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ARAB
WORLD

WHAT'S
NEW?
FRESH IDEAS
FOR LIVING
BEAUTIFULLY

ELLE DECORATION

SLOW
LUXURY
DESTINATIONS

HERE COMES
THE SUN

HOMES SHAPED BY RENEWAL,
CALM, AND LUMINOUS LIVING



U.A.E. 37 DHs / Lebanon 10 USD.

ELLE

SUBTLE HARMONY



Set within the tidal landscape of Johns Island,
this custom home explores privacy, nature,
and architectural freedom
through deeply personal design.

TEXT MARIA AZIZ NAHAS. PHOTOS AIR DESIGN PHOTOGRAPHY.
INTERIOR DESIGN JESSE VICKERS.





Located just outside Charleston, this custom new construction residence unfolds across 5865 sq feet settled on over two and a half acres of marshland, tidal creeks, and protected natural beauty. The project was conceived as a fully integrated collaboration between Jesse Vickers of JLV Creative, architect Colin Cope, and builder Daniel Hughes, allowing design, architecture, and execution to evolve in parallel from the earliest stages.

The home belongs to a well traveled couple whose careers were shaped in busy metropolitan environments. In the aftermath of the pandemic, their priorities shifted toward privacy, connection to nature, and a slower pace of living. After an extended search, they discovered a rare parcel of land surrounded entirely by marsh, effectively forming its own island. The setting became the guiding force for every decision that followed.

From the outset, the clients approached the process with openness and trust, allowing the design team to push beyond familiar references. They were drawn to moody, rustic influences, yet equally captivated by eclectic color and pattern. Their intention was not to replicate a coastal formula, but to create a house that felt grounded in place while expressive of their lives and collections. The result is a project that reflects the full JLV philosophy, demonstrating what is possible when clients fully engage in the creative process.

The brief centered on lifestyle. With three dogs and frequent visitors, the home needed to balance intimacy with generosity. Dedicated amenities were woven into the plan, including a gym, a hidden speakeasy, a casual television room, and an entire floor devoted to the primary suite. Dual offices support daily routines, while guest accommodations were designed to be welcoming





without encouraging extended stays. Throughout, indoor and outdoor living remain closely intertwined, with views and movement always oriented toward the surrounding landscape.

Architecturally, the house resists coastal cliché. A nontraditional exterior color allows the structure to blend into its environment rather than dominate it. A grand pivoting wood front door introduces warmth against darker siding, while breezeways beneath the house create shaded circulation paths leading to outdoor kitchens and gathering spaces. Details such as Brazilian mosaic tile and black and white coastal photography subtly reference the owners' heritage.

Inside, spaces unfold with deliberate contrast. The kitchen is darker and moodier than the surrounding living areas, grounding the plan and drawing movement inward. A sunken media room, inspired by midcentury conversation

pits, introduces a sense of intimacy and play. The primary suite is designed as a retreat, where dark walls allow marsh views to remain dominant and a concealed outdoor tub terrace offers privacy within nature.

Throughout the house, continuity in form and palette creates cohesion. Arched openings reappear across rooms, shapes are echoed between spaces, and earthy tones shift between light and dark. The result is a home that feels layered, confident, and deeply connected to its setting, offering luxury through thoughtfulness rather than excess.

Equally important was how the house supports change over time, allowing rooms to adapt to evolving routines, seasonal rhythms, and gathering sizes, ensuring that flexibility, comfort, and thoughtful planning remain central to the experience long after construction ends for daily life ahead.

