

Charlotte

JUNE / JULY 2018

# HOMIE

DESIGN & DECOR

## *Outdoor Living*

How to Bring the Outdoors In

Look Inside David Smith's  
Isle of Palms Home Design

A large kitchen was a high priority for the homeowners when redesigning the home. Frank Smith designed a much larger, open kitchen overlooking the living room.





# The Unassuming COTTAGE

A circa-1927 home is transformed into an unexpectedly grand cottage on a hill in the heart of Myers Park.

Because the homeowners wanted the home to feel bright and calming as soon as you walk in, Frank Smith designed the living such that French doors by the entryway flood the room with natural light throughout the day. Laura Archibald's neutral color palette is soft and soothing, the perfect complement to Smith's design.





**I**t was time to go. The couple had been toying with the idea of moving to Myers Park from their Concord-area home to shorten their work commutes, and one particular home kept popping up during their search. “My husband kept showing it to me, and I just kept telling him, ‘No. It’s way too big; it costs too much,’” she says.

It wasn’t until a family friend suggested they go look at the home “just to see,” that the couple finally scheduled a showing. “Literally, as soon as we walked in, I knew it was the one,” she says. Within hours, the couple put an offer on the home. After much back and forth, though, the homeowners eventually rejected the couple’s final negotiated offer. “At this point, we’d already sold our house, so we had to move into a hotel,” she explains. “Our heart was set on that home, and we didn’t have a plan B. But as I was packing my things, we got the call from our realtor that they wanted to know if we’d still honor our last offer.” The home, it seems, was meant to be theirs.

While they loved the bones of the circa-1927 Colonial-style home, they knew that it would need updating. That renovation, though, would not take place until nine years later when their next door neighbor offered to sell the couple their home. “We were ecstatic,” she says. Tearing down the adjacent home would allow the couple to expand their existing home while also making room for the swimming pool the husband had dreamed of having in the backyard. “It was the perfect situation,” she says. “Tearing down that home would allow us the space we needed to do everything we wanted.”

Not long after purchasing the adjacent home, the couple reached out to architect Frank Smith whose vision for the home was to maintain its stunning yet unassuming cottage curb appeal and seamlessly expand the home so that you could never tell where the original structure began and where the addition and renovation started. “We probably went through five or six drawings with Frank before we got to the point where we knew this renovation was exactly what we wanted,” she says.

Though most of the home features new furniture and accessories, Laura Archibald kept the homeowners' existing dining room table but updated the traditional piece with chairs with clean lines by Charles Stewart in a Duralee fabric.





To expand the kitchen from its original galley style and make room for the swimming pool and outdoor living area—both hers and his top priorities with the renovation, respectively—the footprint of the home needed to be reworked. The couple enlisted the help of designer Laura Archibald, who worked closely with Smith to redesign the existing home’s layout to better fit the homeowners’ needs. What was once the living room became the dining room while the former dining room was transformed into a library with a staircase that leads to the second floor. The original garage transitioned into the new master suite while the existing den remained as is. With the addition came a larger living room, new kitchen, and a three-car garage with a room above.

*Top:* The home was designed such that every room has a view of the outdoor living space making the swimming pool and large backyard a courtyard setting ideal for entertaining. *Bottom:* The wet bar was one area in the home where Laura Archibald wanted to have fun. The designer installed a glass backsplash that looks metallic to provide extra light and provide a fun touch.

With the redesigned footprint, the homeowners now have two master suites—one upstairs and one downstairs—so that when they become empty nesters they can easily live on one floor of the home. This master bedroom boasts the same neutral color palette found throughout the home but complemented by varying textures and patterns to provide interest to the space.





*Top:* To keep the master bathroom light and airy, Laura Archibald chose marble countertops and polished nickel finishes. Two mirrored doors that lead into the master closets provide light, which it has very little of, to the room.

*Bottom:* "The client immediately gravitated toward the Romo fabric," Laura Archibald says of the Charles Stewart chair covered in the navy blue stria fabric. "So we used it for the draperies and the pillow shams, which helped balance the space and get more fabric into the room."



Though the renovation nearly doubled the square footage of the home, the ultimate goal was to design a home that was aesthetically appropriate for the neighborhood. Being a one-and-a-half-story home, it's unassuming from the street. "People often don't realize how large the home really is when you see it from the sidewalk," the homeowner says. "And being that it's situated on a hill, we really wanted to make sure we weren't going vertical with our square footage."

Archibald helped create a comfortable interior with the use of a calm, soothing color palette of greys and neutrals. Though the homeowners ideally wanted to use most of their existing furniture and accessories, Archibald ultimately installed new pieces while seamlessly weaving in some of the older items from the home's original design. In the dining room, Archibald kept the original dining room table but switched out the traditional chairs for more transitional ones by Charles Stewart in a Duralee fabric while the homeowners' china cabinet was "the perfect size for that space, so we decided to keep it in the mix," Archibald says. In the den, the designer reupholstered the existing oversize sofa in a Pindler fabric but then added a pair of new Charles Stewart armchairs. "It was really about elevating the look to a more transitional style with color and textures," Archibald explains. "It was such a departure from what we were used to," the homeowner says. "But it was exactly what we wanted, and Laura nailed it."

The one-time small galley kitchen was transformed into a stunning open-air room overlooking the den. Archibald and the homeowners worked closely on the design of the kitchen designing the custom cabinetry by Johnson Custom Cabinetry and choosing the finishes and appliances. Because of its proximity to a living space, Archibald wanted to make sure the kitchen table felt more like an extension of the den, so she added a metal-top table by Bernhardt she found at High Point market coupled with skirted upholstered dining chairs on the side facing the living space. Opposite, a simple custom-designed bench slides under the table leaving more room between the counters and dining



Opposite: B&B Pools collaborated with landscape architect John Byrd to create the outdoor living space and pool.

Below Left: The powder room was like a tiny jewel box hence the addition of the Anna French wallpaper in the small space.

Below Right: To establish a seamless transition from indoors to out, Laura Archibald added the same bluestone pavers from the pool deck to the foyer and laundry room, which add a subtle complementary touch of blue to the home throughout.



*Though the couple wasn't planning to fall in love with this house when they first saw it in 2003, today—with the renovation and addition—they can't imagine their home being anywhere else but here.*

area. Backless counter stools by Hickory Chair keep the view from the kitchen to the den open.

“Laura was always spot on with her fabric choices and colors,” the homeowner says. “We loved everything she picked for us and how she also kept some of our pieces in the look.” Though the couple wasn't planning to fall in love with this house

when they first saw it in 2003, today—with the renovation and addition—they can't imagine their home being anywhere else but here. “Frank and Laura and this team brought our dream to fruition,” the homeowner says. “I didn't know it back then, but this was exactly what we needed and wanted.”◆