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PRETTY in PINK

Filled with fine antiques and blushing with color, this bedroom is a love letter to French style.

By Shannon Howard ■ Photographer: Alise O'Brien ■ Field editor: Susan Fox



Multiple shades of pink, many as pale as champagne, gain emphasis against the neutral white carpet. For the cascading fringe on the canopy, homeowner Sally Tinkham looked to Paris-based Houles for its wide selection of pink trims.





Opposite: Nothing sets off pink quite like vibrant green. This bookcase holds a wealth of emerald treasures, including 19th-century leaf dishes from Italy. **Left:** A 19th-century American wicker chair, paired with pink-and-white woven fabric, adds texture to this light-filled reading area. **Below:** Originally dark wood tone, this Louis XVI-style vintage Baker bed is now trimmed in a delicate coat of ballet-pink paint.

With its sorbet-pink walls, elegant floral fabrics, and undeniably feminine charm, this lush Houston bedroom seems fit for a princess. But in fact, you'll find no knight in shining armor here. The warm, inviting space was originally designed and inhabited by the late Sally Tinkham, a successful career woman who was one of the first female stockbrokers at Merrill Lynch. Sally enjoyed collecting antique furniture and sumptuous textiles, and she created this opulent all-pink boudoir as a cherished place to showcase both.

"Mother worked very hard at her job," says Sally's daughter, Heather Bowen. "When she came home, she liked to surround herself with all the things she loved." And usually those things were either pink or French—or both. "She was always on the lookout for pink," Heather says, "but it was never over the top." Sally often instilled hints of her favorite color throughout the house, though no room was richer in rose tones than her own master suite.

It's a thoughtful nod to good design that Heather still enjoys today. Since her mother's death two years ago, she and her brothers have inherited the house, and now they use Sally's bedroom to accommodate guests. "Female guests," she jokes.

In this sprawling haven that she designed with architect Brent Nyquist, Sally chose a pale powder-puff hue for the walls, then complemented it with a lovely mélange of pink and cream fabrics. She draped the French doors with a glossy buff silk and chose as her primary material a sublime floral with a striking magnolia print. This classic, cream-background matelassé is used on the duvet cover, the bedside settee, and most prominently, on the canopy and curtains that gracefully envelop the bed.

It was here that Sally initially crafted the look of her room, using the massive wooden bed as her focal point. Designed in the 1960s by a family friend (the former CEO of Baker Furniture), the bed had seen several fabric incarnations over the years, as well as a variety of paint colors. On this go-around, Sally opted for creamy white paint with, of course, pink trim. And for the bed skirt and canopy lining, she picked



The primary material is a sublime floral with a striking magnolia print on a cream-color matelassé.



This Louis XV-style settee is a vintage Baker Furniture piece from a friend of Sally's. Many of the pieces in the bedroom were purchased in the South of France, where the late homeowner enjoyed antiques shopping.



Opposite: Sally's daughter, Heather Bowen, found this hot-pink, antique Bristol lamp for her mother—not in England, but in rural Ohio. The antique painted chair, re-covered with new pink fabric, was one of Sally's own discoveries. **Right:** Sally reupholstered this settee in the same fabric as the bedding. **Below:** Heavily gathered along the valance, these draperies have been ruched to resemble a fanciful fluff of cotton candy.



The French doors and pair of bookcases add symmetry and proportion.



a bold and luscious striped silk, which offers a playful contrast amid the sea of florals.

Throughout the rest of the room, subtlety is the rule. To balance the dramatic presence of the bed and bedding, many of Sally's other furnishings are reserved. Two small seating areas, for example, celebrate the beauty of fine details. One highlights the handsome lines of an Empire-style table, while the other—a quiet nook by the balcony—features a timeless Louis XV-style desk with cabriole legs. “One of mother’s favorites,” Heather says of the 18th-century French *escritoire*. “She loved anything French.” Indeed, Sally traveled frequently to Paris, and she especially liked the South of France. “Mother was always her own person,” Heather says. “When everyone else was collecting English antiques and decorating in the English style, she was marching to the beat of her own French drum.”

But that's not to say it's exclusively French. The room also boasts an impressive collection of antique and vintage American furniture, 19th-century Italian pottery, and a cosmopolitan mix of German and English porcelain. While Sally's home was still in the planning stages, she worked alongside architect Nyquist to make sure that her most treasured collectibles—her Meissen dinnerware and English Coalport plates—would have plenty of display space in the bedroom. Nyquist responded by installing two built-in bookcases on either side of the bed—a solution that provided open shelving, concealed storage, and an eye-pleasing, symmetrical layout.

Even with her best friend and favorite shopping partner gone, Heather insists that her mother's style is still very much alive and well, both in the house and in the antiques store the two of them opened together in Houston, called Heather Bowen Antiques. “I was very lucky to have known my mom,” Heather says. “She was a dynamo who never said ‘no’ to anything. And somehow she always managed to look and act totally elegant.” Her home, and certainly her bedroom, were just a natural reflection of her grace and beauty. ●

Resources on page 90

For more about planning a beautiful bedroom, see www.bhg.com/sipDreamyBedrooms



resources

For information about the products shown editorially in this issue, contact the sources here. Addresses and phone numbers have been verified, but we cannot guarantee availability of items. If you learn that an item is unavailable, inquire with the company listed to see if similar merchandise is available, or consider asking a local craftsperson to create something similar. When an item is not listed, we do not know its source.

KEY

[T] TO THE TRADE

These companies do not sell directly to the public. Contact an interior designer or an architect.

[P] PAINT COLOR

Because of the magazine printing process, paint colors depicted on our pages may vary slightly from manufacturers' colors. Use paint color names or numbers, when provided, as a starting point. To get the exact color you see in the magazine, take the page to a paint retailer for matching.

BY THE SEASHORE

Page 8:

Interior designer: *Manuel de Santaren and Carolina Tress-Balsbaugh, Manuel de Santaren, Inc., One Design Center Place, Suite 444, Boston, MA 02210; 617/330-6998.*

Wall color #695 Turquoise Mist—Benjamin Moore & Co.; in the United States: 800/672-4686; in Canada: 800/304-0304; www.benjaminmoore.com [P]. **Mirror**—The Barbara Barry collection, through Billie Brenner, Ltd., Boston; 617/348-2858 [T]. **Wall sconces, chair**—Icon Group, Inc., Boston; 617/428-0655 [T]. **Linens**—Muse, Ltd.; 866/212-6873.

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Pages 18–25:

Interior designer, antiques supplier: *Heather Bowen Antiques & Decorative Arts, The Antique Pavilion, 2311 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77098; 713/520-9755.*

Architect: *Brent Nyquist, Atticus Architecture, Inc., 2444 Times Blvd., Suite 236-H, Houston, TX 77005; 713/526-1978; www.atticusarch.com.*

Wall covering Colmore in Pink—Hines Co.; 800/754-5880 [T]. **Molding color** #44-4 Vanilla Cream—Martin Senour Paints; 800/677-5270; www.martinsenour.com [P]. **Floral fabric for bed coverlet, headboard, canopy, settee at foot of**

bed #79437-015 Magnolia Matelasse in Cream, **fabric for wicker chair cushion, table skirt** #39745-01 Vanessa Woven Texture in Pink and White—Brunschwig & Fils; 800/538-1880; www.brunschwig.com [T]. **Pastel stripe silk fabric for bed skirt, canopy lining, curtains, lampshade** #30100-4 La Valliere Rayure in Rose and Cream—Scalamandré; 800/932-4361; www.scalamandre.com. **Trim on bed canopy**—Houlès USA, Los Angeles; 310/652-6171; www.houles.com [T]. **Carpeting**—Stark Carpet Corp., New York City; 212/752-9000; www.starkcarpet.com [T]. **Porcelain pieces**—Bardith, Ltd., New York City; 212/737-3775.

DOUBLE TAKE

Pages 26–33:

Interior designers: *Jill Vantosh and Patrick Delanty, Vantosh & Associates, 1473 Spring St., Atlanta, GA 30309; 404/888-0613.*

Architect: *William H. Harrison, AIA, Harrison Design Associates, 3198 Cains Hill Place, NW, Atlanta, GA 30305; 404/365-7760; www.harrisondesignassociates.com.*

Throughout:

Wall color #70YY75/124 Chardonnay White—Glidden; 800/454-3336; www.glidden.com [P].

Pages 28–30:

Carpeting Flor Modular Carpeting System—