

White linen slipcovers soften stone walls in the family room. Lauren scouts for old textiles at flea markets (such as Round Top) and antiques dealers (such as Vintage Laundry in Austin). Her suggestions for using vintage fabrics include mixing more than one fabric in a slip- or pillow cover, using monogrammed linens even if the initials are not yours, and lining delicate fabrics with another fabric for support.



"I like a natural
look. Slipcovers
are not for people
who worry about
perfection."





This chair is one of only two in the entire house that is not slipcovered: "It was my grandmother's," says Lauren, "and I love it so much I don't want to cover up the tufting." Instead, she highlights it using little rosettes of fabric gathered around the buttons. The linen cushion cover is removable so it can be washed. A pillow in quilted fabric with a ruffled band offers a change of texture. The little footstool was a flea-market find; its rustic burlap slipcover is contrasted with a mini-linen ruffle. The curtains are ready-made lined Belgian linen panels from Restoration Hardware.



"I've always loved and lived in old houses," says interior designer Lauren Ross, "but when we moved to Austin from Houston, I couldn't find what I was looking for." Though this house was built in the 1990s and decorated in a darker, more rustic style, Lauren realized it could easily be adapted to suit her white-on-white, feminine brand of relaxed elegance. Textiles are Lauren's passion, and she delights in collecting vintage fabrics, using them in unexpected ways, and adding distinctive details to every element she designs. Her home blends a mix of comfortably upholstered pieces—almost always slipcovered, and almost always white—complemented by the peeling patina of painted antiques and garden furnishings brought indoors. "Because the floor plan is so open in this house, and you can see from room to room, I used the same Navajo White paint and seagrass rugs throughout the house for continuity," says Lauren. To those who express surprise that four children can peacefully coexist with white fabrics and crystal chandeliers, Lauren explains that she uses only washable fabrics for slipcovers (which she doesn't worry about ironing) and reserves the more delicate antiques for pillows—and that all the furniture is already pre-chipped!