

# MANSION GLOBAL

DESIGNER'S CORNER

## Creating Effortless Charm With Cottagecore Design

“The look is feminine and natural, a little wild and unstructured and very comfortable”

BY JENNIFER TZESES | ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON NOVEMBER 17, 2021 | [MANSION GLOBAL](#)



Designed by Carleton Varney, a sitting area at The Grand Hotel evokes an old-world home in the country. COURTESY OF THE GRAND HOTEL

*Each week, Mansion Global tackles a topic with an elite group of designers from around the world who work on luxury properties. This week, we look at tips for transforming your property into a cottagecore home.*

Cottagecore, a design aesthetic and throwback to simpler times, channels a warm, cozy, rural way of

“The look is feminine and natural, a little wild and unstructured and very comfortable. It really makes me think of an English garden with its climbing roses, wild lavender, flowering trees, and stone walls. This translates inside to faded chintz, wide plank wood or stone floors, low ceilings, weathered textures, and muted tartans and florals,” he said.

To bring the look home, follow these tips from the design pros.

**More:** [Curating an Elegant Holiday Tablescape to Wow Your Guests](#)

### **Mix and Match**

“A cottagecore home is all about creating warm and intimate spaces that don’t feel overly composed. It should be made up of inherited pieces and individual pieces, so as not to be matching. For instance, I wouldn’t match end tables or night tables, but rather have them speak to each other in terms of color, shape, and style. I also think that love seats and more intimate groupings of furniture, rather than long sofas and sectionals, best fit the look—a vintage buffet or sideboard for storing china alongside an antique farmhouse table.

“The color palette should be soft, natural and welcoming earth tones that reinforce the garden-like feel. I would opt for soft greens, dusty pinks and purples, creams, rusts, pumpkins and cranberries—nothing too dark or too strong for a gentle space.

“Personally, I like to do an American twist on the classic English cottagecore look, with rustic pieces of Americana, like a big, weathered American flag. Pewter candlesticks, mix-and-match vintage china, patterned tablecloths and textured chargers, heirloom quilts and plenty of soft, patterned pillows are great accents. For art, a series of vintage silhouettes would be a lovely touch. And at this time of year, a roaring fire, of course.”

— **Carleton Varney, president of Dorothy Draper & Co. in Palm Beach, Florida**

**More:** [Creating an Inviting Living Room Around a Fireplace](#)

### **Further a Collected Feel**

“Cottagecore is a nod to a more agrarian way of life. The aesthetic is layered with florals, country-inspired textiles and patterns, vintage furniture, playful shapes and rustic touches. It’s rooted in nostalgia and harkens back to a simpler time—perhaps reminiscent of your granny’s house.

“Vintage pieces are a key component of this look, as well as florals and pops of color (think flowers in a field) against an earthier backdrop. The furniture needs to feel cozy, collected and not too sparse. Furnishings should feel a bit rustic with nothing too polished or precious looking.

“The color palette should feel eclectic but in a pretty way. Incorporate unexpected greens, well-placed pinks and reds —layered colors that do not feel matchy. Overall, the space should feel eclectic and not overtly designed—as if you found the pieces at different times and brought them into your home slowly.”



Mixed patterns, vintage pieces and a muted color palette harken back to a simpler way of life in a home designed by Heidi Caillier. Haris Kenjar

— Heidi Caillier of Heidi Caillier Design in Seattle, Washington

More: [Accessorizing a Coffee Table for Design and Function](#)

### Give It the Warm and Cozies

“Creating a mood with lighting and layering is vital, whether it’s with color and pattern or neutrals, layering is key.

“Even if the space is small, I like to use large pieces of furniture and anchor the layout with rugs. Don’t fill the whole room with antiques or brown furniture, but the odd statement piece is fabulous. Lots of art and definitely window coverings of some sort. If not curtains, try soft roman blinds or bamboo blinds.

“Don’t be shy to use pattern. Choose one you love and then mix it with other patterns in varying scale, i.e., a floral with a stripe and a smaller scale pattern can look brilliant. You can use artwork or a rug as a starting point.”



Patterning, artwork and furniture have all the character of an earlier time in a bedroom designed by Lisa Burdus. Lisa Burdus

PENTA **inspiredbypenta**  
2,882 followers

[View profile](#)



[View more on Instagram](#)

4 likes

**inspiredbypenta**

HUMAN ONE, a 3-D video sculpture and the latest creation by the artist known as Beeple, sold for US\$28.9 million to an online bidder in Switzerland at a live Christie's auction in New York on Tuesday evening.

The more than 7-foot-high sculpture featuring dystopian imagery that is accessed through the Ethereum blockchain drew bids from collectors on the phone with specialists in New York and Hong Kong, before ultimately selling for a hammer price of US\$25 million in just over 3 minutes.

The final result was nearly double an expected estimated price in the range of US\$15 million. HUMAN ONE, 2021, carried a guarantee from the auction house.

The kinetic video sculpture, with an accompanying NFT, is a hybrid of physical and digital technology. It shows a striding person clad in silver garb wearing what appears to be a space helmet. The figure walks determinedly through changing landscapes projected on four walls of its 4-foot-by-4-foot box.

Artist Mike Winkelmann, who goes by the name Beeple, calls it "the first portrait of a human born in the metaverse."

[Add a comment...](#)

### Keep the Look Informal

"When I hear the term cottagecore, I immediately envision the Cotswolds in England. Cottages should feel comfortable and inviting, and as if everything is both beautiful and purposeful. The interiors should feel welcoming and homey.

## Keep the Look Informal

“When I hear the term cottagecore, I immediately envision the Cotswolds in England. Cottages should feel comfortable and inviting, and as if everything is both beautiful and purposeful. The interiors should feel welcoming and homey.

“Because we generally think of traditional cottages in environments that are gray and rainy, I like to add vibrant color—vibrant yellow or reds that warm up the spaces and add a bit of drama and beauty. These color palettes also provide a beautiful backdrop for cottage-inspired furnishings. Incorporate comfortable pieces that feel as if they’ve been gathered over time—nothing too precious. We also like to mix more informal, slipcovered pieces with structured pieces so that the rooms feel inviting and cozy.

“We also like to add unexpected furniture that doesn’t always feel too perfectly placed. For example, marble flooring adds a bit of elegance to the space.”



A sitting area designed by Roger Higgins evokes all the traditional charm. Reid Rolls

— Roger Higgins, principal designer of R. Higgins Interiors in Nashville

More: [Stylish Storage Ideas for Kids' Toys](#)

### Blend Old and New

“Cottage core is embracing tradition and adding a fresh twist, whether color, pattern or texture. The vibe is comfortable yet expresses a fresh energy and speaks to the modern family.

“Furniture should live well—you should feel as if you can put your feet up and relax, but it still has refinement and style. Think new and old—a blending heirlooms or unique vintage finds along with functional and useful modern day accessories.”

“Choose a color palette that brings you joy, that will lay the groundwork for a room that feels authentically you. Think about scale, texture and content. Cottage core is a mix of all of these things to create a collected traditional and funky vibe.”



Designer Lacy Hughes mixed vintage touches with a modern color palette for a twist on traditional Cottage Core design. Courtesy of Lacy Hughes of Julian Design