

MODERN LUXURY

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PRODUCTS TO
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GROUND WORK

Nathan Turner's Deeply Rooted Ojai Home



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by
NELL RAINER
photographed by
KELLI BOYD PHOTOGRAPHY

Refined SOUTHERN SANCTUARY

A masterfully designed Palmetto Bluff retreat, layered with artisanal detail, organic materials and a harmonious blend of indoor and outdoor living for extended stays and gracious entertaining.







“The centralized courtyard—framed by the Main House, Carriage House and Pool Pavilion—serves as the heart of the property, offering protected views, controlled privacy and an ideal environment for hosting.”

—MICHAEL GENTEMANN

Tucked beneath storied live oaks, this Palmetto Bluff retreat emerges as a compelling study in the nuances of contemporary Southern living. Designed for extended stays and weeklong gatherings, the residence interprets the natural lowcountry landscape through an architectural lens that is at once precise and effortless. Each layer reveals a dialogue between organic texture and crisp modern lines, resulting in a home that is undeniably polished yet approachable. Rather than chase spectacle, the design settles into its surroundings, prioritizing proportion, materiality and a sophisticated sense of comfort that resonates with owners and guests alike.

THE CLIENT

Conceived in February 2022 and meticulously brought to life by September 2024, the property stands as a testament to transformative design. The visionary team of architects, builders and interior designers approached the site with a distinct purpose: to cultivate a private,

The pool, pavilion and surrounding architecture dissolve the boundary between landscape and living. Opposite page: The bedrooms embrace quiet luxury through neutral tones and bespoke built-ins.

resort-like compound that encourages both intimate relaxation and grand entertaining. “The clients were looking for a traditional home with a fresh aesthetic. The house and outdoor areas have an indoor-outdoor harmony that is balanced and refined. The home, carriage house, the pool and pool pavilion all give the owners and guests plenty of private and social spaces to enjoy,” says Interior Designer Shelley Wilkins.

The brilliant site plan centers around a lush courtyard, effectively anchoring the property. Architect Michael Gentemann describes it best: “The centralized courtyard—framed by the Main House, Carriage House and Pool Pavilion—serves as the heart of the property, offering protected views, controlled privacy and an ideal environment for hosting.” This centralized outdoor living space is entirely framed by the Main House, the Carriage House and the Pool Pavilion. By fracturing the traditional single-structure footprint into three distinct volumes, the architects created an immersive environment where guests can retreat to their private quarters or gather effortlessly by the water.



The living room opens fully to the courtyard, balancing scale and intimacy in a light-filled, gathering-ready space. Opposite page: The kitchen appliances preserve the home's clean architectural lines.



THE HOME

The exterior immediately commands attention through its sophisticated use of materials. Painted brick provides a timeless, textured canvas that grounds the structure, while sleek steel entry doors introduce a sharp, modern edge. “The aesthetic is eclectic, a modern interpretation of historical regional precedent. Painted brick and wood shakes were used throughout the project to create bold, color-blocked forms,” says architect Michael Gentemann. This deliberate juxtaposition of classic masonry and industrial metal hints at the fresh, modern aesthetic waiting inside.

Upon crossing the threshold, the sheer scale of the residence takes hold. Soaring 12-foot ceilings create an immediate sense of grandeur, allowing rooms to breathe and light to cascade freely. The architectural triumph of the main living spaces lies in the sweeping 10-foot glazing. These massive glass expanses dissolve the boundaries between the interior sanctuary and the verdant courtyard, ensuring that nature remains a constant, dynamic focal point throughout the day.

Wilkins highlights the thoughtful design of the pool area: “The pool area is stunning. We wanted to break up the cream stone on the pool deck, so we added a grass border around the pool to create more interest and define its shape. The pool pavilion is adjacent to the pool. This space is covered and allows one to enjoy the pool, but gets you out of the sun.”

THE COLOR

Inside, the interior design team orchestrated a delicate balance between organic warmth and traditional elegance. The spaces feel remarkably fresh and modern, yet they are deeply rooted in classic design principles. A neutral, earthy color palette is elevated by high-end finishes, artisanal textures and meticulous detailing.

Painted brick and steel accents anchor the home in its serene Lowcountry setting.

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One of the most captivating spaces in the residence is the Sitting Room. Here, a high-pitched pyramidal ceiling draws the eye upward, creating a dramatic sense of volume and architectural intrigue. The room feels both expansive and deeply intimate, making it the perfect enclave for quiet mornings with a book or late-night conversations over cocktails.

Extensive built-in casework runs throughout the home, showcasing the unparalleled craftsmanship of the builders. These bespoke wooden elements provide highly functional storage while adding rich, tactile layers to the visual landscape. The casework seamlessly integrates with the architecture, ensuring that every room feels curated, intentional and impeccably tailored to the homeowners' needs.

THE OUTDOORS

Because the home was specifically commissioned for extended stays and hosting frequent visitors, the flow of the living spaces was paramount. The transition from the Main House to the guest accommodations in the Carriage House feels completely intuitive. Guests enjoy their own luxurious enclave, offering ultimate privacy without ever feeling disconnected from the heart of the compound.

The true jewel of the property's entertaining spaces is the Pool Pavilion. Designed to take advantage of the coastal South Carolina climate, the pavilion features innovative retractable screens. With the push of a button, the space transforms from a sheltered, shaded retreat to an open-air cabana seamlessly connected to the pool deck. This brilliant engineering allows the homeowners to host alfresco dinners, cocktail hours and afternoon lounging sessions regardless of the season.

THE OUTCOME

From the initial sketches in 2022 to the final styling in the fall of 2024, the journey of this Palmetto Bluff estate represents the pinnacle of collaborative luxury design. The home proves that true elegance lies in the details, from the precise sightlines of the 10-foot glazing to the artisanal touch of the extensive built-in casework.

This property is more than just a seasonal residence. It is an immersive celebration of southern luxury, architectural innovation and the timeless beauty of organic design. For design enthusiasts seeking inspiration in the realm of high-end residential architecture, this compound serves as a glowing example of how to build spaces that tell rich, inviting stories.

To explore more about the builders and view similar luxury projects, visit their portfolios online and discover the materials that brought this exquisite vision to life.

From top: layered materials create a rhythm of comfort and restraint; an earthy, neutral palette and finely tuned detailing lend a calm sophistication to the space.

Opposite page: The bathrooms echo the home's refined palette with natural stone, warm finishes and subtle coastal notes.



Design Details

Type
Single-family home

Interior Design
Shelley Wilkins,
S. Wilkins Interior Design
swilkinsid.com

Architecture
Michael Gentemann,
AIA - G2 Design

RESOURCES

Benjamin Moore
Paint throughout
benjaminmoore.com
Brown Jordan

Outdoor Chaises
brownjordan.com

Currey and Company
Lighting throughout
curreylighting.com

Hickory Chair
Living room chairs
hickorychair.com

Lee Jofa
Fabric throughout
kravet.com/lee-jofa

Made Goods
Furniture throughout
madegoods.com

Stark
Carpets throughout
starkcarpet.com

Taj Mahal Quartzite
Kitchen tiling and
countertops

Vaughan Lighting
Lighting throughout
vaughandesigns.com