

Southern Lady

Treasures & Traditions

CLASSIC LOOKS
FOR AUTUMN

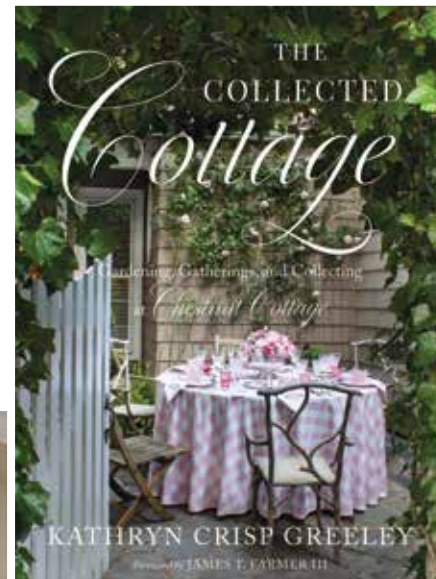


How to Use Your Heirloom China

Designing Joy

From festive menus to gardening tips, designer Kathryn Crisp Greeley's new book invites readers inside her world of English cottage style to celebrate home.

BY Ashley Shaw | PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF Kathryn Greeley



Pink peonies, blue-and-white porcelain, party planning, and Winston Churchill—these are a few of Kathryn Greeley's favorite things. In her latest coffee-table book, *The Collected Cottage: Gardening, Gathering, and Collecting*, the acclaimed designer and hostess extraordinaire reflects on the memories and treasures she's amassed over decades at her beloved North Carolina home, Chestnut Cottage.

"I felt compelled to share these things with people in hopes that they would be inspired to create their own homes into sanctuaries for themselves," says Kathryn, whose second hardback hit shelves this summer. A thoughtful collection of memoirs, decorating advice, and entertaining ideas, *The Collected Cottage* speaks to confident and apprehensive hosts alike. "You don't have to be a gourmet cook; there are caterers. You don't have to be good at floral arranging; there are florists. I hope [this book] inspires them to share their homes, their abilities, and their collections with other people," she says.

Beautiful photography and watercolor scenes illustrate the distinct allure of Chestnut Cottage at various times of the year. Toast Churchill's birthday around a table set with Royal Crown Derby china and Wedgwood jasperware, stop to smell espaliered 'New Dawn' roses in bloom, and relish the simple pleasures of each season with Kathryn as your guide from one page to the next.

The color show of spring and summer opens the book. "I love the garden in late spring and early summer because it has my cottage favorites: daffodils, tulips, delphiniums, foxgloves, and peonies," says Kathryn. Taking cues from traditional European cottage style, she has tended the grounds as ardently as the interiors since moving in nearly 40 years ago.

At the time, Kathryn was single, and her career was just taking off. But she was smitten from the moment she laid eyes on the 1924 cedar-shake abode





nestled in the mountains. “One way or another, I said, “This is going to be my forever home,” Kathryn explains. The property was a blank canvas with a charming heritage, the perfect combination for a self-described history buff and “incurable collector.” She purchased the home from the original family who had built it with abundantly available wormy chestnut, an American wood damaged by insects in the wake of a devastating early 20th-century blight.

Kathryn recounts the early days of her tenure—scrubbing the hardwood walls, ceilings, and trim with oil soap for weeks—and walks readers through her journey of creating a cozy home layered with antiques, keepsakes, and other special touches that not only reflect her personal style, but also tell stories. “I like to reflect on where the

pieces were before they were here, who they belonged to, and how they were used, particularly antiques,” says Kathryn, whose décor epitomizes her design philosophy that spaces should be “collected, not decorated.”

Even the recipes, featured in more than 10 party menus, are a compilation of Kathryn’s specialties and passed-down favorites from friends and family. For instance, a Mother’s Day luncheon features her mom’s signature hot chicken salad, while her popular apple tart rounds out a Tuscan-influenced candlelit dinner.

Kathryn’s fervor for setting gracious tables goes hand in hand with her passion for filling Chestnut Cottage with furnishings, art, tableware, and mementos that spark happiness. “I think we often take design way too seriously, and there has to be some

room for something that just makes us smile,” she says, pointing to her hallway gallery of framed restaurant menus and a hand-painted tree mural in the kitchen, its branches entwined among various blue-and-white platters hung on the wall.

Interwoven with get-together ideas and lovely imagery, conversational tales unfold like a letter to a longtime friend. “It is kind of like a love story,” Kathryn says—one she hopes will stir readers’ creative instincts as they fashion the homes and gardens of their dreams, just as she has done. “To use what I have collected is a gift to people who come across the threshold.”

The *Collected Cottage: Gardening, Gathering, and Collecting* (Greenleaf Book Group Press, 2022) is available wherever books are sold. For information, visit kathryngreeleydesigns.com.