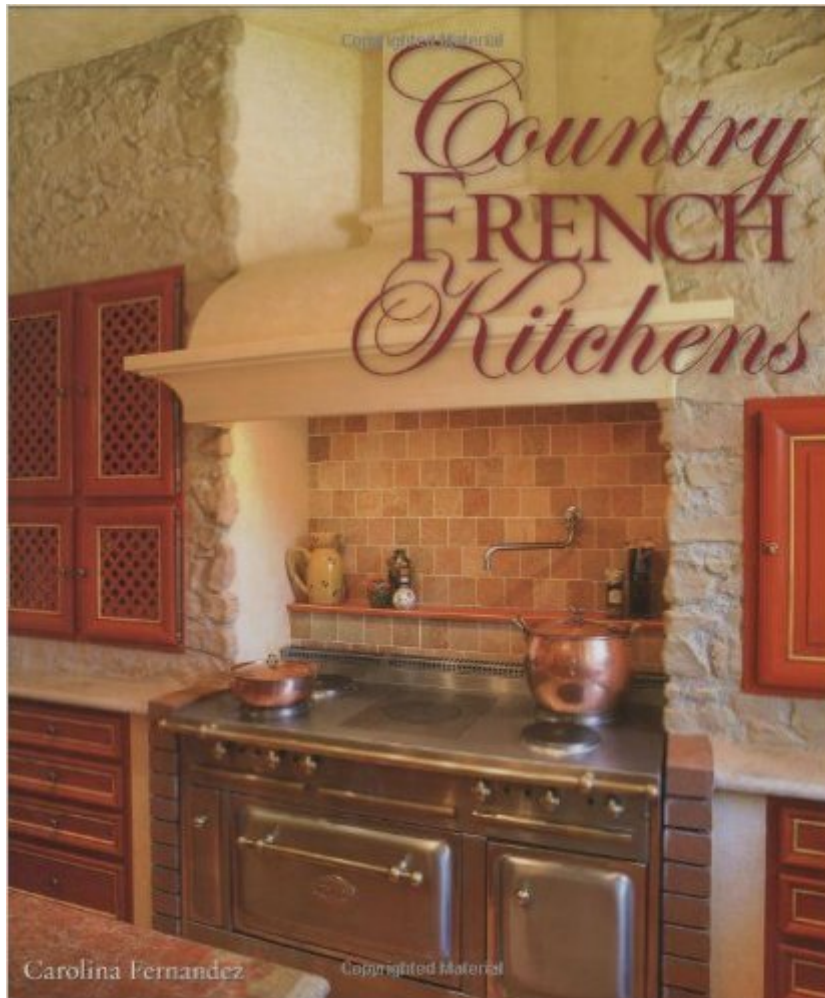


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# Country French Kitchens



## Synopsis

Country French Kitchens inspires you how to incorporate organic beauty, local materials and simple but elegant charm, into the heart of the home-the kitchen. This book provides practical strategies for translating authentic Country French style into the kitchens of those living outside the boundaries of France, where farmhouses and rural simplicity generate the most prevalent sentiment for Country French ambiance. Country French Kitchens is an indispensable resource for those seeking the design, architectural and inspirational elements that can only be found across the pond. Explains the fundamentals and philosophy of country French style and how to translate it into your own kitchen. Captions describe products used and how each shot captures the style. Detailed resource section provides contact information for designers, architects, builders, decorative artists, appliance manufacturers, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am thrilled that this is not yet another showcase of photos of kitchens in France, rather this book shows you numerous country french kitchens that are authentic and absolutely true to the style, yet there is no sacrificing of practicality. The book stands on its own if you just want to see beautiful and inspiring kitchens or just like french country style, but goes the extra step for readers who want to see how the style can be creatively adapted to kitchens in which real people actually cook, entertain and congregate with their families here and now in the US. I also was impressed by the quality of presentation and photographic excellence.

I always thought a country French kitchen had to be swathed in Pierre Deux fabrics. What a wonderful surprise to find that Carolina Fernandez has taken the time and her keen eye to find so many variations on a theme. This is a very handsome, visually exciting book with wonderful ideas for creating an amazing variety of country French kitchens. Her intimate text is a refreshing look at the homeowners passions and is a true complement to the photos that zoom in on the detailed vignettes.

I love French Country style, and was happy to learn about this book. My happiness didn't last. After I bought it, I was stunned to discover that not one photograph in the book was taken in France, and in fact there is not a single authentically French kitchen anywhere in its pages. The majority of the kitchens seem to have been photographed in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New York. Instead of true French style, this disappointed reader discovered clichéd American takes on French style -- large ceramic roosters, ceramic rabbits, a wall emblazoned with the word 'EAT,' built-in cabinets painted with flowers... When I bought this book, I looked forward to being inspired by real French kitchen design, with photographs and text that captured the charm and individuality of a kitchen in the French countryside. Instead I discovered garishly hued suburban American kitchens masquerading as French. Many photographs, including the cover, have a yellow cast from electric lighting. This book is going back!

Having my own Interior Design business for over 20 years, and as an A.S.I.D. Allied Member, I only wish that I had this book before now in my office reference library to use as a design tool with my clients! The exemplary photographs serve as a superb "talking-tool" when discussing the many details and design options available to anyone designing a kitchen, whether Country French or another style. Kitchens are the center of activity in any house and quite often, the most expensive renovation cost when updating or designing a house. Carolina Fernandez does a brilliant job of explaining the details found in a Country French kitchen which instantly relay an aire of authenticity.... making it inviting, timeless, functional and unique to the owners who create it. My interior design mantra is to make any interior look as if it has always been there, just comfortably embellished with time, nothing new or over the top decorated. Her advice on using antique doors as the front facade of a closet, antique glass in the cabinets, and using light fixtures that have a patina of their own endorse what I try to create in my interiors. You are in for a treat when you see the myriad of lovely Country French kitchens photographed from various angles and read her

enchanting commentary!

I was eagerly anticipating this book as I love all things French. But after going through the book, it was a bit disappointing. The book is beautifully done and gorgeous to behold. But I was discouraged to discover that the examples the author uses are mostly ultra-luxe, super-designer takes on French kitchens in the U.S. No actual French kitchens to be found. Only the last couple of kitchens show the whimsy the French use in their own spaces. But my biggest peeve is the redundant photos used. Many different shots of the same kitchen from slightly different angles. Enough already! Most readers will prefer more kitchens than more shots of the same kitchen and feel cheated when this happens. So *Cie la vie* - sometimes life is disappointing...

I liked this book for the beautiful photography and I will keep it for its color combinations and decorating ideas that even middle class folks can adapt. But I was somewhat disappointed that all the kitchens covered were at the very high end with THE most expensive appliances and whose owners obviously, had to be well-heeled. I was hoping for a wider range of represented income levels as anyone with the BIG BUCKS can have a beautiful kitchen built for them -- all it takes is a designer and a layout of tens of thousands -- don't know why I was surprised that no one who owned these kitchens would fall into middle class. The other thing I would have liked to see would have been some people in all these photos. Having said all that some of the design elements, flooring, fabrics, counter tops, unusual cabinets, etc., were absolutely stunning -- so if you want a "Wish Book" this fits the bill.

Country French Kitchens! I loved this book. It was wonderfully written, to the point and finally a decorator's book without all the fluff. There is a diversity of french kitchens and also there are many kitchens featured, I was able to get great ideas for my future kitchen. I highly recommend this book.

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