

Similar wicker seating groups, complete with rugs, coffee tables, and lamps, flank the front door.

➤ Jim Strickland's architecture showcase and sources: southernliving.com/april2008

GRAND AND GORGEOUS

A dream home in Georgia brings together comfort, timeless style,

and Southern charm. By **Julia Hamilton**, photography **Charles Walton IV**

LEFT: White paint delineates each window, eave, and column of this cedar shingle home. Sunroom walls display framed family photos. BELOW, LEFT: The screened porch offers a variety of seating off the master bedroom.



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FRIENDLY LOOKING OLD HOUSE WITH WIDE FRONT STEPS and pairs of white columns caught the attention of an Atlanta couple who were vacationing in Marblehead, Massachusetts. Nestled at the center of the seafaring community, the house featured a deep, shady porch that extended its full width. Smitten by its nostalgic charm, the visitors made a few photographs before heading home.

Merging Old and New Those small photos came out of the scrapbook a few years later when the couple decided to construct a new home for themselves and their two sons. In the established residential neighborhood of Vinings, Georgia, they discovered a narrow yet deep lot where an original 1960s ranch-style house still stood. To develop ideas for the unique home they envisioned, the couple met with the architecture firm of Historical Concepts in Atlanta. After a year of planning and development by lead designer Terry Pylant and design principal Jim Strickland, a set of working drawings—based on those engaging vacation photos—was ready.

The family lived in the existing house while builder Richard McCarl constructed the new one behind it, with just 12 feet of space separating the two structures. On moving day, the furniture and boxes were maneuvered out the old back door, down a gangplank of sorts, and through the new front door. Once the transition was complete, the smaller house was removed, and the new design became completely visible. Jim says, “We were so excited about the house while building it, but you really couldn’t see it well until the old one was moved.”

A Certain Style While the owners wanted a beautiful, well-built home, they did not want it to seem stuffy or formal. To keep it from looking too perfect, they searched out suppliers of restored doors, vintage fixtures, and reclaimed architectural elements. Some materials were obtained from craftsmen schooled in old building techniques. Terry says, “We had fun with a lot of found items that the clients picked up. In the end, they really added character and reflected the comfortable personalities of the homeowners.” Through variety in ceiling heights, wall treatments, and window placement, Historical Concepts gave each area a distinct character. The

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Painted aqua and white, the sunroom resembles a casual beach cottage. To age the beaded board, an oil-based wood stain was applied.



Shelving made of unpainted wood encloses a series of photos commissioned by the homeowners.

“If you dream of creating something special, be true to yourself, and enjoy the process.”



TOP, RIGHT: Glass doors add depth and light to the wall cabinets. BOTTOM, RIGHT: Double windows and a chandelier brighten the banquette located between the keeping room and the kitchen. BELOW: Exposed brick adds to the cozy warmth of the keeping room.



spacious rooms, linked by antique old-growth pine and wormy chestnut flooring, flow easily from one to another. Jim says, “This house has the comfort of a much older house because we didn’t overrefine the materials; instead, they really show the patina of age.”

Living on the Porch A 65-foot-wide porch, enclosed by simple circular columns and a wooden balustrade, offers a sheltered living area out front. Its 14-foot depth makes it roomy enough for both sitting and dining areas. The owners creatively mixed old painted wicker and country antiques that they found on weekend outings to local flea markets. Rugs, gas lanterns, weatherproof lamps, paintings, and plants give the front porch an appealing, fully furnished look. This relaxed, livable style continues inside the house, where the spacious rooms are furnished with the owners’ attractive mix of antiques, art, and collectibles.

At the Beach Inspired by enjoyable family trips to the coast, the couple wanted their vaulted sunroom to resemble a casual beach house that was constructed entirely of wood and left partially unfinished. The walls are made from beaded board mounted horizontally on a framework of notched 4 x 4s. Model boats displayed on top of the tall entertainment center add a nautical touch. Arrangements of old black-and-white family photos fill out open wall-space. Antique majolica plates in vivid hues accent the colors of upholstered pieces arranged around a painted coffee table.

What a Kitchen The granite-top island is the centerpiece of the large, sunny kitchen. A stainless steel sink counter fills space under the windows. On the inside wall, a large gas range and hood fit into an expanse of cabinetry faced with glass and wood doors. Simple details, including the bin-style drawer pulls and plain, raised-panel cabinets, contribute to the updated yet timeless appeal of the room.

Wooden chairs and an antique French breakfast table divide the kitchen from the keeping room. Furnished with fireside seating, the keeping room contains a row of rustic bookshelves installed under high windows. A banquette with leather seats forms a comfortable nook for relaxed dining.

For the homeowners, completing the house was the opportunity of a lifetime. Jim says, “If you dream of creating something special, be true to yourself, and enjoy the process.” ●

