

# *A Perfect* **Marriage**

**Rustic & Refined.** An espresso-stained trestle table stands on an Oushak rug grounding this traditional dining room. A taupe monogram on the back of each chair adds a personal touch reflecting the owners' Southern roots.

See how one couple's opposite tastes are blended into a cohesive whole at this mountain getaway.

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**Grand Air.** A two-tiered bronze chandelier hangs from the ceiling, and dark exposed beams coordinate with the walnut-stained window trim, stair rail and hardwood floors. The focal point is an expansive cast stone fireplace that has been topped with a bucolic landscape painting to soften the look. Another pop of color comes via a pair of light turquoise pottery lamps that rests on charcoal grey side tables with turned legs and pie-crust edges.





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Take a peek at this mountain home, perched atop a hill overlooking Lake Keowee in Sunset, South Carolina—a county which contains the highest natural point in the state—and you'd never know it once faced quite the design challenge.

Its homeowners have style and tastes as opposite as night and day. He, a retired Air Force lieutenant general, with affinity for masculine and traditional mountain feel elements. Her? A petite lady full of Southern charm, smitten with Old World style and ultra-feminine details.

It's often said opposites attract, creating a matrimonial balance. But in design, such polar design views can easily translate into a fragmented home, without a cohesive natural flow.

Not the case with this mountain gem. Principal and lead designer Cynthia Masters of Panageries, a South Carolina interior design firm, created a seamless family oasis by pulling from both the couple's preferences and creating a timeless and functional design, one that merges the yin and yang of personal style with effortless elegance.

### ***Making Opposites Attract***

"If we selected a tufted sofa, then the sofa needed to be a chesterfield. And if we chose a chunky iron cocktail table, then ornate hand painted candlesticks were used," explains Cynthia of her approach in combining the vastly different styles of the couple.





Inspired by the 270-degree views of the surrounding Lake Keowee, **accents of watery blue and green provide a visual pop for the eyes.**

A neutral palette of taupe, beige, almond and eggshell mixed with charcoal and bronze was used throughout the house to create a cohesive space. Then, to keep the neutral palette from falling flat and to add visual interest, texture and sheen were incorporated in creative ways from fabrics and trims, to antique mirror, brushed stone, and limed wood.

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The result is a mountain home with classic sophistication, and the ultimate masculine meets feminine story.

**Come on In.** The rug softens the space as do the aqua, cream, taupe and ecru graphic print throw pillows. A trio of framed hunting dog paintings brings pops of turquoise and is a reminder of the natural views just outside.





### ***Balancing Act***

Both the décor and the materials are a study of equilibrium. The exposed beams throughout the home bring in the mountain vibe. For example, in the dining room, the massive beams bring in a handsome touch while the heavy espresso-stained trestle table and substantial mantel recall Old World flavor. “The dining room is delicious. It’s a great example of how we married our client’s tastes,” Cynthia says.

In turn, these blend flawlessly with feminine touches in the space, from the monograms on the back of the dining chair, to the embroidered drapery panels, and even to the still life painting.

The master bedroom follows the same balancing act. The matelassé coverlet and eyelet bed skirt with matching bed panels are luscious ladylike and the ultimate mark of feminine design. “The overstuffed bedding calls to mind *The Princess and The Pea*, the literary fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. We envision our princess happily engulfed in the wonderful details every evening,” says Masters.

**1 Rich Palette.** Dark walnut-stained beams, island and hardwood floors contrast with the ivory plaster walls and ceiling, while flecks of silver, gold and gray in the Black Pearl granite countertops add depth.

**2 Out of the Blue.** Blue marbled subway tile adds an unexpected twist to the otherwise classic design of the kitchen.

**Masterful Bedroom.** Suspended from bronze iron rods are sheer draperies embroidered with a floral pattern, adding to the feminine touches of the room, while woven blinds coordinate with the stain of the beams and control light and privacy.



Counterbalancing the delicate bedding are ebony stained serpentine front chests, which flank the iron canopy bed. “To be sure her hubby was considered,” she explains.

### ***Inspired by Art***

Masters also used artwork to aid in marrying the distinct styles. The vintage sheet music in the piano alcove and the

antique letters in the guest baths reflect Old World style, while the stags in the writing niche and the hand sketched treetops in the upstairs wet bar offer masculine imagery.

At the client’s request Masters also incorporated artwork depicting various animals, from peacocks and doves, to deer, pigs, cows, lambs, dogs and butterflies. Imagery evoking the traditional mountain feel.

### ***Room for All***

Beyond design though, this lake home needed to function as a full-time residence for the couple, but also easily accommodate their children and grandchildren, who will be visiting the lake house for all its resort-style accommodations.

“With everyone living out of state, we knew this would become the family gathering spot. We worked to ensure that

**Country Chic.** The turned post bed and weathered wood side table give this bedroom a country charm while fresh colors and elegant styling adds a modern balance.

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the home functioned well for both full-time and part-time living,” says Masters.

Much of the design was informed by architect Brad Wright of Wright Design, and then the ideal framework was completed by Keeeco Development. Masters and team then worked to transform the house into a home, with ample space for entertaining, like the open floor plan of the kitchen, and cozy nooks for private escapes, like the study.

The result is a mountain haven with unexpected lux and feminine touches, with a nod to Old World style that feels refreshing and effortless.

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**Set in Stone.** Calling to mind the Old World, a custom taupe limestone sink is set against a backdrop of grey tongue and groove wainscot topped with ivory plaster. “The powder room sink is one of my favorite elements. It’s a new sink that was carved from a solid block of limestone. I patterned the design from a photo of an antique sink. I sketched it for my fabricator, who then carved it into reality via waterjet technology. I love that a computer was used to create a fixture that looks like it came straight out of the Old World.” Cynthia says.

