

Charlotte

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019

HOME

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DESIGNERS'
GO-TO TRENDS



One of the homeowner's favorite pieces is the Venice dining table from Bourgeois' furniture line, Bourgeoisie, Inc. "It's a stunning and classic piece," the homeowner says.

CENTER STAGE

DESIGNER EMILY BOURGEOIS LOOKED TO THE LOWCOUNTRY LANDSCAPE FOR INSPIRATION BEHIND A SOUTH CAROLINA BEACH HOME.



A trait of Palladian architecture is that everything is designed on the axis and, in this case, allows for views from every angle. At the top of the stairs, one can look left or right down the hallway to outdoor views, as well as to the front and back. This particular vignette leads to the master bedroom and features a lovely nail-head trim door designed by Bourgeois.

Opposite: As avid entertainers, the homeowners wanted their home to feel welcoming and comfortable. Located on the ground level, the entryway welcomes guests as they enter the home from the side and provides an elegant yet warm invitation.



When Emily Bourgeois was approached by her good friends to design their home in DeBordieu, South Carolina—a sleepy, private community just south of Pawleys Island—she was elated. The soon-to-be clients were the architectural designer’s dear friends, and this was their first foray into building a home from the ground

up. “I was flattered that they had chosen me to design their new home,” she says.

The lot the couple had chosen was breathtaking. So much so that the moment the couple saw the piece of land, they bought it the same day. “We just knew this was where we needed to build our beach home,” the homeowner says. The lot overlooks a golf course with a large pond in the forefront. Towering oak trees strewn with lazy Spanish moss provide shade from the powerful



Carolina sun. But it was the view of the grassy fairway coupled with the glassy pond that both the homeowners and Bourgeois knew had to be the focal point of the home. “The water, sun, sky, trees, everything about nature and being down there inspired the design of this home,” the homeowner says. “The inside wasn’t the story. The house had to lend itself to being where you saw the beauty of nature. That’s what guided the design.”

With that in mind, Bourgeois set to work designing a home that allowed for views from just about every inch of the home. Though the couple wanted something a touch more modern, Bourgeois looked to traditional Palladian architecture, which

features symmetry and graceful, understated decorative details.

“They both appreciate the beauty of classicism, while truly loving the clean lines of modern architecture,” she explains. “We wanted the house to reference both. We used four main elements to tie the house to the past: a strong base and water table made of tabby, an exaggerated main floor with oversized windows, a minimized top floor with clipped walls and short windows high on the wall, and a floor plan driven by axis. The house even has a point inside where you can see outside on axis in all four directions.”

The homeowners were *laissez-faire* about the process, letting Bourgeois take the lead on the architecture to design a home



that took advantage of every possible view the structure would allow. “Once we had this in place, the owners were free to play with minimalism and modernism in furnishings and palette,” Bourgeois says. “The homeowner is a master at this and has an incredible eye for interiors. She is not afraid to be a little edgy but she always uses shapes familiar throughout history. She is never trendy or gimmicky. With that tether, her rooms are always mysteriously soothing and inviting.”

“I really wanted the home to be one where you don’t walk in and say, ‘Oh, I love your sofa!’ but rather, ‘Oh my gosh, your view is amazing,” the homeowner says. “I really let Emily’s architectural

Left: The kitchen needed to be congruent with the living area, so Bourgeois kept the finishes and cabinetry minimal and neutral. The concrete counters by Charlotte-based Mudwerk, Inc. complemented the character-grade white-oak floors finished by David Purser of Charlotte, resulting in a subtle and inviting gathering place.

Right: To keep the home as clean as possible to allow the view to play center stage, Bourgeois created a scullery off the kitchen to house things such as larger appliances and a kitchen sink so that the main kitchen area is cleaner, less crowded, and serves more as an extension of the living room.





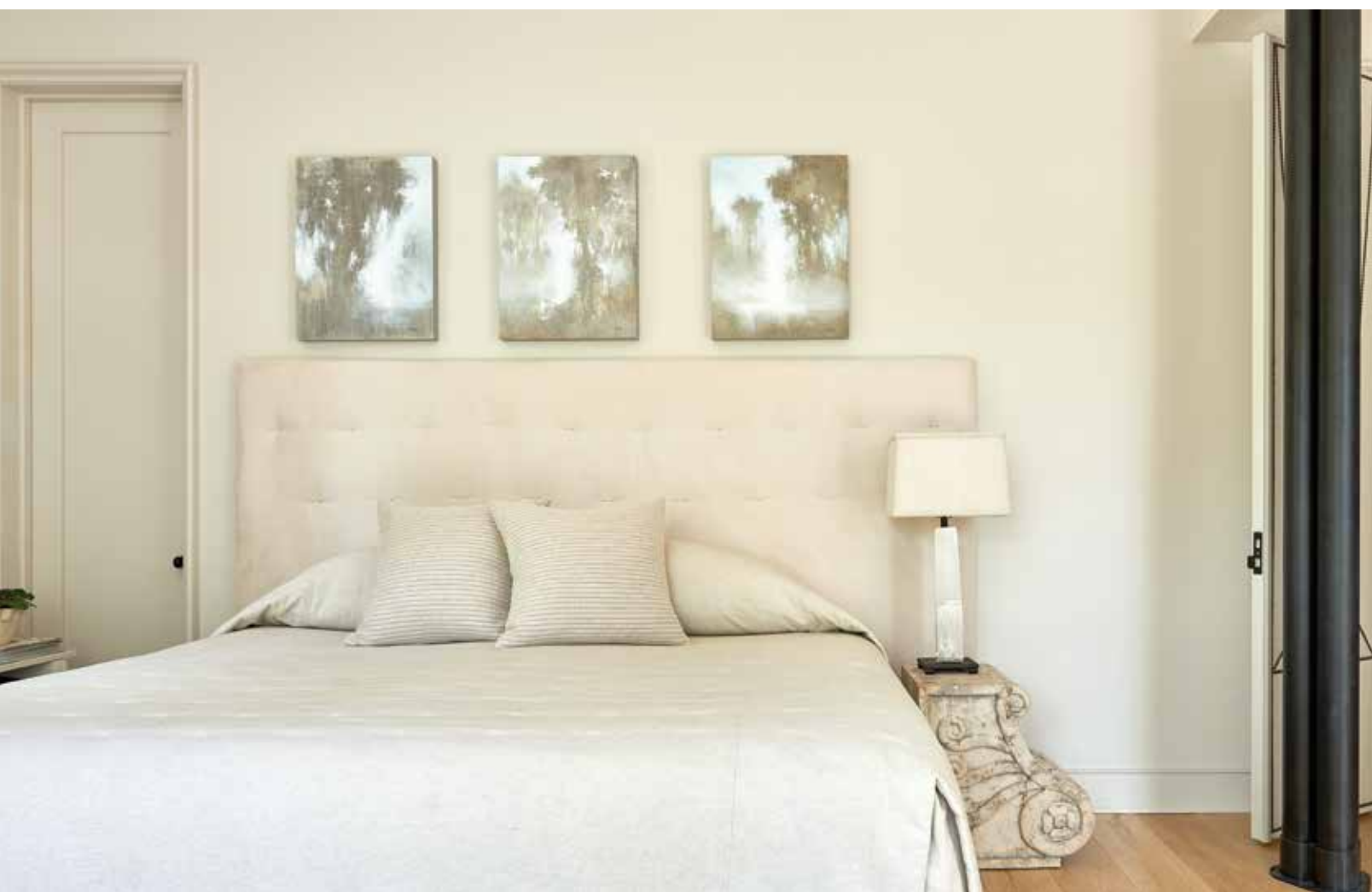
Opposite: For the homeowners, it was all about the views. This meant keeping the interiors understated and neutral so your eye is drawn to the outside when you walk into every room.

Top: Bourgeois chose the Kathryn sink by Kohler for this upstairs powder room because of its clean lines.

Bottom: Three paintings by artist Stuart Coleman Budd hang above the custom-designed master bedroom headboard. "Everything was pretty much custom in the home," the homeowner says, "which, I think, is what makes everything feel more meaningful. It was all designed with purpose just for this home."

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— EMILY BOURGEOIS







details inspire the rest of the interiors. They're so beautiful that I didn't want to overpower them." Swooping lines frame various areas, such as the range in the kitchen, so as to blend seamlessly with the adjacent living room. A hidden scullery hides the everyday appliances so the kitchen feels less utilitarian and more like an extension of the living room. At the top of the stairs, there are views in every direction, including down the hallway to the master bedroom where Bourgeois added a nail-head trim door to draw your eye through to the vista beyond.

Letting the views dictate the design, or, at the very least, inspire it, allowed Bourgeois to utilize Palladian architecture's signature design elements to enhance the experience one has throughout the home. "It was really about letting nature play center stage from the very beginning," Bourgeois says. The homeowner adds, "The moment you walk in, you're drawn right to the outside. It's really breathtaking." ♦

Opposite: The homeowner desired an oversized soaking tub, which became one of the focal points of the master bathroom.

Right: Nearly every possible seating area in the home is afforded a view, including this vanity in the master bathroom.