

# SMYTHE PARK HOUSE

*charleston, south carolina*

When colorful, contemporary decor meets classic Southern architecture, it's a dynamic pairing to remember.



**Up-to-date design ideas and traditional style** combine beautifully in our South Carolina Idea House. Exterior columns and spacious rooms remind you of charming old homes found across the South, but this house is all about today. The U-shaped layout makes great use of the deep lot. An added feature: Landscaped areas at the front, side, and rear form our first-ever *Southern Living* Idea Garden.

Daniel Island, a master-planned community with a small-town atmosphere, is home to Smythe Park House. Situated on 4,000 acres across the harbor from Charleston, the island is defined by a shoreline that is nothing short of spectacular.

Elegant columns, Flemish bond brickwork, and gas lanterns

add timeless appeal to the exterior. The portico and veranda offer enjoyable outdoor areas. "This house embraces old Southern architecture," says residential designer Mitchell Ginn. Builders Max Crosby and Jamison Howard re-created some classic details with synthetic wood for increased durability.

by JULIA HAMILTON • photography VAN CHAPLIN, CHARLES WALTON IV  
styling ROSE NGUYEN, AMY P. WILSON



### Perfecting a Vintage Look

Pierced brick, corner boards, and louvered shutters add character. "This is an elegant design for a corner lot. The side-street elevation has as much to offer as the front," says Max. Crowning the house is the observation tower, a sunny spot with windows on four sides. ►



#### GREAT IDEA:

Give a good first impression with design ideas that begin at the front door. In the light-filled foyer, a hand-painted starburst medallion accents the pine floorboards. A handsome banister, made of wood and iron, weaves a bold accent through the lofty space. Square columns separate the foyer from the adjacent dining room.





Dining Room

#### GREAT IDEA:

Wooden beams separate the expanse of ceiling in the family room and kitchen into several sections, which in turn are covered with planking installed in a chevron design. Mitchell says, "The trend now is using higher, flat ceilings with beams that play off the classic architecture of the South." The beams are painted blue-green, a hue pulled from some of the kitchen cabinets, in a high-gloss finish, and the planking is a lighter value of the same color in a semigloss finish.

#### GREAT IDEA:

Instead of hanging just one chandelier above the dining table, try two. Margaret chose fixtures that resemble clusters of branches; the design echoes the stylized reed pattern of the chair fabric. This fabric inspired the home's color scheme—turquoise, espresso, apple green, and cream. In the room's corners, chinoiserie étagères are a preview of the many Asian elements found throughout.



Family Room

#### Resized With Style

The rug that interior designer Margaret Donaldson chose for the dining room wasn't available in the dimensions needed for the long table and eight chairs. Instead she framed the 8- x 10-foot turquoise rug with 12-inch-wide strips of brown carpeting. Rug tape was used to join the pieces. "Turquoise will be even more popular in the next few years," says Margaret. "It has just hit fashion and is making its way into the home." A soft green-and-aqua wallpaper adds texture and a slight shimmer to the ceiling. Striped silk draperies with a simulated smocked heading adorn the windows.







#### **GREAT IDEA:**

The family room's leather sectional sofa contains a chaise for relaxing in front of the fireplace. "People love having a chaise as part of a seating group," Margaret says.

#### **Space Divided**

A 40-inch-high divider wall separates the family room from the breakfast room. On each side, framed photographs hang on iron rods suspended from the ceiling beams. Furniture-maker Matt Decell built the serving/storage piece by the divider wall as well as the oval mahogany table and the coordinating curved stools for the breakfast room (see page 94). The espresso finish of these handmade pieces ties into the cabinetwork just steps away in the kitchen. An olive khaki wall color complements the wood furniture and the pillow fabrics on the family room sofa and chairs. ▶



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Kitchen and Breakfast Room

**GREAT IDEA:** A simple door style keeps the kitchen cabinets looking clean and uncomplicated, while a mix of stained and painted finishes stirs up plenty of visual interest. Both the center island and the cooktop wall hold cabinets that are stained espresso. Cabinetwork on the side walls repeats the blue-green of the ceiling beams. Stainless steel appliances shine beside the rich cabinetry.

### Delicious Details

Shades of green appear throughout the kitchen. Aqua fabric covers the barstool seats, while the colors of the mosaic tile backsplash pick up hues in the granite island countertop.

In the nearby sunroom, a versatile table unfolds to serve as a desk or to accommodate six for dining. Take a seat in a woven wing chair, and you'll have the ideal vantage point for viewing the courtyard fountain. ►



PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHANIE MULLINS

**GREAT IDEA:** Drapery panels in outdoor fabric hang from a rod mounted on a beam in the sunroom. Now popular indoors, this fabric is durable and resists fading.



Sunroom



### NATIONAL SPONSOR Bayer Advanced

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### NATIONAL SPONSOR General Shale Brick

Brick always offers a handsome and welcoming appearance. With General Shale products, the builders of Smythe Park House used the Flemish bond pattern under stair treads and on other portions of the exterior. White mortar emphasizes this distinctive brickwork. For more information visit [www.generalshale.com](http://www.generalshale.com), or call 1-800-414-4661.





Master Bedroom

### Going All Out for Glamour

In the master bedroom, touches of basic black and black-and-silver furniture mix with fabrics in shades of aqua and teal. The mirrored canopy bed features a headboard upholstered in deep turquoise velvet. The opulent floral silk of the duvet cover inspired the bold ceiling color. Pillows in the same fabric as the duvet, placed on cream-colored chairs, visually connect the sitting area with the rest of the room. Turquoise fabrics and tilework accent the master bath; the dark, stained finish of the vanity cabinets and tub surround repeat elements of Asian design. ►



### GREAT IDEA:

Try combining opaque and sheer fabrics for fashionable new effects. In the sunny master bedroom, opaque turquoise fabric, together with an overlay of sheer, striped silk, makes up the window treatments. The silk layer softens the turquoise underneath, and the fabric combo looks light and airy. The bed skirt uses the same opaque/sheer blend.



Master Bath



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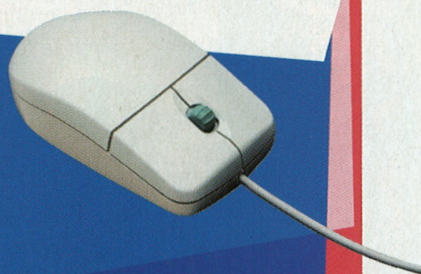
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### Welcome to the *Southern Living* Idea Garden

Smythe Park's front and side gardens, as well as the courtyard at the rear, function as exterior rooms. At the front, landscape architect Robert C. Chesnut developed an outdoor foyer to welcome guests in style. Max G. Crosby Construction, Inc., implemented the design. "We made an elevated mezzanine garden with parterres planted for seasonal color," says Robert. Large clay pots hold banana plants underplanted with hibiscus, lantana, croton, geranium, and asparagus fern. On each side of the paved area, a bench rests beneath the feathery gray-green foliage of a coconut palm. 'Natchez' crepe myrtles add lacy foliage and cooling white blossoms.

### Pretty Plants All Around the House

A second garden space, located to the right of the house, contains a rectangular lawn with chairs and a fountain. A ligustrum hedge separates this area from the sidewalk and street. From here, a grassy path leads to a courtyard located between the house and garage. Because there's a pronounced change in grade from the top of the property down to the street, Robert designed a terraced walkway off the courtyard. The upper level contains a triple-tiered fountain, and the lower level holds a parterre and potting shed. A low wooden fence, lined with large clay pots containing 'Lipan' crepe myrtles, encloses the courtyard; a gate connects it to the walkway. ►



**GREAT IDEA:**  
Use plants to transform the exterior of your home into a verdant extension of the garden. John G. Cox of John's Garden Company, with the assistance of Ray M. Teske, used a variety of large pots to create colorful container gardens for each outdoor space at Smythe Park House. **Tip:** Invest in quality containers, and make sure they are appropriately sized for your space.



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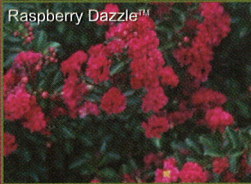
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## NATIONAL SPONSOR Shaw Carpet

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Guest Room

## Color Accents

Shades of apple green and brown mix and mingle in paints and fabrics used in the guest room. A single shade of taupe colors the walls and woodwork, while the ceiling is green. The boldly patterned fabrics selected for the wing chair and headboard of the sleigh bed give a funky new look to these furniture favorites. In the guest bath, bamboo-patterned wallpaper adds cool green texture. ▶



## LOWCOUNTRY STORAGE BENCH PROJECT PLAN

Storage is always a necessity, so build this functional bench designed around stock-size baskets. It works great in a mudroom, garage, or potting shed. To order detailed plans visit [southernliving.com/projectplans](http://southernliving.com/projectplans).





Guest Bath



**GREAT IDEA:**  
Try tiered tables  
and stands.  
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multiple shelves  
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storage for books  
in a bedroom and  
toiletries or towels  
in a bath.



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As seen in the Progressive Farmer 2004 Idea House and Farmstead.

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