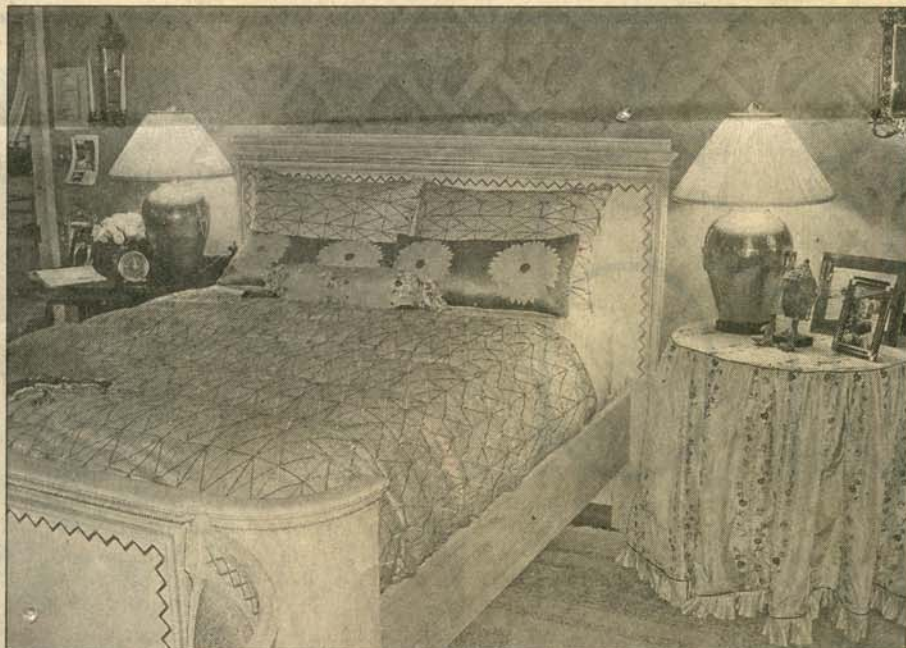


DESIGNING DUO



**Margi Vorder Bruegge
George Snead**

Swedish antiques in the master Serenity at the Chimneys



Contributed photo

The room: The master bedroom at The Chimneys Show House is a large square, with ample proportions, hardwood floors, 10-foot ceilings and several windows. Originally wallpapered, this room was dark and gloomy.

The challenges

- To create a retreat for a couple ready to relax at the end of a busy day.

- To create several focal points. Why do we always love bedrooms? Seems like we feature a lot of them. Perhaps it's because all bedrooms have a bed, nightstands, a dresser, etc. The surprise is in discovering how a designer gives rooms with such similar elements different personalities.

- To create a distinctive wall texture or finish.

- To keep the 1920s feeling of the house, yet have it be current.

The solutions

- Call it traditional with an eclectic flair, or elegant with a touch of whimsy — the design is intended to please male and female sensibilities and exude a welcome sense of comfort and quiet originality.

- A pair of antique Swedish chairs is grouped at the end of the bed, giving an unexpected peak for your eye to go up.

The antique bed originally had a raw wood finish. Now it's painted light cream with gilded accents.

In one corner, an antique settee is flanked by two antique chairs with gilt frames.

- The oversized trellis pattern on the walls was hand-painted by Wendy Hollender. The walls were glazed, then overlaid with a hand-cut stencil painted in an oil finish.

- The antique Swedish bed originally had a raw wood finish. Designer Connie Cooper had the bed and all the other antiques painted in the Swedish fashion: light cream with gilded accents. The furniture is upholstered in contemporary fabrics. They introduce a variety of patterns and textures, united by a calming neutral palette. This combination of contemporary fabrics and antique wooden pieces adds whimsy to the room and makes it less formal.

Favorite touches

- Original artwork by Chagall and Picasso

- The change in scale of the stenciled wall treatment as you move from one part of the room to the next — very creative.

The designer: Connie Cooper Designs, IDS; concoop@optonline.net; 256-9183

The Show House, 124 Old Battery Road, Black Rock, runs through Sunday. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 and include a program. Call 554-5300 or visit www.thechimneysshowhouse.com.

Fairfield County and Palm Beach, Fla., interior designers Margi Vorder Bruegge and George Snead wowed Oprah's audience with their room makeovers in a day. Contact them by phone at 561-459-7214, or by e-mail, margivb@aol.com or roommakovr@aol.com.