







**FACING PAGE:** Cynthia Frank at her Southampton, New York, home, which she decorated with the help of designers Timothy Haynes and Kevin Roberts. The sculpture is by Almond Zigmund, and the painting is by Russell Christoffersen. **THIS PAGE:** The loggia's antique arm-chairs and bench are upholstered in Pierre Frey fabrics, the Lucite-and-





When Cynthia Frank convinced her husband to buy a seven-bedroom house a block from the ocean in Southampton, New York, their children braced for the onslaught of 18th-century French furniture. "They refer to me as 'the mother who buys chairs that no one wants to sit in,'" Frank says. "A lot of our furniture is very behind

this indefatigable stylesetter has worked for more than five decades as a magazine editor—first as an assistant to the fabric and fur editor of *Harper's Bazaar*, then at such publications as *Town & Country*, *House & Garden*, and now ELLE DECOR, where she is a contributing editor at large. "She has the energy of a 25-year-old and a truly genius daughter-in-law, the photogra-





interior designer Kevin Roberts, to lighten the interior of the house, was built in the 1980s. Inspired by classic French interiors, they refined the architecture of the rooms by adding paneling, walls and pilasters to doorways. The living room, which overlooks the swimming pool and a sunken tennis court, was brightened with French doors. A terrazzo floor was replaced with diamond-patterned marble.

Frank loves to bounce ideas off Hayley Roberts, but for the most part she does her own decorating. This time, she restrained her penchant for gilt and stiff-backed antiques in favor of more comfortable furnishings, including down-filled sofas upholstered in thick, white Belgian linen. "I wanted this house to feel easy," she says. "The doors are always open, and everyone has the right of the place—including my dog, Sam, who always manages to shake off in the middle of the living room."

Of course, Frank's version of French style is friendly incorporates such prized possessions as a Louis XV armchair, a Mies van der Rohe Lucite cocktail table, and a pair of Frances Elkins Loop chairs. Everything she owns is antique, vintage, or one-of-a-kind.