

# madness

makes its presence known



Stripes and florals are combined in a variety of new decorative themes, among them "Floral Stripe" chintz, shown here, by Laura Ashley. This large-scale design of roses, morning glories and fuchsias with alternating geranium stripe, is available in chintz and printed ottoman fabrics. The simplicity is also repeated in a companion wallcovering, seen beyond the chair. Similar choices appear in English-manor type homes featured in this year's Homearama.

Although the English country look was born in the manor house, the style has been thoroughly democratized over the years, Britten says. So you don't need roomfuls of ancestral heirlooms of a stately site on The Thames to recreate the look.

All you really need are the three C's of English country decor:

- **COLOR.** One thing that says English country: Floral cotton and glazed chintz, the extravagantly printed fabric the British imported from India almost 400 years ago. So use them lavishly.
- Start with a bold floral design, then complement with a mix of stripes, smaller-scale florals, plaids, geometrics or faux animal prints. Use color as a unifying force to pull all these disparate

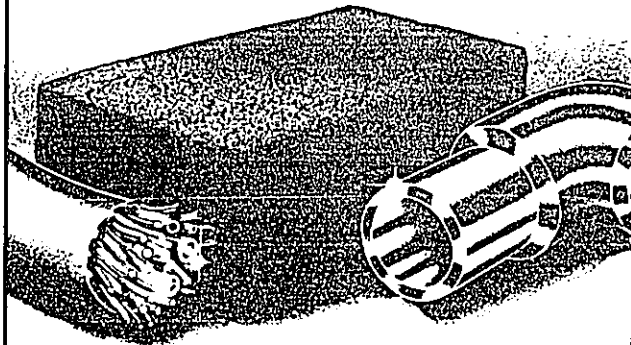
patterns into one cohesive whole.

- **COMFORT.** Reserve the rickety gill sidechairs and antique loveseats for the parlor. The English country look is built on comfort.
- **CLUTTER.** Hedonistic hodgepodge. Cheek-by-jowl jumble. Memento madness. Clutter is the endearing heart of English country style.

For Anglo-authenticity, add masses of framed family photos, blue-and-white china and botanical prints. A timeless sense of style is not built on born-yesterday perfection.

Once you've experienced this best-of-Britain brand of living, Britten maintains, you'll understand why there'll always be an England. Even if it is deep in the heart of Texas or the rolling hills of Rochester.

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