

trends

French Kissed

Give your home some ooh la la by **CAROLINE TIGER**

Forget the interminable attachment of "French" to "country"—rooms loaded with studiously distressed armoires and flowerpots, yards of Provencal-style fabric, ceramic roosters galore. Happily, a new understanding of *la mode française* is dawning, one that's less defined by a curse of the quaints.

Achieving this style means assuming the attitude of a chic 21st-century Parisienne in a gracious Eighth Arrondissement apartment with high ceilings and tall windows. As antiques dealer Josephine Ryan writes in *French Home*, the look should ooze "nonchalance underscored by enormous confidence." Some guidelines: 1) Don't buy it if there's no *coup de foudre* (love at first sight). 2) One investment piece casts a certain *je ne sais quoi* over everything else. 3) Leave space blank. 4) Take risks. Embrace personal quirks. No roosters. *Voilà*.



• What's more French than fashion? These circa-1922 original gouaches come from Jeanne Lanvin's *maison de couture*. **\$4,400 for pair at Lisa M. Reisman et Cie, 1714 Rittenhouse Square, 215-735-2781, lisart.com.**



Coco Chanel would've happily primped before this sunburst mirror. **Two's Company mirror, \$300 at Area, 51 Bridge Street, Lambertville, 609-397-6660, areaandco.com.**

Convert a classic armchair by reupholstering in *au courant* fabrics like this quirky Virginia Johnson pattern. **Chairloom by Molly Worth, \$1,300 at The Bee's Nest, 16 East Eagle Road, Havertown, chairloom.com.**



• A red, white and toile powder room by interior designer Mona Ross Berman. **Mona Ross Berman Interiors, 112 West Springfield Avenue, 215-680-7200, monarossberman.com.**



• Chinoiserie recalls the lavish courts of Louis XV in a breezy way. **Notre Monde lantern, \$148 at Open House, 107 South 13th Street, 215-922-1415, openhouseliving.com.**

COURTESY TWO'S COMPANY (MIRROR); RICHARD QUINDRY/ELISA M. REISMAN ET CIE, LTD (GOUCHES); CAROL BATES PHOTOGRAPHY (ROOM); ZOEY SLESS-KITAIN (LANTERN); BRETT THOMAS (CHAIR)