

# LASTING LEGACY

A new home designed to look old satisfies a father, his daughter, and generations to come.

*writer* LINDA EGGERS  
*photographer* EMILY J. FOLLOWILL  
*field editor* LISA MOWRY





Plank walls in a worn white finish provide the perfect backdrop for a dramatic range hood made of pecky cypress, while gray-green cabinetry and trim give the space softness and subtle definition.



## BUILDING A NEW HOME

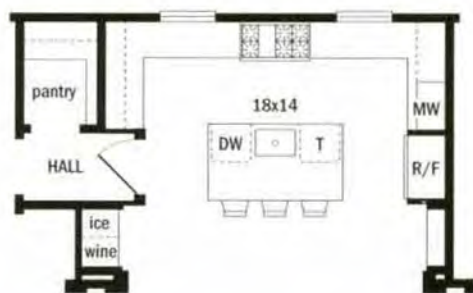
at age 80 might seem a bit

unconventional, but George “Bumpy” Woodruff knew his daughter Julie Woodruff held a sentimental attachment to a lakefront property the family owned near Midland, Georgia. So it was there that he created a “country place” perfect for his later years and a loving legacy for Julie, who now calls it home.

Central to the one-story, 3,500-square-foot home’s appeal is its Low Country-style kitchen, airy and light-filled. “In fact, it and its connecting great-room are one large space at dead center of the home as you walk in,” Julie says.

Designer Jim Strickland, principal at Historical Concepts in Atlanta, says the room’s placement was strategic. “Mr. Woodruff wanted a traditional Southern home, so we designed it to be symmetrical inside and out,” Strickland says. “We think of the kitchen and great-room as one space, one element that, like others, is very classical and balanced within the home’s footprint.”

Symmetry also plays out in the U-shape cabinet placement. “They’re meant to feel like sentinels that hold your vision as you look into the kitchen,” Strickland says. Even the tall windows—flanking the range and extending down nearly to the countertop—confer order, as do their counterparts on the great-room wall. Mike Socci, a veteran builder at homeowner Woodruff’s construction firm, also knew the value of symmetry. “We had to get the engineers out there to determine the center of the lake and position windows and porch so he could take in the very best view,” he says.



**ABOVE LEFT:** This Georgia kitchen takes on period charm with high ceilings, tall windows, historical-style light fixtures, and both an island and a table. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Knobs and period-style cup pulls sport a softly gleaming pewter finish that complements the kitchen’s stainless-steel range and single-bowl sink. **OPPOSITE:** The hood was fashioned from pecky cypress wood left over from work in the den.





## Takeaways

- 1** Inset cabinets offer a historical look with modern storage features inside.
- 2** Substantial appliances and a weighty range hood are proportionate to the high ceiling.
- 3** Eliminating upper cabinetry from the range wall allows room for windows and abundant natural light.
- 4** Flamed-granite countertops have a distinctive texture that looks timeworn.

Beautiful views were part of what prompted the kitchen's grayish-green color scheme, but the real inspiration arrived in the form of a hat. "Mr. Woodruff had a fabulous fedora in the most perfect shade of green," says Melanie Davis, who served as interior designer on the project. "The cabinets are quite tall, and they needed some warmth to balance the open space. So the hat color became the cabinet color, with the island a bit darker."

Because historical Southern kitchens had both a separate worktable and a dining table, Davis designed a table modeled after antique gun barrel tables but with a softer oval shape. Such kitchens also had roomy work spaces, so her preference for wide aisles and generous clearances fit perfectly into the plan—and made the kitchen especially maneuverable.

True to historical form, the kitchen's main wall is without upper cabinetry; consequently, adequate storage elsewhere became a priority. Davis outfitted cabinetry with extra-wide and deep drawers, appliance garages, cookie-sheet slots, and a corner lazy Susan. Extra inches at the end of each lower cabinet run were put to use as wine racks, and bar areas to the left and right of the main kitchen space make it easy to entertain.

And Julie's favorite feature? The barstools have a small back and a handle so they fit under the island but can be pulled out when needed. "I can sit with a glass of wine, watching TV or admiring that view Daddy loved," she says. "This home feels like it's been in our family forever." **KBI**

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**OPPOSITE LEFT:** Wine bottles nestle in custom storage at the ends of the cabinet run on the range wall. **OPPOSITE MIDDLE:** A 9-inch cutout in the granite countertop makes it easy to drop waste directly into the pullout garbage bin below. **OPPOSITE RIGHT:** Barstools have a low back to slide under the island unobtrusively, and the traditional flat-hung handle makes it easy to pull them out when seating is needed. **THIS PHOTO:** Extending the island countertop creates an overhang that welcomes family and friends to sit and unwind in the kitchen.

