



Written by Micaela Arnett | Photography provided by Pearce Scott Architects

# Custom Country Cottage

For homeowners who had a vision of a countryside cottage with a modern twist, their home was built with Lowcountry-inspired architecture and contemporary appeal.

For clients with a vision of their own country cottage, this 3-bed, 3.5-bath, 2,370 SF home exceeded their expectations thanks to the experienced architectural team who drafted the plans.

Designed on a tight lot in a village setting, the team at Pearce Scott Architects worked to create a welcoming entry to the street-facing front elevation of the property while maintaining privacy on the back of the lot. The homeowner's goal for the home's design was a nod to Lowcountry tradition in form with more contemporary architectural features—a Pearce Scott specialty.

"We designed the concept with the client's vision in mind, and executed it through construction documents and occasional construction observation to ensure the vision was maintained throughout the build process," the team says.

The homeowners had specific requests of the team to design a space that wouldn't feel cramped despite its tight property constraints. To meet this need, high ceilings and expansive windows in the great room make the entire home feel much larger than it is. Located on a floodplain, Pearce Scott Architects designed the house to address



Pearce Scott & Allison Bonner of Pearce Scott Architects



The image shows a bright, open-plan living and dining area. The ceiling is vaulted with exposed wooden beams and a black metal truss system. A large white brick fireplace is the focal point, with a black TV mounted above it. Tall, narrow windows on either side of the fireplace let in plenty of natural light. In the foreground, a dark wood dining table is surrounded by orange leather chairs and upholstered chairs. A dark grey sofa is positioned in front of the fireplace. The overall aesthetic is modern and airy.

### Elevated Architecture

Vaulted ceilings and tall windows flooded with natural light give the main living space an expansive feel.



jurisdictional requirements for a successful design/build process.

The main floor includes an open kitchen, dining, and living room with a mudroom and stair hall separating the more public areas from the primary suite. A covered front porch extends along the entire elevation to address the street, while a screened porch in the back features a fireplace that focuses on a more private setting in the rear.

Two bedrooms and bathrooms are located on a portion of the second floor. A one-car garage is attached to create a

carport in between and provides a covered everyday entry for the homeowner.

The team shares, “We like to say that we design without ego, meaning we don’t come to projects with any preconceived notion of what it’s going to look or feel like. We let the clients’ vision guide the process and enjoy designing in a variety of styles.”

The firm’s favorite space in the home? The inviting front porch and the light-filled great room. “It’s so bright during the day that these clients hardly have

to cut the lights on,” they say adding, “We enjoy getting to know clients and how they live in their current homes, discovering what their hopes are for their new home, and then translating those hopes into a design that turns their dream into reality.” \*

*For more information, call Pearce Scott Architects at (843) 837-5700 or visit [pscottarch.com](http://pscottarch.com).*

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**(below)** The ground floor was designed with an open kitchen, living, and dining room.

**(above right)** The screened porch with a fireplace focuses on a more private setting in the rear.





A CHAT WITH **DAVID MCKINLEY**

# PEARCE SCOTT ARCHITECTS



**Why was it important for these homeowners to work with an architect?** In our initial meetings, the client shared inspirational images, which we used to create a flow diagram, analyzing how they live and function in their current space. With their input, we enhanced the positive aspects of their existing home, eliminated the unwanted features, and designed their forever home inspired by the Lowcountry.

**What were the main needs outlined by the homeowner?**

One of the client's main desires was to maximize natural light throughout the space. We achieved this with front porches and a distinctive side porch, which provide shelter from direct sunlight while capturing as much natural light as possible.

**What unique architectural features can you describe?** Unique to most homes, this house features a double front porch. It enhances sustainability by providing shade and allowing for ventilation through open doors and windows. The right side of the home also features a porch infill, containing the dining space on the main floor and a bedroom above. This design is a reflection of vernacular architecture, giving the impression that the front porches were built first and later enclosed to create more interior space as the family grew.

**What does sustainability in architecture mean to you?** Sustainability in architecture involves balancing the client's aesthetic preferences with environmental principles such as the use of daylight, material selection, and passive systems. For every project at Pearce Scott Architects, we start with a site study to assess the lot's orientation, where the sun rises and sets and prevailing breezes.



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