



Home, Sweet Home

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Situated among the old trees and vintage cottages in Savannah's Isle of Hope neighborhood, one may not immediately recognize the coastal-cottage style home of Kimberly and Alan Nowell as brand-new construction. Blending cleverly into the casual Lowcountry sensibility of the area, the home is an example of how important the consideration of one's surroundings can be when building in an established residential area. The goal of Kimberly and Alan was to create a home with a stylish interior that accommodated their young family's lifestyle and one with an exterior that fit their new lot and neighborhood harmoniously.

The couple transitioned from their previous home in Savannah's Ardsley Park to the Isle of Hope area, knowing it would be a great neighborhood for their family. Isle of Hope's waterfront setting, moss-laden oaks and white picket fences were all attractive to Kimberly and Alan, parents of Nicholas, age 7, and Walker, age 4. They knew their family's lifestyle would be in sync with the island's natural setting and its community feeling. After considering some existing houses in the area, they found an opportunity to purchase an available lot and changed their plans from buying an already-present home to building a new one.

The lot was perfect in many ways, having mature trees and being close to the marina, but it also posed some challenges in its smaller size. After studying many house plans, the couple had a hard time finding one that fit their land perfectly. Settling on one plan in particular that they really loved, they were able to make it work, after making some modifications. Working with home design professional John Dugger they were able to create the perfect version of the home plan for their needs. Moving their porch from the front to the side of the house was a major modification that allowed their plan to suit the lot's dimensions. Other changes, such as the addition of dormers and orienting the board and batten siding vertically, imbued the coastal charm that they were seeking in the home's exterior.



With busy careers, time with their family and hosting friends is important to both Kimberly, owner of Salon Aqua, and Alan, a gourmet food broker. They knew they needed a floor plan that maximized their entertaining and gathering spaces. Having a screened porch just off the main living space increased the capacity of their living room, dining room and kitchen. The porch is an extension of those spaces and, thanks to Savannah's climate, it can be enjoyed most of the year; the boys spend time there doing arts and crafts, playing games and dining at the outdoor table. When the couple entertains other families, there is enough room in the open living space for kids and adults alike to socialize, separately or all together. This adaptability was a main reason Kimberly and Alan were attracted to the house plan from the beginning.

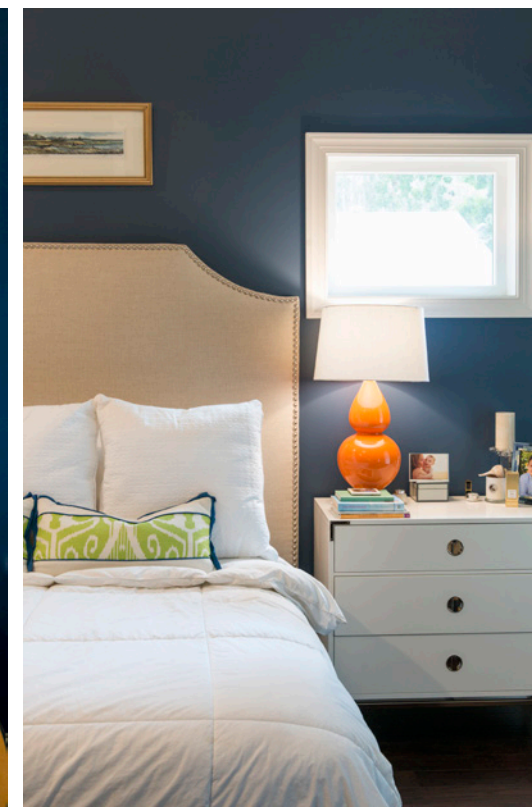
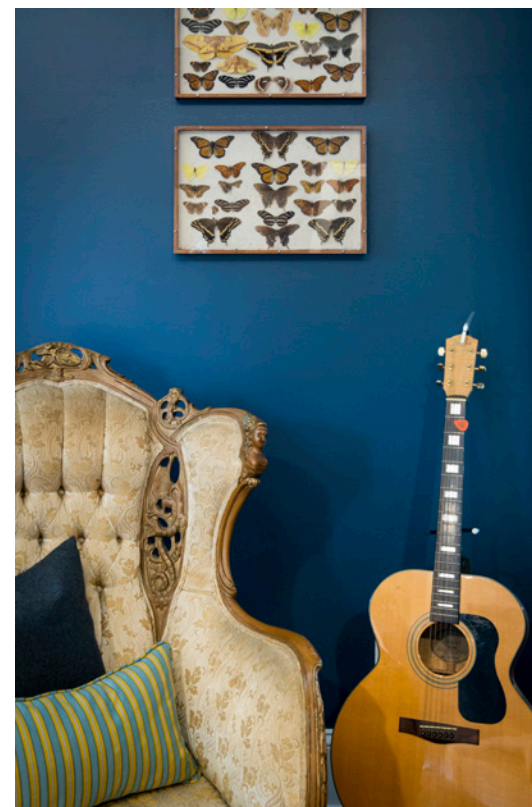
Once the floorplan was finalized, the couple turned to creative design professionals for help in the execution

of their vision for the house. Both Curry Salandi and Christina Scharf, Savannah interior designers, advised Kimberly and Alan about project decisions when a trained point-of-view was needed. Josh Waters and Jeff Schofield were chosen as their builders and were accommodating to modifications during the building process. The couple had a strong vision for their home from the beginning, but having professionals to give them guidance was key to the realization of their vision. They recommend using an interior designer and a builder who thinks outside the box. With all the adjustments needed for their project, they were glad to have used strong design and building experts to assist them.

When it came to décor, the Nowells knew they would appreciate their blend of furnishings and accessories more if they kept their main finishes neutral. They chose grounded, dark floors and clean, white walls. The white walls are enhanced by the use of both drywall and shiplap paneling in different areas, which resulted in a consistent color but varied texture. Older furniture pieces blend with newer, streamlined ones, while textiles and art bring in bursts of color. Kimberly included small accents of orange and blue throughout the home, which give a pleasing repetition of an accent.

Some of their most favored design elements are in the main living space. Upgraded lighting enhances this area. One of the most prominent architectural elements is the kitchen's vent hood, fabricated of wood with a gray stain. Its clean lines and simple form give the kitchen an engaging focal point. Open shelves on the window wall of the kitchen are also finished with the gray stain and they contrast agreeably against the white shiplap paneling. Kimberly and Alan find the shelves useful for quick access to items they use often and a great showcase for an evolving display of art and objects.

The master bedroom features a contrast to the white walls elsewhere in the home with a rich, navy blue paint. The saturated color allows the room to feel cozy and retreat-like. The master bath's focal point is a serene, freestanding tub, overlooking the Spanish moss-covered trees of the backyard. The Zen vibe of the master suite is warmed by a mix of vintage furnishings paired with more streamlined pieces. One of



Top: White shiplap paneling creates a clean backdrop for the art, accessories and functional items collected and displayed by this busy family. Open shelving on the window wall of the kitchen is not only a great architectural detail, but it allows for an evolving display of treasured items and speedy access to often-used wares. The streamlined vent hood is wrapped in a gray-stained wood and is the focal point of the kitchen; it's one of the homeowners' favorite details of their home.

Bottom: The collected accents in the home give it personality and keep the new construction from looking too new. The framed butterfly displays were a gift from an Isle of Hope neighbor. The dark blue paint of the master bedroom was a nice contrast to the white walls elsewhere in the home. The cozy respite atmosphere of the room comes from an upholstered headboard, clean-lined furniture accents and the paint's saturated hue. The freestanding tub overlooking the tree-filled backyard is the perfect spa-like retreat in the master bath.

Following page: The open concept family room/dining room/kitchen is flexible for both family time and for entertaining friends.



Ingredients and Preparations
Plated-Dish Recipes



Above: The open plan of the kitchen allows for this busy family to be together during meal prep, study time and leisure activities. Facing: The art photography above the credenza is highlighted by the turquoise of the throw pillows and upholstery of the dining chairs. Much of the home's decor was kept neutral and was punched up with bright accessories and artwork.

the couple's favorite items in the home, a set of three framed butterfly displays, hangs in the bedroom. The butterflies, all indigenous to the area, were a sweet gift from a neighbor, who collected them herself.

Walker and Nicholas have the run of the home's second-floor, where both their bedrooms and playrooms are located. Also in residence are the boys' many

aquarium fish and their bearded dragon, Spike. The décor of their rooms was made to be age-appropriate and masculine, with the incorporation of many classic items, such as globes and maps, as well as some sophisticated elements, such as artwork to relate to the look of the first floor. The landing of the second story is a charming nook with a fusion of furnishings and decor.



Left: The boys' love of nature makes them right at home living in the Isle of Hope neighborhood and their bedroom decor reflects their love of animals and the great outdoors. Their rooms include many vintage items that lend a well-collected and classic feeling. Son Nicholas enjoys the natural views out of his windows. His second-story room has a treehouse feeling. Right, top: Kimberly and Alan made sure that their sons' rooms were flexible and kid-friendly, while maintaining the look of the first floor. Kimberly used pops of orange throughout the house to lend continuity to the home's look. Bottom: A lively print on the guest room linens pops against the white walls and eclectic furnishings.

Now that the family is settled in their home, their Isle of Hope neighborhood has delivered everything they had hoped for in a community. Kimberly explained, "We love our children growing up on the water and in the woods. In this neighborhood we

enjoy fishing, crabbing, biking, exploring and evening golf cart rides." And with their family's charismatic new house having its place in their new location, they plan to share the charm of their setting, together, for years to come.