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Window & Wall

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IDEAS™

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TEMPT YOUR PALETTE

**Colorful dining rooms that suit your taste
On the menu: a blue-and-yellow lakeside kitchen**

\$3.99 U.S.



COME *for* DINNER

With the popularity of entertaining in the comfort of home, why not rejuvenate that little-used formal dining room to welcome lingering over casual meals and easy socializing? See how these five rooms turned stick-in-the-mud styles into comfortable dining havens.

Classical comfort.

Decades ago, this spacious 12x20-foot dining room was sized for 10-course meals and a staff of servants. But the current homeowners wanted the room to catch up with today's less elaborate times while retaining its elegant, historical appeal.

B Y
S A R A H
A R N O L D



"I was very much trying to capitalize on the size of the room," interior designer Patricia Marian Cove says. "Larger rooms show off the elements much better and are more versatile. The table can be moved off to the side to create room for mingling. Other tables could be moved in to make conversation groupings and lessen the effect of the formal sit-down dinner."

Bowing to the Philadelphia home's history, Cove kept the original crown and window moldings, chair rail, mantel, and unique radiator covers. She painted them white and added white picture-frame molding to the walls to make the subtle

The dining room right reflects Norman style—an English term for the French Gothic style developed in the Middle Ages—that is typical in early-19th-century Philadelphia homes.

cream-and-yellow Federal-print wallpaper inside stand in relief against the pale yellow paint outside.

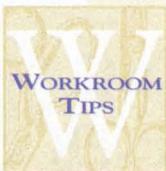
Highly polished antique furniture glows in the natural light from the windows and from the French doors leading to the garden room. Again, Cove tried to emphasize the original elements in the room by dressing the windows in buoyant balloon shades. Made of yellow *peau de soie* silk, the shades can be raised or lowered for privacy and sun control.

The shade headings, tightly ruched on a wide board, are accented with white satin cording knotted at intervals. Tightly shirred sheers soften and filter light. Mounted on tension rods, they are made of sheer ivory fabric and cover the window café style. The French doors were left untreated to avoid the busy look of too many window treatments in one room, Cove says.

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Photographer: Ross Chapple
Interior designer: Patricia Marian Cove. Location: Chestnut Hill Hospital Art and Design House, Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania. Field editor: Eileen Deymier

This silky peau de soie balloon shade left is lined with a lightweight ivory satin to give it more weight and structure and to dress up the view from the outside.



The radiator covers are original to the house. The pattern cut into them is a wheat sheaf, a sign of abundance, feasting, and welcome. As they have for about 100 years, metal fabricators can re-create this look in a stock or custom pattern. Use steel, aluminum, copper, bronze, or brass in a heavy enough gauge, or thickness, to resist heat. Steel and aluminum will be the least expensive metals, while bronze and brass will cost more. Heavier gauges are more expensive, too.