

RUSTIC MEETS REFINED

Part Lowcountry, part California, the great room shows off reclaimed beams, a striking tabby fireplace and windows that pull the outdoors right inside.

HOME SHOWCASE

Coast to coast

A Lowcountry original with a California twist brings two design worlds together under one roof

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN PHOTOS BY ANNE CAUFMANN

It's not often that you find common ground between the architecture of California and the architecture of the Lowcountry. Here our homes are often rooted in the symmetrical formality of the colonies. There, an unbridled sense of experimentation is the largest common denominator, spiraling off into Mediterranean, Japanese and Spanish styles. Our high rooflines help guide the heavy rains of spring while allowing for soothing breezes throughout the home. Theirs stretch in an eye-catching midcentury modern inspired flat plane.

In short, we're tabby. They're stucco. And yet, these two ideologies share a few things in common, chiefly a knack for uniting indoor and outdoor spaces, a respect for the surrounding environment and a dedication to hospitality. And when they come together, as they did in the Palmetto Bluff home here, it's a wonderful harmony of two very different approaches.

"The clients were a couple from California. She had a design background, and he's an architect working on some amazing houses," said Evan Goodwin with Pearce Scott Architects. "They knew and understood the process really well, which was great."

Knowing that his Lowcountry home should have a Lowcountry style, he reached out to Pearce Scott Architects to guide his home's design. Their coastal connection resulted in a home with contemporary yet warm style written in clean lines, open spaces and a bicoastal mix of modern and natural materials.

The height of hospitality

Perhaps the true hallmark of Lowcountry design, the soaring cathedral ceiling of the great room, allowed the architects to work in some natural elements that create a sense of place.

"Our direction was really to create something clean, simple and contemporary but also warm and inviting and Lowcountry," said Pearce Scott.

Creating that balance, they stretched reclaimed beams along the expanse of the ceiling, dropping a broad chimney of tabby down toward more rustic wood elements in the shelves and built-ins. The pitch of the ceiling was reduced from the broader angle of the exterior roof to accommodate a flat roof above the gallery hall, creating a dramatic sense of height.

"They wanted it to be super bright, so we had tall ceilings and windows throughout the house that really create this massive sense of scale," added Evan.



A WIDE WELCOME Set across a rare double lot in Palmetto Bluff, the home stretches more than 130 feet wide, embracing a graceful, low-slung profile that blends into its lakeside setting. Broad porches, metal roofing and expansive glass strike a balance between classic Lowcountry charm and California cool.

Low-slung luxury

One of the biggest factors guiding the home's design was the unique layout of its double lot. "They bought it as a combined lot and wanted to take advantage of that, so it's one story but it's very wide - something to the tune of 130 feet," said Evan.

The original plans called for a carriage house, but right away the team at Pearce Scott could see that the second story threw off the entire curb appeal of the property. They managed to find a spot toward the rear of the property that could accommodate the fifth bedroom, so the home maintained its beautifully low-slung profile.

"The whole idea was that they wanted it to be really wide so you could get the front gallery hallway running the entire length," said Evan. "When you walk in through the mudroom, you see it all the way down to the primary bedroom, and they layered it with art along the way."

Old World, new angle

Another element that pops up with regularity in Lowcountry design is the symmetrical kitchen mirroring the great room, the lines of the range hood standing opposite the fireplace mantle. That element is present here, but as with everything else, a closer look sees where a little West Coast experimentation snuck in.

"The plaster range hood has kind of an Old World European feel, even though it's a very contemporary expression of it," said Pearce.

The layout of the kitchen is boldly different from the standard Lowcountry design as well, with the center island rotated 90

"The kitchen is a little bit atypical," said Evan. "The island looks like it's furniture, but it's obviously built in, and the window it faces is its own feature. It opens up to serve as a pass through between the kitchen and the screened porch, where they have a pizza oven."

PASS-THROUGH PERFECTION

Exposed beams and a rustic wood island root the kitchen in Lowcountry tradition, while a sleek plaster range hood and rotated island bring in a touch of California cool. A pass-through window opens to the screened porch, making it easy to serve up pizza fresh from the outdoor oven.



Sanctuaries in scale

Just as the high-pitched ceilings found their way into the great room and kitchen, Evan made sure that each bedroom enjoyed its own cathedral ceiling.

"We did the same treatment with the box beams, but instead of going with a warm wood, we went with a neutral look to make them a little more subtle," said Evan.

The extra height also added to the home's overall sense of scale, while giving the room a way to capture the sights and sounds coming in off the water.

"All the windows and doors are at 10 feet, and then you have the two-foot transom above that," said Evan. "And the hoppers down below are all operable so you can get some nice breezes coming in."

The primary suite enjoys the same vaulted ceiling as the other four bedrooms in the house, just crafted on a different scale. The ingenious design of the home allows for incredible privacy, with the primary bath and an office situated between the bedroom and the main house, and an outdoor fireplace that shields the primary bath from view.

"The primary bedroom has these killer views, and that fireplace creates privacy for essentially that entire wing of the house," added Evan.

A peek of playfulness

You are looking at one of the most intriguing bits of tile work you've likely ever seen in this magazine. Yes, it's a little bit of colorful language, but it does speak to the wildly experimental California influence that found so many ways to delight in the home.

"They're a fun couple. They're always traveling the world, and they just collect ideas from wherever they go," said Evan. "And it's right out front, so if you're standing on the front porch and the window is open, you can peek in and see that." LL





WINDOWS TO THE WATER The bedrooms takes full advantage of the home's lakeside setting, with soaring ceilings, soft neutral tones and floor-to-ceiling windows that frame the water just beyond.





Moody by design

COZY TONES AND LAYERED TEXTURES CREATE A PALMETTO BLUFF WORKSPACE THAT INSPIRES AS MUCH AS IT CALMS

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN + PHOTO BY ANNE CAUFMANN



A STUDY IN STYLE Dark-stained shelves, a sleek black desk and textured charcoal walls set a moody tone in the office, balanced by warm wood beams and a caramel leather chair. It's a workspace designed for focus, but layered with enough style to feel like a retreat.

Beyond simply serving as a quiet place for the home's architect owner to work, this spacious office also acts as a buffer between the primary bedroom and the main living space. But that's just the function. It's what **Pearce Scott Architects** and Shoreline Construction did with it that created the elegance of its form.

As in the great room, kitchen and every bedroom, the ceiling rises to a grand point. In the bedrooms the beams were left neutral, but here they maintained the natural elements found throughout the rest of the home.

"The bedrooms were really subtle because it's supposed to be a light place to hang out, whereas with the office we wanted something a little more dark, moody and cozy," said Pearce Scott.

To maintain that moodiness, rich wooden beams were contrasted against darker elements, like the deep charcoal accent wall, then brought together in the varied tones of the textured wallpaper. Those same tones find themselves flowing through the furnishings, with black painted shelves and desk facing a rich caramel armchair. It's an environment that's perfectly conducive to architecture, so it only stands to reason that the team at Pearce Scott Architects knew exactly how to pull that off.

"This is his office. When he's working from the house, he's in here. What he's working on is a lot of the initial hand sketching, so we set it up to serve as a little artist's retreat," said architect Evan Goodwin.

And when the owner needs a little more inspiration, sliding doors open right up to the screened porch, with its inspiring inland waterway views just beyond.

Create a sophisticated study

Start with contrast: Pair dark, textured wallpaper or paint with natural wood beams.

Anchor with black: Choose a sleek black desk and shelving for a modern edge.

Layer textures: Mix leather seating, woven rugs and matte finishes for depth.

Add warmth: Balance the darker tones with

caramel or neutral upholstery.

Keep it curated: Style shelves with a few sculptural pieces, plants and books for character without clutter.

Beyond the back door

THIS PALMETTO BLUFF HOME STRETCHES ITS WINGS WITH THREE OUTDOOR AREAS DESIGNED FOR RELAXATION AND ENTERTAINING

STORY BY BARRY KAUFMAN + PHOTO BY ANNE CAUFMANN



GREAT ESCAPE From the screened porch and hanging daybed to twin fire pits and a private dock, the backyard of this Palmetto Bluff home flows naturally to the inland waterway. Wide porches and open lawns create a landscape designed for gathering, relaxing and taking in the Lowcountry view.

SWING INTO RELAXATION

On the screened porch, a hanging daybed offers the perfect spot to nap, read or simply enjoy the breeze. Savannah brick floors and a rustic fireplace anchor the space in classic Lowcountry style, while modern furnishings keep it fresh and comfortable.



If the inside of this Palmetto Bluff home by Pearce Scott Architects strikes a balance between California contemporary and classic coastal, its outdoor spaces are unapologetically Lowcountry. First the classic screened porch set in tabby and Savannah brick. Given the wide footprint of the home, this space is allowed to stretch and create three distinct outdoor living areas: a fireside sitting area, a "napping area" with hanging day beds and the outdoor kitchen with pizza oven. Phantom screens running the length of the patio lift up and away, creating a unified space that stretches from the windows to the water. And there's plenty to see along the way.

One of the first elements added to the outdoor space, and indeed one of the first things built on the property, was the wooden patio that sits halfway down the slope to the water.

"Before we'd even started construction, when we had the permit for the dock, the wife asked that we build this so she could tan," said architect Evan Goodwin. "They eventually added a kettle fire pit."

That makes one of two on the rear of the property, the other a more traditional Lowcountry brick design, shaded by the boughs of tall pines. Yes, that makes two fire pits. But in a space like this, where a double lot allows for a breathtaking expanse of land along the banks of an inland waterway, why not take advantage?

"There are a lot of different places to gather in groups back here, which is a lot of fun and great for entertaining," added Evan. "Even the screened portion; when you retract those screens, you have this absolutely massive patio to enjoy." LL