

STYLE



WHEN HAMPTONS MEETS PROVINCIAL

Did you know the Hamptons and French Provincial styles share common themes? Both are elegantly relaxed and inviting, and both make use of natural materials, as well as lots of white and timeless pieces of furniture. Yet look closely and you will see subtle differences between these two very popular design classics.

WITH its wealth of style and design expertise, luxury homebuilder Oswald Homes understands the subtleties of both looks, whether its clients are remaining authentic to one or creating a seamless, customised blend of the two.

“A number of our clients have combined elements of both styles,” Oswald Homes interior designer Danielle Ellery says.

“Working with French Provincial-style influences gives them scope to include more ornate detailing and create a more rustic ambience than you might typically find in a classic Hamptons-inspired home.

“From grand chateaux to more modest family farmhouse, the details that help characterise the French Provincial style are generally more decorative and the materials a little less understated. Think wrought iron, antique brass, oak, beautiful big kitchens, flagstone floors and Juliet balconies.”

Often also referred to as French Country, the French Provincial style dates back to the life and times of King Louis XIV and the Palace of Versailles, a stone’s throw from the centre of Paris, when French noblemen set about building

their own beautiful manor houses or chateaux.

Although less ornate than the jaw-dropping Palace of Versailles, the new manor houses appearing across the French countryside were still elaborate and richly detailed. Inspiration came from far and wide, including Moorish influences from Spain, Chinoiserie patterns from China and fabric printing blocks from India. Ideas also flooded in from Italy and the rest of Europe.

“Whether our inspiration today is a grand chateaux or a more modest French family farmhouse, the French Provincial style has become a design staple,” Danielle says.

A close cousin of the Georgian style, the French Provincial style has always been a comfortable fit for Perth streets, especially in established suburbs where heritage considerations come into play.

The style resonates with people looking for classic lines and a sense of tradition.

“An Oswald home inspired by the French Provincial style brings together all the essential features and finishing touches, but in light, airy spaces tailor-made for family living and our indoor/outdoor lifestyle,” Danielle says.



Here are five top tips from Oswald Homes if you are keen to explore the French Provincial style.

- 1. EXTERIOR ELEMENTS:** Designs inspired by homes in the French countryside have a pleasing sense of balance and symmetry that is typically enhanced by subtle mouldings, tall, multi-paned windows, Juliet balconies and traditional French doors.
- 2. MIX IT UP:** When it comes to the interiors, the mantra is ‘mix, don’t match’. Think aged and worn surfaces, waxed timber, treasured hand-me-downs and a decorative buffet or two.
- 3. GET PERSONAL:** Personal touches are a must, such as a casually arranged jug of flowers or family photos in vintage frames.
- 4. BE SHAPELY:** Embrace curves, scallops and ornate detailing in everything from chair legs and tabletops to mirrors and drawer handles.
- 5. FEEL IT:** Add texture and another layer of detail with fabrics such as linen, toile, tapestry and over-sized gingham.

Oswald Homes has taken a close look at the French Provincial style across a series of eight style guides, all available for download at www.oswaldhomes.com.au.

