



GRAND AND GRACIOUS The great room of this Palmetto Bluff home blends bold design with Lowcountry charm. A soaring cathedral ceiling, natural light from elevated dormers and rich blue cabinetry create a space that's both welcoming and refined.

HOME SHOWCASE

Over the river and through the woods

This Palmetto Bluff home was crafted to evoke ‘Grandma’s cottage, but chic.’ Inspired design and construction created exactly that.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN
PHOTOS BY JOSH CORRIGAN, ELLIS CREEK PHOTOGRAPHY

The beauty of creating a custom home is never having to say no. If the client loves a particular floor plan, but wants to stretch it out to add rooms and better fit the lot, you can say yes. If the client wants a home that evokes a certain feeling of familiar comfort, while still serving as a dazzling example of Lowcountry luxury, you can say yes. It may take a little more work to be able to say yes, but the rewards are worth it.

“We’ve seen a lot of interest in one story homes like this, because it’s a great footprint and you can really add onto it as long as you have the lot. This particular lot was very wide, so we could stretch out,” said Amanda Denmark with Pearce Scott Architects. “Because you can do that, you have so many more opportunities.”

A great escape

Those opportunities were pursued to their fullest in the home’s great room, where the single-story layout allowed for a soaring cathedral ceiling above the open great room, with elevated dormers that bathe the room in natural light.

“The openness between the great room, the dining room and the kitchen plays well. It’s very Southern. Very Lowcountry,” said Matt Thomas with CS Thomas, who managed the home’s construction. “Plus, you can open up those three sets of doors onto the porch and extend your entertaining space into the porch. That’s my favorite area of the home just because it all flows together.”

The great room also serves as a showcase for the owner’s love of vibrant colors, infusing the space with homey charm.

“I met the owners when they were still in the planning stages and of of the first things she said was she wanted it to be like your grandmother’s cottage, but chic,” said Shell Neely, ASID, with Kelly Caron Designs. “She loved pastel colors, and she wanted patterns and florals. That was really the direction, I just ran with it.”

BUILT TO SOAR Cathedral ceilings enhance air circulation, keeping the space cooler while improving sound distribution for a more immersive atmosphere. Dormer windows maximize natural light, reducing the need for artificial lighting and creating an open, airy feel.



A blueprint for style

The interplay of floral patterns in the living room complements the bold blue cabinetry found in the kitchen, the first link in a chain of color that finds its way into every room in the house. “One thing that makes this house unique is the color and the cabinetry. You can add a lot by adding color, but if you can take the cabinets and pull them into that color you can go to the next level. Plus, the blue in the back of the bookcase in the great room mirrors the cabinets,” said Neely. “We stuck with the theme, so you’ll find some blue in every room.”

THE SCIENCE OF SERENITY

Studies in color psychology show that blue has a calming and stabilizing effect on the brain, enhancing both mental clarity and relaxation, making it an ideal color choice for kitchens.



History in the making

But creating an atmosphere that feels like coming home to Grandma’s cottage wasn’t just a matter of finding the right color palette. In the Carolina room, inspired choices in materials and architecture lent themselves to a sense of ageless character.

“It was originally a screened porch with a fireplace, and we decided to fill it in,” said Denmark. However, they opted to keep the original brick flooring and exterior siding, creating a room that tells a story. “That’s a traditional Lowcountry element, creating a generational look of a home that has grown and been adapted over a long time.”

CAROLINA COMFORT

Blending sunroom charm with year-round functionality, Carolina rooms invite natural light through expansive windows while maintaining climate control for every season. They are often transformed from screened porches.

Raising the ceiling

The two threads that run throughout the home – generational design and subtle tones of blue – are married perfectly in the primary suite. Here, soft finishes and walls carry the blue, while a bold pecky cypress ceiling adds an additional layer of texture.

"That pecky cypress ceiling was an early selection, but the owners fell in love with the washes that they saw. We wound up with a really good batch of pecky cypress that had a lot of peck," said Thomas.



PERFECTLY PECKY The striking ceiling features pecky cypress, a rare wood known for its distinctive texture caused by a natural fungus. Once considered a flaw, it's now prized for adding character and depth to interior spaces.



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SOFTLY SOUTHERN This bedroom blends classic elegance with soft Southern charm, featuring muted blush walls, floral patterns and woven textures for warmth and depth. A patterned ceiling wallpaper ties the design together.

Pretty in pastels

Of course, one can not exist on blue alone, and the home's more quiet spaces gleefully break the rules with subdued pastel tones that carry the grandmatronly motif. One example is in the guest room, which not only glows with a pastel pink, it also dazzles with its own signature ceiling patterned wallpaper.

A pocket of privacy

Tucked away from the home's more open gathering spaces, the sitting room/office offers a retreat with pops of soft, sage green — a nod to the home's exterior trim.

"They wanted to set this aside as a TV room, so that the great room could serve as a nicer gathering space with the fireplace as its focal point," said Denmark. "And here we see another tweak to the design. They went with pocket doors whereas on the original we had barn doors, so you could shut this space off whenever you needed to." LL



LET IT SLIDE

Unlike traditional hinged doors that require clearance to swing open, pocket doors slide into the wall, making them perfect for compact spaces or areas where maximizing square footage is essential.

Tailored to the view

ADAPTIVE ARCHITECTURE MEETS LOWCOUNTRY CHARM IN PALMETTO BLUFF.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN + JOSH CORRIGAN, ELLIS CREEK PHOTOGRAPHY



OPTIMIZED FOR OUTDOOR LIVING The backyard of this Palmetto Bluff home features a pool, spa and multiple lounging areas, creating a private waterfront retreat perfect for entertaining and relaxation.

In recent years, **Pearce Scott Architects** has found a tremendous interest in floorplans that are written in pencil, easily able to adapt to any size lot or evolve to meet a client's needs. This Palmetto Bluff home, set along a breathtaking stretch of the community's famed inland waterway, is a perfect example of how a set design can be molded into something one-of-a-kind.

"Their lot was very wide, which gave us some opportunities we wouldn't have otherwise had," said Amanda Denmark with Pearce Scott Architects. "The original plan had a small hallway to the primary suite, which we expanded to allow for an office. That not only added a little bit more of a buffer for privacy, it put the pool right off the primary bedroom."

It also ensure that the home's extra-wide design maximized the amount of spaces that could take advantage of the water.

"They elected to make that change because of that Palmetto Bluff water trail view," said Craig Thomas with CS Thomas Construction. "It also allowed for a fantastic outdoor living space with the pool and the spa."



Nostalgia meets new

That extra yardage along the home's façade created more room for landscaping in the front and outdoor living in the back. And between, the home's classic Lowcountry exterior could breathe, while providing extra space to introduce the home's playful use of color.

"They wanted it to feel like Grandma's cottage and that influenced everything, starting with the exterior," said Shelly Neely, ASID with Kelly Caron Designs. "Growing up in Mississippi, a lot of the houses like that had the light color metal roof and color on the trim. That's how we came up with the off white, sage green trim and metal roof to look like the colors you'd see on an older home."

Grandma's powder room

THIS QUIET SPACE IN PALMETTO BLUFF BLENDS HEIRLOOM STYLE WITH FRESH DESIGN.

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN + PHOTOGRAPHY BY KELLI BOYD



Interior designer Shelly Neely was given a directive early on in this Palmetto Bluff home's design to incorporate colors and patterns in a way that brought to mind a motif she calls "Grandma's cottage, but chic." And while Neely's bold use of blues tempered by muted pastels in the home's more grand spaces certainly brought this motif to life, and a [Pearce Scott Architects](#) design hammered it home, it's in one of the home's more quiet spaces that Neely was able to take that directive and create something truly unique.

Fearlessly blending colors and patterns together, anchored by furniture that feels generations old, the powder room would be just as at home in a modern luxury high-rise as it would in a 19th century manor.

"The powder room is the place to have a little fun," said Neely. "It's small enough where you can do something that has a big impact without being overwhelming. It's the place to use something a little more unique to impress your guests."

At the center of the space is the custom-built vanity, setting a slab of marble on top of distressed wood that carries the home's signature blue, with polished bronze faucet and hardware.

"I originally had this idea to use an old farm sink, then Al and Harry's made this custom vanity that would fit around it, with marble on the top cut to go around the legs," said Neely. "It's really one of the most unique pieces in the house."

Through patterns on the wallpaper and the mirror, Neely was not only to capture that essence of an older home but introduce a little bit of Lowcountry.

"That's a big nod to the area, with the oyster shell in the mirror, and the patterns on the wallpaper speak to that as well," said Neely. The wallpaper, sourced from Palm Orleans, served as the perfect touch to a powder room that satisfied the owner's request for a chic take on Grandma's house, while letting Neely flex her creative muscles. *LL*

SMALL SPACE, BIG IMPACT A jewel box of texture and elegance, this Palmetto Bluff powder room exudes charm with its scalloped wallpaper, oyster-shell mirror and custom vanity. Thoughtful details like the marble countertop, antique-inspired fixtures and gilded accents create a space that feels both storied and stylish.