

Shabby FUSION

Use a few simple techniques from an Italian interior designer to renovate your home.

By Elizabeth T. Pardo • Photography by Francesca Blasi



Italian architect and interior designer Francesca Blasi redesigned her home with a contemporary twist on shabby style, using simple techniques.

Francesca teaches classes on how to renovate homes to create the perfect atmosphere, and she has insights into how your house can achieve the perfect look too.

The first place she started redesigning her home was with the colors she chose. "The colors in my home are all combinations. I chose between the combinations of beige and white, and gray and dark brown," Francesca says. "I think these color combinations create a beautiful, harmonic equilibrium."

Color is the focus of her shabby style renovations, and her harmonic equilibrium is most focused on the colors of the furniture and the wall colors.

"I painted the furniture a light color, and I painted the walls a dark color. That contrast creates a strong visual impact," she says. The play between the dark and the light is an Italian tradition dating back to the Renaissance. Chiaroscuro, the effect of contrast between light and dark, emphasizes the illuminated accessory items in Francesca's living room.

Although the furniture pieces and dark walls define the larger landscapes of her home, Francesca places the same amount of importance on the smaller pieces of décor. "The walls and furniture create a great large visual place to start, but the accessories that showcase the atmosphere the best are my painted cages and dried hydrangeas," says Francesca.



{TOP} FRANCESCO'S SHABBY DESIGN equilibrium is evident in the living room with the light, neutral-colored furniture against the dark, neutral-colored walls.

HERE CHIAROSCURO, the Italian tradition of contrast between light and dark, creates emphasis on the illuminated items in Francesca's living room, particularly her green vases and refinished candleholders.



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To transform your own house, Francesca wants you to ask yourself if you're ready to change. “If you have the courage to face transforming your home,” she says, “then you realize that everything is modifiable.” Francesca wants décor enthusiasts to fight against the status quo that settles in in many homes. “Sometimes we look at our objects, furniture, accessories and think that they will remain the same forever,” she says. “This is the mistake we make—everything can change, and this is great for the spaces we live in!”

To learn more about Francesca Blasi's shabby style, find her on YouTube. She has a variety of tutorial videos—some in English, some in Italian—to help you transform your home.

THE COZY LOOK OF THE SHABBY STYLED cottage is seen in the hand-painted accessories and collectibles, giving Francesca's home a lived-in feel that isn't cluttered.

FRANCESCA'S COLLECTIBLES give her home both a cozy atmosphere and a sense of organization in the groupings of the small, hand-painted accessories.



FRANCESCA CREATES HER OWN CUTE DÉCOR accessories with simple and mostly neutral-colored elements, including lacquer paint, stencils, canvas and chicken wire.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT CREAZIONEDATMOSFERE.COM. CONTACT FRANCESCA BLASI AT INFO@CREAZIONEDATMOSFERE.COM.