

As Seen In

JUNE/JULY 2007

from house to HOME

Style & STRENGTH

This Beaufort Home Has It All

TIPS FOR
DINING ALFRESCO
WITH CHRISTOPHER LOWELL

TOSS IT UP
COOL, CRISP SALADS

**OUTDOOR
KITCHENS**
LOWCOUNTRY STYLE

Honoring Time

This Beaufort home is a testament to timeless Southern style

TEXT MARY NESTOR

IMAGES JONATHAN HARPER



By honoring its beautiful location and southern heritage, this charming Lowcountry home is an instant classic.

⌚ Built in harmony with its environment, this home has the nickname “Crooked Oak,” in honor of the old, twisted tree which meanders along through time and space to help shade the covered porches.

🏠 A screened porch on the side of the house overlooking the river offers quiet refuge from the summer heat.



Intrigued by the classic, Southern styling of a Charleston remodel, Sheena and Tom Jenkins set out to build their own vision of Lowcountry living along the banks of the Beaufort River. Their finished home, surrounded by mature oaks and wild grasses, honors its location and its heritage.

As an ASID designer and the owner of SF Jenkins Interiors, Inc., Sheena was especially excited to start a project from the ground up. A businesswoman in a creative field, she knew where to go for the help she needed to make the home a success.

Builder Tommy Gollihugh of Gollihugh & Hull worked from a blueprint that Sheena developed with help from Clemson graduate Ansley Manual. The goal was to keep the traditional flavor and site the home to allow nature to have a voice. The blueprint was adapted accordingly.

Long verandah porches, both upstairs and down, extend the 2,400 square feet of living space and also act to shade and soften the interiors. "This is not a large home, but it 'lives' well," explains Sheena. Designed "with a lot of nooks and crannies," the home

"kind of meanders," she says.

Gollihugh used traditional stucco, but his crew hand-trawled the inlaid seashells to give it an older, more customized appeal. "Generally shells are blown in with air, but we didn't want many. We wanted them scattered about," says the builder.

To capture the period, Sheena enlisted the help of Timberstone Antique Flooring & Lumber in Hardeeville. Reclaimed bird's-eye maple from a cotton mill in South Carolina, complete with original nail holes and oiled patina, is the first building block in a home with many such details.



① Long, horizontal styling in the kitchen and details such as a green-onyx backsplash, honed granite countertops, and reclaimed hardwood floors add to the home's southern charm.

② Reproduced from an old print, this "document" wallpaper was selected for the simplicity of the pattern.

③ Antique rugs are a favored design element because they combine color with texture and grow more beautiful with time.



Mitered molding along the ceilings, baseboards, windows, and walkways tailor the spaces like beautiful, well-framed paintings. Sheena's palette of greens and creams gains complexity from her use of pattern and texture. It is as if the home has already lived through many generations of family.

Tom leaves most of the decision making to his wife and knows he is in very capable hands. Their 11-year old son, Shaeffer, has developed an eye for good design having tagged along to his mother's job sites since he was young. "He's a little connoisseur," she says with a laugh.

For help in the kitchen, the Jenkins turned to certified kitchen designer Barry Cutsler who owns the Kitchen Design Center in Beaufort. Cutsler's expertise involves thinking through not only decorative elements but, more importantly, also the circulation of the space itself.

Of course, working with a homeowner who is also a designer gave the pair a collaborative edge. "Barry is wonderful. He and I can sit down

together and brainstorm," says Sheena. "We've done many homes together, and they're always a success."

Here, the accents were determined by the Lowcountry styling. Honed granite countertops, glazed painted cabinetry, and a backsplash of tiny, octagon-shaped onyx tiles add what Sheena calls "the flavor of an older look."

But the space, itself, was something of a challenge for Cutsler because large windows behind the sink altered the work triangle. The distance between the sink and the refrigerator is a critical measurement. Cutsler explains, "Most of the time, food goes from refrigerator to sink, not refrigerator to stove." To make the room more efficient, he suggested a second sink in the kitchen island that can be easily accessed for food preparation.

Unlike many homes, there is no oversized entertainment center. Instead, in the great room, and again in the living room, a cozy, well-

constructed fireplace with delicate accents and period details becomes the focal point.

Inspired by legendary, 20th-century interior designer Elsie de-Wolfe, Sheena carefully enhanced her palette with lighting from both natural and man-made sources. Grass window shades diffuse the sunlight and also answer to her love of texture. Table lamps, shaded lighting, and a careful selection of colors create a comfortable glow throughout each of the rooms.

Overlooking the back yard, and beyond that, the river, the master bedroom is a testament to serenity and calm. A color combination of Sherwin Williams “Sea Salt” on the walls and “Window Pane” on the ceiling helps establish the quiet ambiance, which is completed with comfortable furniture and a relaxing view.

By honoring its beautiful location and southern heritage, this charming Lowcountry home is an instant classic. “We call the home ‘Crooked Oak,’ and we built the house around the trees,” says Sheena. For the Jenkins and their neighbors who share this quiet community, a sense of place is as important today as it has been for hundreds of years. ■



⌚ In the living room, a cozy seating arrangement surrounds the old-fashioned hearth. An original painting by pioneering American artist Edna Hibel is displayed above.

⌚ The master bedroom overlooks the river and offers texture, color, and lighting to create a comfortable, quiet space.

⌚ White porcelain and “Tuscan White” travertine tile on the floor give the master bath its bright, clean lines.

