

The French Garden Room

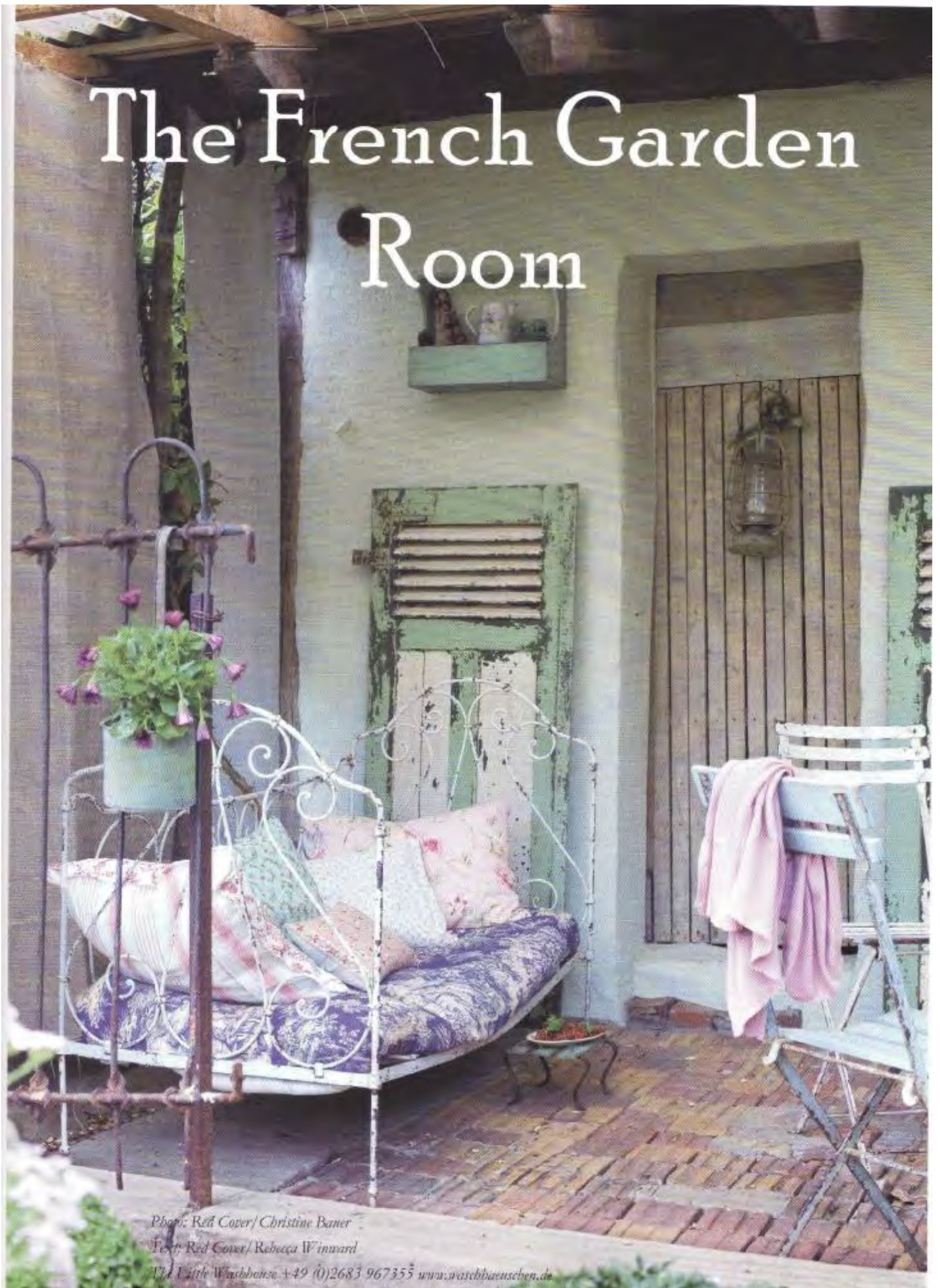


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In our busy lives we all seek refuge in order to unwind and de-stress. With the nostalgic aspect in mind, Angelika and her husband Helmut have created a room that respects natural beauty. The Barkow-Reicherts Cologne home from the 1850s is a sterling ambassador for the nostalgic country style. They have slowly but surely restored their home and garden. We were invited into their very favourite room of them all; the nostalgic garden room. Angelika's motto is "leave the beauty as it would have been". This means that any sort of restoration has been carried out quite gently. Whenever possible, the couple has left all the beautiful old details untouched. This little terrace is an excellent example of this approach. It's now been transformed into a tribute to the rustic "shabby chic" style and it's the perfect place to enjoy hours on end drinking coffee, reading books or planning for the future of the garden.

The decor of the outdoor room is marked by lots of antique furniture and accessories. The room goes well with the aesthetics of the property and the couple's outdoor lifestyle alike. Some of the pillows are made from antique fabrics and others are reproductions of old prints. Together, they act as a comfy counterpart to the gorgeous iron frame bed that was imported from France. It's the perfect place to take forty winks or relax with a book. That Angelika is an avid collector becomes very clear when you cast your eyes on her treasure trove of nostalgic riches.







Angelika isn't afraid to travel far and wide in order to locate perfect additions to her collection. Once the couple started renovating their home, Angelika decided to mix business with pleasure by opening a quaint little shop. The shop is called "The Little Washhouse" and from here, Angelika peddles her beautiful furniture and flea market finds.

Telling the shop and the couple's home apart can be quite tricky. New items for the shop occasionally tend to find their way to the little terrace or the home before they are sold. Angelika loves to decorate her rooms when she finds new items. She quite happily invites the shop's customers onto the terrace for refreshments and to show them her French oasis.

Angelika and Helmut have created a beautiful and lush garden in front of the lively terrace. This garden is filled with perennials, roses and herbs of all sorts. In the midst of the floral chaos you'll find a horde of shaped box plants that add a calm element to the flower riot. They harmonically link the garden and the terrace.



