



# A Hilton Head Sanctuary

An architect and interior designer bring Lowcountry style to life

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**H**ilton Head Island is proof that Mother Nature has her favorites. From the hot summer nights to the misty winter mornings, dramatic landscapes are a special phenomenon that people here appreciate and enjoy every day of the year.

When Michael Frederick, a principal at Frederick + Frederick Architects in Beaufort, was commissioned to provide design guidance on an oceanfront property built 12 years ago, he had to utilize the most weather-resistant materials to create a barrier against those same elements that make the island so beautiful to begin with.

Frederick was charged with adding design elements to a solid existing design, while still retaining the unique Lowcountry style of the home the owners fell in love with years ago. Frederick's firm specializes in environmental sensitivity, incorporated into solid design.

Designed to capture ocean views, the living spaces are on the upper levels of the home.

"The basic floor plan is essentially the same," says the architect. But a newly designed, courtyard-hardscape layout is one of his contributions; and its inclusion basically strengthens the home at its core.

The courtyard connects the façade with the ocean side of the home and also provides access to the ocean-side entry door. The layout allows passage from the front of the home, which is on a lagoon, underneath the upper story, and out to the backyard pool.



Above, a coffered ceiling is inset with cypress boards. The graceful stone staircase with a bronze railing adds a necessary access to the home's main living areas from the ocean side. Below, bronze gates will not rust, even in the salty air. Bronze was chosen for the railings because of its resistance to the elements.

Throughout the home, Frederick replaced drywall ceilings with cypress beams. The flooring is now antique heart pine, which is mois-



⌚ Lush landscape relies on low-maintenance trees and grasses to survive and flourish in this salty ocean environment.

⌚ A boatload of joyous passengers sets sail, adding colorful motion to the living room walls.



⌚ Overlooking the pool and the distant ocean, this cupola relies on the simple, arched lines and timeless views.

⌚ The graceful sweep of the staircase belies its resilient strength.

⌚ Zaki area rugs and chenille upholstery bring new life to the interiors. Wood-framed alcoves flank the beautiful fireplace.





① ① A handmade, Heriz Persian rug enlivens the monochromatic palette.

① Bold red-and-white stripes are a timeless choice for the deck furniture. Just off the kitchen, the room has automated screens, which can be opened or closed, depending on the elements.

⊖ White beadboard on the cathedral ceiling matches the glazing of the kitchen cabinets, which are finished with butcher-block, maple work surfaces. The tile backsplash and Turkish "travel" rugs add color.

ture repellent, due to its tight grain. "It's a good durable wood for this environment," explains Frederick. Heart pine is also a natural choice because it perfectly complements the Lowcountry aesthetic.

Designed to capture ocean views, the living spaces are on the upper levels of the home. The guest bedrooms are downstairs. And when venturing upstairs, the living room is in the middle, the kitchen is on one side, and the master suite is on the other. The view from the living spaces to the ocean is at a higher elevation.

Interior designer Katharine Cook of Katharine Cook Interiors took the opportunity to add color and design to a plan she had initiated, 10 years earlier, when the homeowners originally hired her to guide the project. Involved with choosing many of the original furnishings and admitting that she "loved the home the first time she saw it," she appreciated the second chance to add perfection to the palette.

Today, the home is an integrated combination of architectural perfection and a second-go at an already distinguished design. Cook introduced colors



Ⓒ The home features many architectural elements that add to the overall comfort and style.

ⒸⒸ Hardwood flooring glows against the intricate swirls of the wrought-iron balustrades, while the caramel-colored walls soften the palette.

Ⓒ On this bedroom ceiling, real antique brick combines with faux-painted brick where the walls meet the roofline. Arte Fabric bed coverings match the soft, salmon-colored walls.



Ⓒ Adorned with tiny seashells, the Maitland Smith mirror hangs above this unique, dark-wood-and-metal bureau.

Ⓒ Elegant interiors are evident throughout the home. The master bedroom features an oversized spa tub and glass-front shower.



and textures, while Frederick made the home more inviting and the materials more lustrous.

The 5,000-square-foot home is essentially an open floor plan, with the second-story, shared living room, accessible from wide halls and doorways. Window treatments were almost completely eliminated this time around, because Frederick and Cook chose minimal window treatments to block the hot sun or open to the blue skies, depending on the weather.

"Michael did fabulous things," says Cook of the architect.

Faux artist Joey Doolan worked throughout the home to create a soft, caramel palette against textured walls, which captures the sunlight and softens it into curves.

The kitchen utilized beadboard ceilings, painted white, with matching cross beams, a graceful, arched sink area, which looks out through rounded bay windows, and very distinctive brick tiling combining comfort with dramatic design. "Instant Classic" would be a descriptive genre.

The homeowners have chosen to remain anonymous while, at the same time, honoring the commitment and voice of the talented artists who recreated their Hilton Head sanctuary.

"We love what Michael Frederick and Kitty Cook have done. Many of our summer memories are of the house, and so many of our children's memories are tied to the sun and the sand, the beach, and the times we have spent in Hilton Head. We believe that Michael and Kitty are very talented and are grateful for their input on the house." ■