



HIGH BACKS ON CHAIRS AND SOFAS PLAY TO THE HEIGHT OF THE CEILING



THE FAMILY ROOM

It's not easy to create coziness in a newly constructed addition with 19½-foot vaulted ceilings, but Frank Ponterio managed to make this room feel as weathered and charming as the rest of the house (which has approximately nine-foot ceilings). He gave the walls a warm striated-glaze finish and put overtufted chenille flowered curtains from Nobilis of Paris on the windows and over the doors (which, Ponterio points out, looked tiny cut into soaring walls). Virtually all of the furnishings are bigger or taller than those found in the rest of the house. The six-foot chandelier, for example, hangs from a three-foot chain. For the sitting area, Ponterio purchased a curvy, high-backed antique sofa from Thomas Jolly Antiques and had a companion sofa custom-made with a similarly high back and a floor-sweeping skirt "to keep it soft; too much vertical upholstery would have been too boxy." The stars of the show are the pair of Victoria Hagan tall wingback chairs from Holly Hunt. "People kept moving them apart, but I kept pushing them back together," Ponterio says. "They create intimacy." The other detail that kept the masses titillated for the run of the event: in lieu of flowers on the coffee table, Ponterio put water and one black fish in a hurricane bowl.

SCALED TO SIZE:
EXTRA-LARGE
ACCESSORIES
FOR AN
EXTRA-LARGE
ROOM

