OUR VERY BEST IDEAS FOR **Southern Style**

Two new houses, hundreds of ideas—come on in!

ABERCORN PLACE
Senoia, Georgia
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The front balcony in Covington, Louisiana

The side porch of our Senoia, Georgia, townhome

BAYOU BEND
Covington, Louisiana
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Welcome to Abercorn Place

To introduce you to our house, we’ve asked the team to tell you some things about Abercorn Place and its location, the Gin Property in Senoia (the locals say “Sen-OY”), Georgia.

The Location: “The Gin Property development is such a uniquely urban endeavor for a small town like Senoia. It’s intended to mesh with the town’s established architectural styles,” states Terry Pylant, who led the design team from Historical Concepts.

The Inspiration: “Terry and his team did extensive studies of well-known, historic Southern cities to incorporate traditional architectural elements into the design of Abercorn Place,” interior designer Jamie Elliott McPherson explains. “Sharing their same commitment to details, I worked to give this house a casual elegance—one that is very presentable and livable at the same time.”

The Materials: “The use of brick, not only for the Idea House’s exterior but also as the basement flooring, denotes a sense of permanence and establishment,” Terry says. “The crown and trim used throughout are quite simple but lend a level of formality that also enhances this house.”

Easy Elegance

Reminiscent of elegant row houses found in Savannah and Charleston, Abercorn Place, our Senoia, Georgia, Idea House, takes a refreshingly new approach to traditional style. Step inside to see our favorite ideas.
idea house living and dining rooms

Notice the Details

FAUX FIREPLACE: To give the living room a focal point, Jamie created a faux fireplace with an antique mantel that he stripped and had repainted in an aged, distressed finish. He set it on a rectangular piece of slate as the hearth. A gray mirror with a slate surround inside the opening gives the fireplace a sense of depth.

TUSCAN COLUMNS: Although the living and dining areas are essentially located in one large room, they’re visually distinguished by centrally placed columns—one at each side wall. Each column is also enhanced with an adjacent pilaster, culminating in very Classical detailing.

BOOKCASE WALL: Designed to resemble an early-1900s library, the living room contains a wall of floor-to-ceiling bookshelves. Two large double-hung windows punctuate these built-ins, along with cozy window seats below.

PAINT COLOR: Jamie chose a khaki color for the walls and crown molding in both rooms. “Painting them the same color makes the space look larger,” he explains.

GREAT IDEA! Reclaimed heart-pine pocket doors can be closed to give either the dining room or the kitchen privacy.

LOCAL SOURCES

handmade lighting
Elisse Pickard of Sandy Springs Galleries (770/324-2557) created the dining room chandelier and other vintage-looking fixtures from bits and pieces of turn-of-the-century gas and electric fittings.

local sources
Artwork
Georgia landscapes by artists Millie Gosch (milliegosch.com), David Boyd, Jr. (davidboydjr.com), and Bill Turner (billturner.net) bring a fresh, pastoral simplicity to the formal living and dining rooms.

Curtain fabric
Residence Damask in Slate Blue by Thibaut, thibautdesigns.com

sources:
southernliving.com/abercornplace-sources
idea house kitchen and keeping room

Great Idea!
Builder John Bynum surrounded the IKEA stainless-steel vent hood with wood planks, trim, and support brackets to give it a built-in cabinet look.

We Love This Color!
Toasted Pine Nut by Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com

Great Idea!
To balance out the traditional feel of Abercorn Place, the kitchen’s counters, appliances, and cabinets are all by IKEA.

Notice the Details
Counter-Wrapped Island: A quartz material called Caesarstone (caesarstone.us; available through IKEA) protects not only the top of the kitchen island but also the sides from daily bumps and dings.

A Room With History: Traditionally, a keeping room is a smaller sitting area typically located near the kitchen. Historical Concepts designed this one true to form.

Hide the TV: When not in use, the TV is tucked away in a recess above the mantel. It is concealed behind framed artwork by Artissence (artissence.com) that’s been divided and hinged like bi-fold doors.

The Scullery: Adjacent to the kitchen, a pantry houses the refrigerator and handles much of the work and mess of food prep.

Great Idea!
Typically found in exterior walls, transoms offer natural light when used inside.

Sources: southernliving.com/abercornplace-sources
GREAT IDEA!
Drop curtains by Tri Vantage and Sunbrella provide shade on the porch when needed.

Notice the Details

MULTIFUNCTIONAL PORCH: Lined with handsome box columns and accessible to the indoors through pairs of French doors, the side porch functions much like an interior room, complete with comfortable seating, durable outdoor rugs, and other outdoor-friendly furniture. Inspired by Charleston side porches (called “piazzas”), it provides a great place to socialize with neighbors or to take in the fresh air while reading a book. This gracious extension of living space also contains a teak dining table for informal meals. The porch is gracefully connected to the courtyard below by two sets of descending steps.

OUTDOOR PRIVACY: The brick-paved courtyard is another feature influenced by Charleston. Because an urban setting like this tends to “hem in” private yards, it’s important that outdoor spaces are as private and individualized as possible. That’s why Abercorn Place’s courtyard is surrounded by a high brick wall, especially because it’s bordered on three sides by streets. Historical Concepts added a small storage building that’s in keeping with the home’s traditional exterior. Both ornamental planting beds and large potted plant arrangements soften this hardscaped area while lending it some needed color.

LOCAL SOURCES
Potted Plants
Garden experts James T. Farmer III (allthingsfarmer.com) and Carmen Johnston (nectarandcompany.com) created colorful and lush containers for inside and outside our house.
Notice the Details

LAYERS OF COMFORT: This welcome getaway, with its soothing, cream-colored walls and mixture of antique and reproduction furniture, feels conveniently detached from the family hustle and bustle. In reality, the kids’ bedrooms are just a few steps down the hall. “The master bedroom’s luxurious textures and colors create a cozy ambience,” Jamie explains. “I established a layered effect with the bedding and accessories to really personalize this space.”

A SPA-LIKE BATH: Continuing the calm elegance found in the master bedroom, the master bath evokes the opulence of an old-world spa, complete with a large soaking tub and a spacious master shower that’s covered in intricate tilework. Large double-hung windows bathe this space with natural light that’s reflected by the honed-marble tile flooring. Café curtains provide privacy when drawn, while allowing sunlight to enter the upper window sashes.

BATHTUB LEDGE: To conceal the tub’s plumbing lines, Jamie and Historical Concepts came up with the ingenious idea of building a ledge with cabinets underneath. This solution supplies storage for towels and bath products, along with a display space for plants and artwork.

GREAT IDEA!
A lovely canopy frames the traditional bed, adding dramatic height and making it a true focal point in the room.

LOCAL SOURCES

Classic Furniture

Antiques and reproductions from Englishman’s Fine Furniture (englishmansfurniture.com) and Holland & Company (hollandandcompany.com) give the bedroom and other rooms a collected mix of old and new.

CANOPY FABRICS
Tremont Sage from Ballard Designs, ballarddesigns.com

BED SKIRT FABRIC
Pattern #76628 from Ethan Allen, ethanallen.com
idea house top floor & entertainment room

Notice the Details

ENTERTAINMENT ROOM: While Abercorn Place is designed with family in mind, it's not all geared toward the kids. In fact, the top floor is the grown-ups' domain. Created by Jamie with the feel of a warm and cozy den, the front room contains rich upholstery and textiles, dark-stained furniture, and a leather wing chair.

PUB-STYLE BAR: Serving as a bonus to the entertainment room, an adjacent bar comes equipped with an undercounter fridge, ice-maker, and wine chiller. It also serves as a handy coffee station and kitchenette for overnight company.

OUTDOOR OVERLOOK: The party in the entertainment room can continue outside on the adjoining terrace. Finished with brick pavers and stuccoed walls, it also affords a bird's-eye view of downtown Senoia. A retractable awning by Tri Vantage with Sunbrella fabric keeps it all in the shade, which is always welcome during Georgia's summers. ➔

GREAT IDEA! The Big Green EGG grill looks at home in a custom cabinet.

CURTAIN FABRIC
Pasha in Celedon/Aqua by Cowtan & Tout, through hearthandhomeinteriors.com
Bird-print curtains add a pleasing layer of pattern to this inviting spot. An extra-large bed swing invites lounging on the terrace. Local artist Dee Keller painted a durable faux runner on the basement stairs. A corkboard calendar above the built-in desk helps keep track of appointments and parties. A potting bench with an outdoor sink keeps gardening projects organized. Wood plank partitions with integrated gates screen the quiet Lennox air units. Projects are easy in the fourth-floor studio. Furniture is from the Southern Living Home Collection. Drawers under the stairs make use of every available inch.

Eight more ideas we love!

1. Bird-print curtains add a pleasing layer of pattern to this inviting spot.
2. An extra-large bed swing invites lounging on the terrace.
3. Local artist Dee Keller painted a durable faux runner on the basement stairs.
4. A corkboard calendar above the built-in desk helps keep track of appointments and parties.
5. A potting bench with an outdoor sink keeps gardening projects organized.
6. Wood plank partitions with integrated gates screen the quiet Lennox air units.
7. Projects are easy in the fourth-floor studio. Furniture is from the Southern Living Home Collection.
8. Drawers under the stairs make use of every available inch.

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Notice the Details

1. The basement stair hall also functions as a mudroom.
2. French doors in the family room open to the courtyard.
3. Because Senoia is a golf cart-savvy town, this smaller garage comes in handy.
4. The plan offers an elevator shaft, but if not needed, it can be converted into a closet for each floor.
5. Features like bookcases, a faux fireplace, and columns distinguish the living room from the dining room—even though they're combined in one open space.
6. The keeping room serves as an extension of the porch.
7. The laundry room is on the same floor as the bedrooms.
8. Built-in cabinets between the laundry room and the master bedroom store bedding and towels.
9. The master bedroom is connected to the bath via a dressing area that's filled with built-in cabinetry for accessories and jewelry.
10. The closet next to the studio is filled with shelves for storing gift-wrapping, craft, and hobby supplies.
11. This nearby bath is especially appreciated when overnight guests arrive.

Contributors

BALLARD DESIGNS
ballarddesigns.com

CAESARSTONE QUARTZ SURFACES
caesarstoneteam.com

C.R. LANE FURNITURE
crlaine.com

DAITILE
daltile.com

ENGLISHMAN’S FINE FURNITURE
englishmansfurniture.com

ETHAN ALLEN
ethanallen.com

HANSON BRICK
hansonbrick.com

HOLLAND & CO.
hollandandcompany.com

ICYENERE/TORREY SPRAY FOAM
torreybuildingsystems.com

LARSON-JUHL & ARTISSANCE
larsonjuhl.com, arthathfits.com

SANDY SPRINGS GALLERIES
770/324-2357
thibautdesigns.com

VINTAGE LUMBER SALES & INTERIORS, INC.
vintagelumbersales.com

WISTERIA
wisteria.com

SEE MORE CONTRIBUTORS, TRAVEL TIPS, AND SOURCE INFO (P. 149).
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Our Sponsors

1 SUNBRELLA Sunbrella may be known for outdoor fabric, but we also loved the chic style for our interiors. sunbrella.com

2 IKEA Our kitchen is IKEA from top to bottom—cabinets, countertops, and appliances. Whether modern or traditional, IKEA offers something for everyone. ikea.com/usa

3 THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY Sherwin-Williams’ array of colors created our elegant palette. From paints and primers to stains and faux finishes, it has it all. sherwin-williams.com

4 MARVIN WINDOWS AND DOORS Capturing historic design details, Marvin’s windows and doors are built one at a time and made to order. marvin.com

5 LENNOX As the leading innovator of home heating, cooling, and air-quality systems, Lennox has customizable solutions to save both energy and money. lennox.com

6 ENFORCER Manufacturing over 400 products ranging from flea and ant control to herbicides, Enforcer brings comfort and beauty to your home and garden. enforcer.com

7 BMW Introducing the all-new 5 Series Sedan by BMW. Its eight-speed automatic transmission and innovative interior await your command. bmwusa.com

Project Team

DEVELOPMENT
Gin Property is an 11-acre area near Senoia’s downtown being developed by Scott Tichelaar and Paul Lombardi of Historic Development Ventures as part of the Historic Senoia Project. historicsonia.com

BUILDER
John Bynum has been building fine homes in central Georgia since 2000. johnbynum customhomes.com

ARCHITECT
Jim Strickland and Historical Concepts create homes and neighborhoods based on the principles of traditional architecture. historicalconcepts.com

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Jamie Elliott McPherson, CKD, ASID, of Hearth and Home Interiors, also specializes in kitchen and bath design and renovation. hearthandhomeinteriors.com

LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
Hooten Land Design, owned by Donald Hooten, is known for its landscape designs around the area. 404/373-9816

BENEFICIARY
The American Cancer Society’s Cattle Baron’s Ball 2010

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