

Southern Living®

SEPTEMBER 2010

The Soul of the South

**25 PEOPLE, PLACES & TRADITIONS
TO CHERISH AND CELEBRATE**

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**OUR MONTHLY
GUIDE TO
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Dress up casual slipcovers with tailored pillows.

“The way you live should come before the decor.”

—MIMI MCMAKIN, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

“Slipper chairs always work, and surprisingly, men like them too. They aren’t for football watching but for conversation and moving about the room easily.” Phoebe’s favorite slipper chair is from Lee Industries (#1560-01). For deeper seating, Cindy likes Lee’s #1077 chair with a dressmaker’s skirt and English arms.

9 SHOWCASE (AND REVAMP) A WELL-WORN PIECE OF FURNITURE

“Antiques are a hallmark of Southern homes,” says Phoebe. But don’t be afraid to make a passed-down piece your own. **Charleston, South Carolina, designer Melissa Ervin** says, “If I had to, I would update my grandmother’s wing chair with a current version of a traditional damask—in a timeless tone-on-tone style.”

“If you’re not lucky enough to inherit antiques, don’t buy cheap ones,” adds Cindy. “Save until you can buy a good piece. You don’t have to have a room full of antiques—one nice piece in a room can elevate everything around it.” As for which to buy first, Cindy suggests a mahogany Sheraton-style sideboard or a walnut English chest of drawers.

8 EASE INTO COMFORTABLE UPHOLSTERY

“The way you live should come before the decor,” says **Palm Beach, Florida, designer Mimi McMakin**. **Houston designer Carol Glasser** concurs: “A table close enough

for putting a drink down, something to put your feet on, light flooding in, and armloads of flowers brought in from the garden—these are keys to comfort in a Southern room.” Furniture placement is important too.

“Living rooms should be arranged for conversation, with several different seating areas,” says Phoebe.



Lee Industries slipper chair

10 FINISH WITH FRESH FLOWERS

“For years, I have collected antique white urns, white faience jars, and blue-and-white containers to fill with flowers,” Carol says. “I also fill lovely baskets with oranges or lemons. I adore the smell of flowers and fruits.” Charles agrees, adding that nothing complements a garden bouquet like fried chicken and loved ones. *



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: J. SAVAGE GIBSON; VAN CHAPLIN; STYLING: SCOTT MARTIN; COURTESY: LEE INDUSTRIES