

# French Connection

An Atherton couple transforms their home's French country aesthetic into one with an artistic, modern flair.

By Michael McCarthy  
Photographed by Noe Dewitt

The living room features pony leather chairs from 1st Dibs and Wabi silver wallpaper on the ceiling by Calico.





Phillip Jeffries wallpaper and a hand-tufted Wendy Morrison rug grace the foyer.

important to me,” he says. “When approaching a new project, I’ll ask, ‘Where do the big moments belong in this room? Where do we need some texture or color?’” Schlarb says he might add these elements in upholstery or an accent wall with an exceptional paint color or wallpaper on the ceiling. “Then I’ll ask, ‘Where do we need to pull it back so that the room feels balanced and not too weighed to one side—or too messy?’ Part of my expertise is knowing where to show restraint, where to add the punches of excitement, and how to balance those elements around the room.”

#### THE GOALS

Schlarb and his team renovated the living and dining rooms, powder room, family room, kitchen and office. In addition to creating more balance in the home, Schlarb says his clients are enthusiastic art collectors and always want to incorporate their extensive collection into each room’s design. “She was a real partner in the process and was involved in choosing everything with us,” says Schlarb. “She leaned into our suggestions for bold wallpapers and big colors.”

#### LIVING AND DINING ROOMS

The living room, one of the home’s dramatic social hubs, features a hand-painted wall, walnut and pony leather chairs from 1st Dibs (1stdibs.com), a blue ceramic lamp from Regina Andrew (reginaandrew.com) and Wabi silver mylar wallpaper on the ceiling by Calico (calicowallpaper.com).

“The dining room is the couple’s more important area since they love entertaining and hosting business-related events,” says Schlarb. “We spent a lot of time designing this room—to the point where we chose the exact placement of each bird in beautiful Flight wallpaper from Phillip Jeffries (phillipjeffries.com).”

#### THE PROJECT

A couple with twin girls in middle school decided to renovate their French-style chateau in Atherton. The 8,800-square-foot home was structurally solid, but a French country aesthetic dominated every room. The couple desired more balance and to incorporate an artistic flair that projected their tastes.

#### THE TEAM

“My aesthetic is described as modern-day maximalism, rooted in classical design,” says renowned Bay Area designer Jeff

Schlarb, whom the couple tapped for the project. Schlarb, the founder of his eponymous design studio (jeffschlarb.com), says he loves layering patterns, colors and textures, but “in a way that feels cleaned-up and pulled together. We always include a place where the eye can rest; that way, the space doesn’t overwhelm the clients. I also keep a keen eye on the shapes of the furniture, the special finishes and the artwork selections to complete the aesthetic.”

Schlarb’s description of his style is curiosity without chaos. “Balance is



The dining room boasts Flight wallpaper from Phillip Jeffries, host chairs from Casamance and Louis XVI dining chairs from 1st Dibs. A silver leaf dining table by Shine by S.H.O anchors the room.





The exteriors of the 8,800-square-foot Atherton home reveal gorgeous landscaping. Opposite page: Jeff Schlarb's colorful design is even showcased in the home's bathrooms.



## HOME DETAILS

**HOME TYPE**  
Single-family

**LOCATION**  
Atherton

**INTERIOR DESIGN**  
Jeff Schlarb Design Studio  
jeffschlarb.com

## RESOURCES

**1ST DIBS**  
Chairs, living and dining rooms  
1stdibs.com

**REGINA ANDREW**  
Lamp, living room  
reginaandrew.com

**CALICO**  
Wabi silver mylar wallpaper, living room  
calicowallpaper.com

**PHILLIP JEFFRIES**  
Flight wallpaper, dining room;  
Serenity wallpaper, foyer  
phillipjeffries.com

**CASAMANCE**  
Voyage Imaginaire fabric,  
host chairs, dining room  
casamance.com

**HOLLY HUNT**  
Cloud Nine fabric, host chairs,  
dining room  
hollyhunt.com

**SHINE BY S.H.O**  
Table, dining room  
shinebysho.com

**OPUZEN**  
Laguna Waves drapes, dining room  
opuzen.com

**ARTERIORS**  
Antique brass sconces, dining room  
arteriorshome.com

**WENDY MORRISON**  
Rug, foyer  
wendymorrisondesign.com

**TIMOROUS BEASTIES**  
Matzu fabric, stools, foyer  
timorousbeasties.com

**ORGANIC MODERNISM**  
Brass table, foyer  
organicmodernism.com

Standout pieces include custom-made host chairs covered in Casamance (casamance.com) Voyage Imaginaire and Holly Hunt (hollyhunt.com) Cloud Nine, Louis XVI dining chairs from 1st Dibs, a silver leaf dining table from Shine By S.H.O (shinebysho.com), Lagunas Waves drapes by Opuzen (opuzen.com) and antique brass sconces by Arteriors (arteriorshome.com).

### FOYER

Great design also allows the mind to recollect past homes and time spent in other countries. That was especially true in this space, as Schlarb says the Phillip Jeffries Serenity wallpaper and a hand-tufted Wendy Morrison (wendymorrisondesign.com) rug

reminded one of the homeowners of her time in Shanghai.

Timorous Beasties (timorousbeasties.com) Matzu fabric—reminiscent of beautiful Japanese pines—covers the stools, and a brass table from Organic Modernism (organicmodernism.com) cements the space's beauty.

### HOW THE HOME IS LIVING

“I feel strongly about building trust through the design process. That way, our clients can trust us to translate their desires and create a home that reflects their uniqueness,” says Schlarb, who adds that his Atherton clients love their home. “The redesign met all of their expectations.” ■