

The background image shows a richly decorated room. In the foreground, a brass candelabra with a single candle and a porcelain vase with a portrait of a man sit on a surface. Behind them, a large brass column stands next to a wall covered in colorful, patterned wallpaper. A wooden door is visible on the left, and a framed picture hangs on the wall in the background.

THE FINEST ROOMS *in America*

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DINING ROOM, MAGNOLIA MOUND

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

This room was built in about 1802 during a vogue for French wallpaper in American rooms. As was typical, relatively restrained neoclassic architectural details frame its elaborate designs. This remarkable paper dynamically unifies the room by connecting the architecture and the other decorative arts. This is a Réveillon design replicated by Brunschwig and Fils and installed in 1995. Also characteristic of American rooms of this period are painted floors and floor cloths—canvases impregnated with painted decorations. The use of paint on floors is both functional and decorative, especially as the color and designs can be discreetly adapted to suit any space. Here, to great effect, a bright red floor cloth serves to highlight the reds and golds in the wallpaper and set off the polished mahogany furniture. Over the table is a punkah, a wooden fan invented in India, which would have been operated by using a rope and pulley.

Magnolia Mound was once the center of a 900-acre plantation on the Mississippi River. It was built as a small settler's house in 1791 and was expanded and aggrandized at the beginning of the nineteenth century in the French Creole taste by Constance Rochon Joyce and Armand Allard Duplantier, a captain of the Continental army under the Marquis de Lafayette, a hero of both the American and French Revolutions.



The restrained architecture—the plain board ceiling and simplified details of the doors and wooden mantelpiece—contrasts with the polished mahogany furniture, the silver, and the giltwood mirror in the room. This is a relationship often seen in early American houses.

