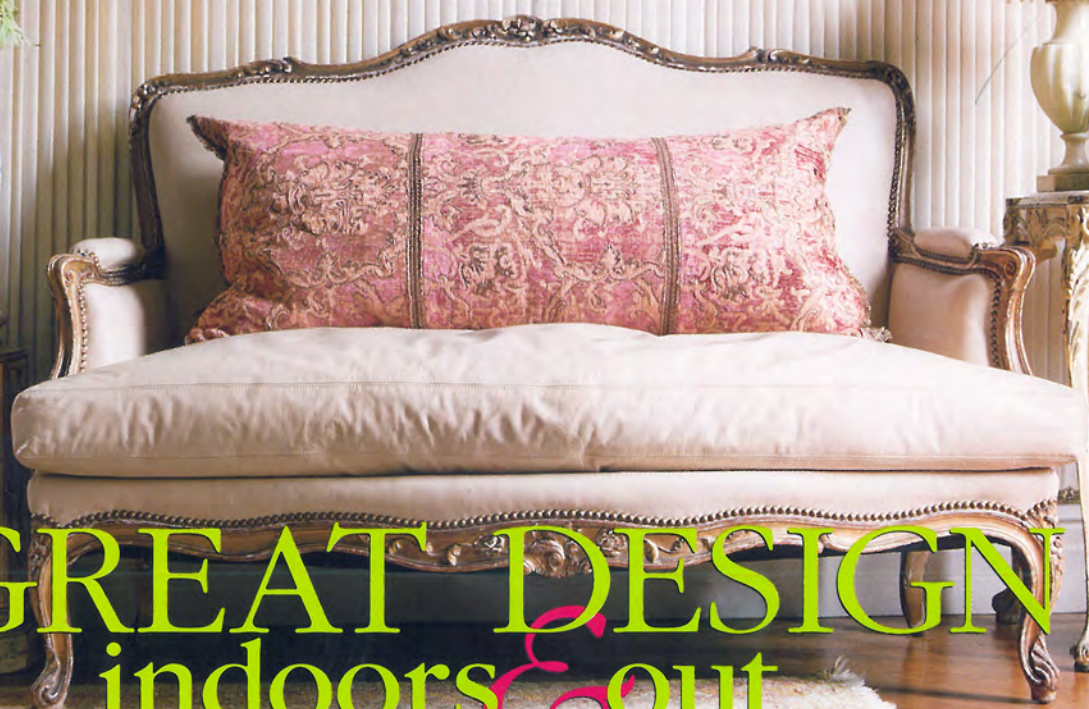


Southern Accents

The magazine of fine Southern interiors and gardens

May-June 2004

63 pages
of fresh
decorating
ideas



Display Until July 6

\$5.99US \$7.50CAN



www.southernaccents.com
AOL Keyword: Southern Accents

GREAT DESIGN
indoors & out

CAROLINA CALLING

DESIGNER THOMAS JAYNE
RESTORES A PLANTATION HOUSE
IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA
LOWCOUNTRY TO CREATE AN
INVITING FAMILY RETREAT

BY JULIA C. LEWIS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY PIETER ESTERSON
STYLED BY RICK ELLIS



LEFT: The entry's hand-painted wallpaper incorporates Lowcountry flora, such as palmettos and magnolias. RIGHT: The back porch is a timeless spot for resting in the shade and taking in the views. BELOW RIGHT: Newly acquired pieces, such as the reproduction marble-top console in the entry, blend seamlessly with the couple's antiques. PREVIOUS PAGES: The approach to White Hall Plantation is lined with an alley of moss-strewn live oaks.



Nestled within the almost epic South Carolina Lowcountry, White Hall Plantation presides over a timeless piece of land. Surrounded by mature live oaks and pastoral, old rice fields, the house was rebuilt in the 1920s after the original 18th-century house reportedly burned during the Civil War. Thanks to the vision of designer Thomas Jayne and the sensitivity of his clients, the house was restored in a manner that celebrates its vintage charm and is reinvigorated with a handsome mix of English and American antiques. Today White Hall is a dynamic country retreat for an active family.

The owners lived in the house for nearly a year before enlisting Jayne to give the interior a more interesting and personal dimension. "It's very much to their credit that they didn't just tear the place down," says the designer, whose





interest in historic preservation was piqued during his student days at Winterthur. Even more unusual, he adds, was the clients' approach to the project. "We'd rather adapt to the house than adapt the house to us," they told him, meaning the two-story, center-hall residence would retain its human scale and homey character. "There was no attempt to re-create period-perfect Georgian architecture," Jayne says. Instead, architectural interventions were minimal: The designer refined some of the classical details and installed wide-plank floors of reclaimed Southern pine in several of the rooms, while keeping much of the hardware and fixtures from the '20s. "The primary goal," says Jayne, "was to create a timeless, evocative interior that reinforced a Lowcountry ethos."

The couple intended to use White Hall as a place where family and friends could gather, relax, and enjoy country pursuits. Accordingly, Jayne devised a decorative scheme that is elegant, low-key, and contextually appropriate. He chose

With its light-colored damask wallpaper, columnar draperies, and understated mantel, the dining room has a patrician simplicity. The wallpaper complements the dark wood of the antiques, such as the 1700 Hepplewhite sideboard. The painting over the mantel, of the great racehorse Man O' War, is part of the owners' collection of sporting art.





colors carefully, selecting a balanced, muted palette that would not only complement the yellow cast of Lowcountry light but also accentuate the prominent views. Similarly, draperies throughout the house are simple and columnar so as to frame rather than detract from the idyllic prospects beyond. Furniture came largely from the couple's collection of Americana, and Jayne brought in additional pieces "that looked as if they might have been there." Nothing in the house is ceremonious or stiff. Even in the living and dining rooms, comfortable seating, tasteful works of art, and a subtle mix of textured and patterned fabrics, he says, "create an intimate, 'settled' quality and foster a connection to the land."

Underscoring his clients' interest in Lowcountry history and tradition, Jayne worked to further the house's sense of place. A botanical wallpaper that incorporates local flora and fauna enlivens the entry hall. In the sitting room, Jayne opted to keep a quirky scenic mural that was commissioned by a previous

ABOVE: Printed linen upholstery by Schumacher and simple wool matting by Elizabeth Eakins on the floor play up a scenic mural in the sitting room, where Jayne created a comfortable seating group. A 19th-century chest serves as a coffee table. **RIGHT:** Hunting is among the pastimes enjoyed at White Hall. The gun room remains virtually unchanged since the house was built.





owner. Rather than create a newly deconstructed look, he hoped to bring forth the house's patina, which it had lost over the years. To this end, Jayne furnished the bedrooms with a combination of sophisticated antiques and homespun rugs and quilts, giving the quarters personality without pretension.

Welcoming and certainly well-loved, White Hall reflects its owners' deep appreciation for Lowcountry life. Embracing the plantation's gracious informality along with its period character, the family has indeed adapted to the house. "It is in no way precious or preserved. Days after the house was completed, there were children's books piled in the living room," says Jayne, happy to have created a setting that can be enjoyed by all. "And, of course, that's exactly how it should be." ♦
For details, see *Sourcebook*, page 204.

