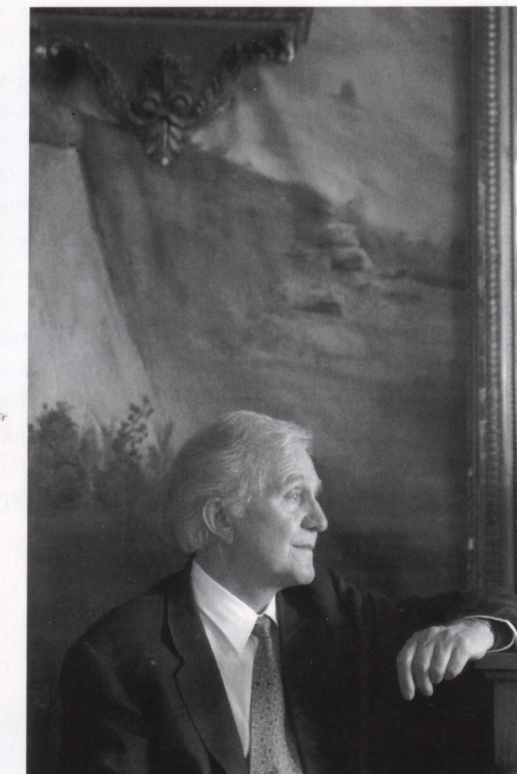


THE CLASSICIST

JOSEPH MINTON MIXES HUMBLE FABRICS AND RICH ANTIQUES IN A DINING ROOM THAT INVITES GUESTS TO LINGER.



The Challenge: The large window of the corner room creates an unsightly focal point, and the most prominent wall is bleak and bare. The space itself is small and confining, leaving little room for elaborate designs.

The Solution: Minton disguised the window with a faux Roman shade made of unlined painter's canvas. Small 19th-century, hand-colored bird etchings on the walls draw the eye upward, counteracting the small footprint of the dining room. A large mirror on the buffet also contributes to the sense of scale. To hide the drab wall behind the buffet, Minton installed a beautiful canvas of a forest. The canvas also gives the room a calming, natural backdrop.



Key Details: Mixing many different styles of furniture and accessories keeps the room from feeling harsh. It also imparts a "patina of age," says Minton, much like the rooms in an English manor might appear after centuries of a family's collections have been layered, generation after generation. Minton designed the sage-green chairs, which he based on the ancient Greek Klismos design, but he made them slightly bigger for comfort. Choosing a plain sisal rug as a floor covering humbles the formal design, and a 1920s deco-style chandelier adds glamour. The chandelier's crystal palm fronds echo the palm trees on the canvas. Two brutalist 19th-century Gothic Portuguese pedestals topped with ornate terra-cotta urns lend masculinity to the design. The result is strong yet serene.

Above: JOSEPH MINTON

Left: TERRA-COTTA URN ON 19TH-CENTURY GOTHIC REVIVAL EBONY PEDESTAL.

Styling by Michael Gaskill
Floral arrangements by Harold Hand

Above: REGENCY-STYLE OCTAGONAL DINING TABLE AND SAGE-GREEN KLISMOS CHAIRS FROM THE MINTON-CORLEY COLLECTION; FRENCH RESTORATION-PERIOD BUFFET AND 19TH-CENTURY GILTWOOD MIRROR FROM JOSEPH MINTON ANTIQUES.



Left: 1920S ART DECO CHANDELIER FROM NIERMANN WEEKS AT HARGETT SHOWROOMS.

Right: 19TH-CENTURY ITALIAN CHAIR; BRONZE 19TH-CENTURY ITALIAN LAMP; AND ANTIQUE FLUTED PINE COLUMN FROM JOSEPH MINTON ANTIQUES.

