



With feminine embellishments—pink lattice wallpaper, a crystal chandelier and a comfortable silk chair—a dressing room is tailored to the woman of the house.



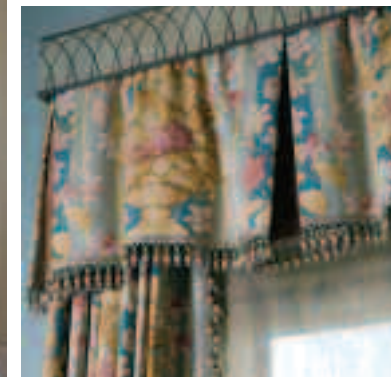
The dressing room also reveals a shirred curtain adorning the wall behind a tall painted chest and a second chair, also covered with French silk fabric.



TORYTELLING

Through her classically romantic style, renowned designer Valerie Onor creates magical interiors.

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FOR RENOWNED INTERIOR DESIGNER Valerie Onor, a home is akin to a book. The story often begins with a single element from a home, such as a dress, a color, a piece of jewelry or furniture. From there, under Valerie's guidance, the entire story unravels, manifesting itself in each element of the home's décor and design.

"A person's home is their very private world and they invite me into that world," Valerie says. "You have to pay attention to how they live, find out about them and what they want. Everyone has a story, so you have to get to know their story. You have to listen, open your eyes and observe."

Like an anthropologist in a foreign culture, Valerie objectively observes the idiosyncrasies of her clients' lifestyles in order to create the perfect livable space for her clients. And although it's not always a quick and painless process, Valerie is doing exactly what she loves: decorating and designing.

"My heart has been in it all my life; it's

Top (right): A close up of the curtain reveals tasseled fringe and hand painted details.

Bottom: Wraparound windows, overlooking an urban landscape, and the intricate features of the dining room make this the perfect room for entertaining for family or an extravagant gala.



in my genes," she says. "I've been creative since I was a little girl."

Valerie was raised by a mother who had a natural zeal for decorating. During her childhood, she recalls venturing to the store each Saturday with her mother where they would buy paint or wallpaper to adorn the walls of their home. Although Valerie has been decorating all her life, it took a long time for her to recognize her potential, but life eventually led her to follow her dream.

"I had varied experiences in my life that motivated me to follow my passion," she recalls. "I was married more than once and a single mom for most of the time. I wasn't taking chances, since I had to make a living. Finally I had the determination to do something I love. It did take me awhile to find my way, but I finally just bit the bullet and decided to go to design school."

After Valerie attended the New York School of Design, her talent and good fortune led her to work with English designer John Fowler, who was key in mentoring Valerie. Since she has branched off on her own, Valerie has created a successful business, winning awards for her classically romantic interiors.

Through her signature style—an amalgam of contemporary, classic and lots of color—Valerie illustrates the personal lives of her clients, telling their unique story through the décor while creating a comfortable yet classic atmosphere tailored specifically to each client's tastes.


Her ability to expertly weave classic and contemporary pieces with the necessities of modern living and technology, while creating a classic and romantic atmosphere is what makes Valerie's work so special.

Bottom (right): A sense of richness and femininity is created from lush silk fabrics and the soft hues of a pink armoire and a cool aqua bedspread.

Top right: Valerie is a firm believer in decorative painting, which adds a delicate touch to the bathroom walls.



A bedroom is enveloped in soothing hues. An antique French-style writing desk and small decorative seat add a comfortable yet classic touch.

A romantic bedroom featuring a large bed with white linens and a red shawl, a green upholstered bench at the foot, and a wall with a large mural of a castle and floral patterns. Two bedside lamps and floral arrangements complete the scene.

*“Everybody’s home is a scrapbook to the soul.
If you surround yourself with the things you love that
home will make you happy.”*



“Many people have used the term ‘romantic’ to describe my interiors,” she says. “They tend to be classics but they are current classics: They’re classic because it’s taking the beauty of things of the past and bringing them forward today. I do love antiques and bring in European pieces with eclectic pieces. I use a lot of color. I love color and it is a signature to my pieces.”

Based out of New York City, Valerie has worked with a variety of spaces from large suburban homes to more condensed urban apartments. In one case, Valerie was tasked with the job of creating the perfect livable space for a busy, modern family, who lived in a New York apartment. Each room of the house tells the story of each family member.

With red, white and blue, the boy’s room was transformed into a haven for the American-history aficionado, while the daughter’s room is donned in a pastel pink, the color of a ballerina’s shoes, the daughter’s room reflects her love for dance. Valerie was even able to bring beach life into the urban apartment for their mother who is an avid beach lover.

“This woman adores the beach,” Valerie says. “Even though they live in the city, not a year goes by where they don’t take their vacation at the beach. [The kitchen] is a totally interior space with no outlook, so we thought, ‘wouldn’t it be great if we just bring the beach in here for you?’”

In order to bring this idea to fruition, Valerie brought in an artist and created a mural in the family’s kitchen nook. Complete with sand, red-and-white striped umbrellas, every day is a day at the beach—even the fabric used on the chairs and table bench is reminiscent of the striped material of a beach cabana.

This master bedroom evokes femininity with a floral wall covering, an antique lace inlaid coverlet, a carved mirror and a hand-gilded writing desk.

“My feeling is that everyone’s home has to be a joy to the eye, a lift to the spirit and a comfort for body and soul.”

INSIDER *Trading*

For renowned interior designer Valerie Onor, romance in the home is an overall feeling or mood. When adding romantic touches to your home, think soft, soothing and sensual. Valerie gives some suggestions on how to add a romantic touch to your home:

- Have courage with color. Soft colors are alluring; they create a romantic atmosphere and set the scene. Don't forget the ceiling. Paint it a coordinated color and your room comes alive.
- Use lush fabrics and patterns: velvet, silk, satin, damask, brocade, toile, touches of chinoiserie.
- Curtain the bed: Lovely side curtains with a valance or swag at the top speak of softness and romance.
- Decorative painting can be used on furniture or mirrors. Try a painted medallion on the ceiling around a chandelier.
- Use lovely candles for a romantic glow: Make every night a special occasion and light a candle with dinner.
- Flowers spell romance—fresh of course—but also wrap a room in floral fabrics and wall coverings.
- The elements of a room should relate to each other in layers. For example, how does the rug relate to the sofa, to the fabric, to the wall behind it? Stand back and look at the big picture—Does this look romantic?



For Valerie, the atmosphere is the most essential element of a home. There should have a romantic, soft and sensual feel emanating from every detail of the home. Whether it's decoratively painting a ceiling and walls or adding a classic piece to a room, a home should evoke a sense of comfort, color and coziness.

“My feeling is that everyone’s home has to be a joy to the eye, a lift to the spirit and a comfort for body and soul,” she says. “Everybody’s home is a scrapbook to the soul. If you surround yourself with the things you love that home will make you happy.”

Opposite (top): Vintage tile and fixtures complete the elegant bathroom, while an artistic chandelier adds a touch of whimsy. • **Opposite (bottom):** Elegantly patterned curtains and regal green walls create a sophisticated atmosphere, while comfort is maintained through classic furnishings. • **Left:** Light peeks in through the window, illuminating a lady’s writing desk and a soft velvet chair. • **Below:** Soothing and soulful, the room achieves its relaxed ambiance from its mellow sea foam and blue hues.

