentley Ticking Stripe by Brunswick & Fils flank an original Syrie Maugham sofa. The center pillow is covered in Cowtan & Tout's Langdon House Stripe. More pairs on wall above: landscapes bracketing a Matisse lithograph.*