



The O'Bannon Stats »

Owners: Hubert (Obie) and Ellen O'Bannon

Neighborhood: The Ford Plantation

Square footage: 3,700

Accommodations: 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths

Year built: 2010-2012

A Brighter Outlook

A Richmond Hill stunner combines breathtaking waterfront views with breezy coastal comforts. **Allison Hersh** soaks up the scenery. » Photography by **Richard Leo Johnson**

Obie and Ellen O'Bannon's Lowcountry-style home at The Ford Plantation radiates chic coastal style. With panoramic marsh vistas, spectacular views of Lake Clara and glimpses of the Ogeechee River in the distance, this treasured second home provides an ideal contrast to the couple's traditional 1920s Georgian colonial in the heart of downtown Washington, D.C.

"Our house at Ford Plantation is very relaxing and brings you down a notch," Ellen coos. "You can be with nature, and everything feels a little quieter."

The Perfect Spot

Obie and Ellen criss-crossed the country searching for the perfect location: a remarkable outlook that would inspire them to design and build their dream home.

"Once we saw the view this property offered, that was it," Ellen recalls.

The retired couple enlisted the award-winning team at Historical Concepts to design a relaxed waterfront residence defined by sophisticated Lowcountry influences. Working with a relatively small lot nestled between

HomeTour

two large homes, the O'Bannons decided to emphasize the waterfront panorama and bring the outdoors inside as much as possible.

"The view is really commanding," Ellen says. "I wanted the interiors to be soothing, without a lot of busy patterns. I wanted the colors and the décor to complement the view."

As a result, the interior wall colors—ranging from pale amber to deep green—take their cue from the burnished marsh hues. And just as the colors of the lake, river and marsh change throughout the day, the interiors brighten and fade with the changing sunlight.

A Rustic Revival

Obie originally suggested a casual "fish camp" theme, providing the initial source of inspiration for the home's design. Aaron Daily of Historical Concepts served as the lead

designer, crafting an environment rich with coastal accents.

"This wasn't the setting where you'd typically envision a fish camp, so there was an intriguing challenge to resolve: how to make what is typically a very no-frills and rustic style fit with the surrounding neighborhood," Aaron explains. "We tamed the rough edges just enough to give it a softer, more mainstream appeal. The home we created still manages to articulate that feeling of escape and ease that the clients wanted."

In a rustic twist, the interior walls sport horizontal beadboard throughout the home. Inspired by traditional Southern camps along the southeastern coast, Aaron created expansive interior spaces that graciously open up to the outdoors.

"Each room feels bigger than it really is because there are strong and intentional connections to adjacent rooms,"



he explains. "No matter what room you're in, your mind's eye takes the next room into consideration and creates a sense of generous space."

Outside In

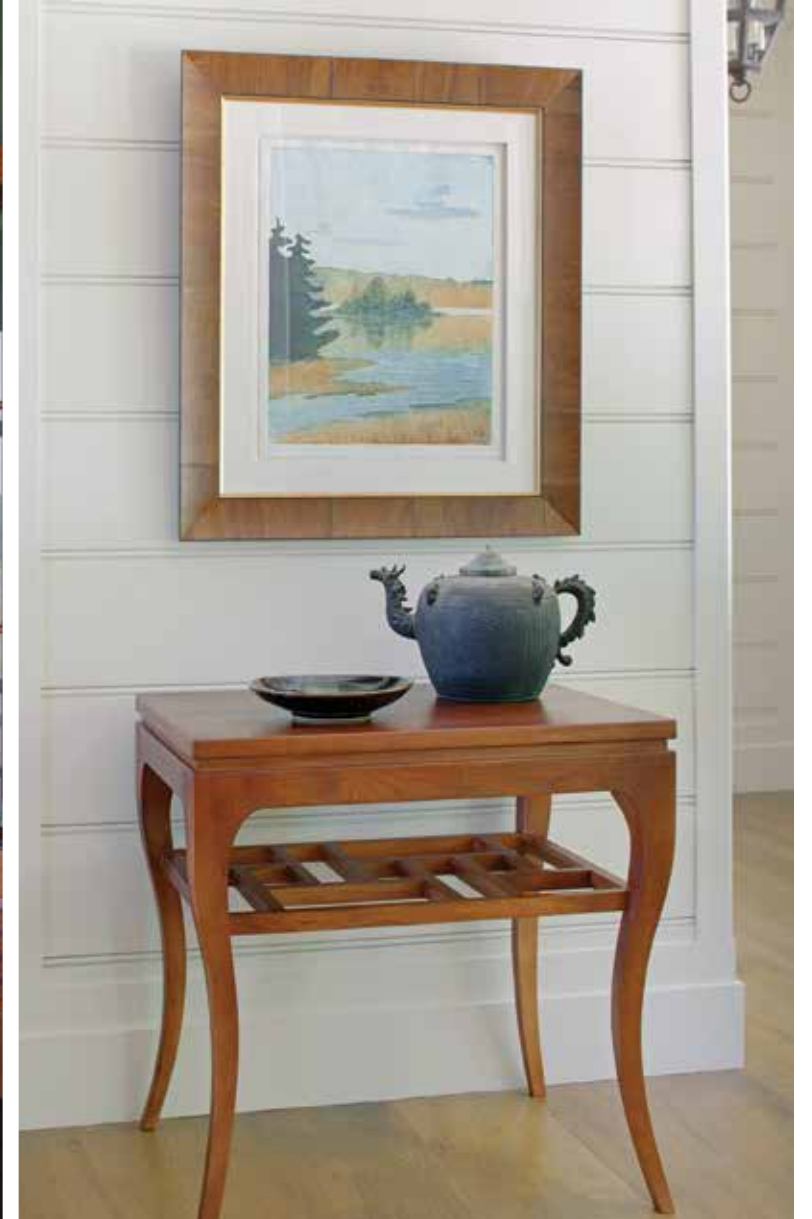
The primary rooms flow in and out of the screened porch, creating a sense of unity and putting the lush waterfront atmosphere within easy reach. To further this notion of flexible living, the doors in the living room fold back so the screened porch can become an effortless extension of the living room. Crisp white interiors, complemented by soft accent colors, allow sunlight to move from room to room.

"The interiors, like the exterior, are casual yet elegant," says interior designer Robin Upchurch Allen, who masterminded the home's refined rustic décor, peppering it with pieces from her own line, Sysaro Furniture. "It's a house

Thanks to Allen's balanced design sense, the décor combines the traditional and the exotic in fresh, sumptuous ways, juxtaposing a sensuous Tangiers-style end table with antique American brass candlesticks.

that makes people feel comfortable and welcome, but it's not so precious that you can't slouch in front of the TV and watch a golf tournament."

The O'Bannons share an eclectic taste, blending old with new pieces. Thanks to Allen's balanced design sense, the décor combines the traditional and the exotic in fresh, sumptuous



With its marble countertops, open white shelving and commercial-grade appliances, the gourmet kitchen is a cook's dream. Ellen helped design the space to make it as functional as possible.

ways, juxtaposing a sensuous Tangiers-style end table from Sysaro with antique American brass candlesticks, and topping a skirted taupe sofa with bright coral throw pillows.

Creative touches are everywhere. Weathered blue Moroccan doors hang on a living room wall. A metal safe doubles as a bar. A repurposed garden sink finds new life in a powder room. Comfortable seating and original Southern art anchor every room, providing a strong sense of place.

Sharing the Love

With its marble countertops, open white shelving and commercial-grade appliances, the gourmet kitchen is a cook's dream. Ellen helped design the space to make it as functional as possible. She enjoys preparing meals in the kitchen and visiting with friends over a glass of wine.

Obie and Ellen love entertaining at their Ford Plantation getaway and invite family and friends to visit as often as possible. In quiet moments, however, the duo can be found reading on the porch, grilling steaks out back and savoring the dramatic views.

"I find it extremely calming," Ellen raves, gesturing toward the classic Southern porch overlooking the lake. "This is a great place to read and watch birds."

Wherever they're in the mood to socialize or relax, the O'Bannons agree, this modern-day "fish camp" is an ideal place to call home.

"We love being here," Ellen declares. "This is a very special place." ■

The O'Bannon Referrals »

Architects/planners: Historical Concepts
Design team: Aaron Daily, Principal, Registered Architect; Christopher Carrigan, AICP; Nina Meyer
Interior designer: Robin Upchurch Allen, ASID
Contractor/builder: Edwin Clark, TDC Custom Homes
Tile/flooring: Garden State Tile
Paint/wallpaper: Certa Pro Painters
Windows/doors: Marvin
Kitchen, bath and lighting design: Historical Concepts and Robin Upchurch Allen, ASID
Kitchen cabinetry and trim: Jason Lynch
Furniture: Sysaro Furniture
Upholstery: Edward Ferrell and Charles Stewart
Appliances: Livingoods
Art: CAS Fine Art and owners' collection