

INSPIRATION

SOUTHERN BELLE

Beyond the front door of this South Carolina home designed by Cortney Bishop lies an interior that masters simple modernity

WORDS BY [unreadable] PHOTOGRAPHY BY [unreadable]

SITTING ROOM
Artist Brian Coleman came to the house and created the artwork hanging above the fireplace, which depicts the man's colour palette. The custom coffee table, wooden ottoman, stool, and Michael Harris (right) chair and ottoman, purchased in 2018, are covered in fabric by Kelly Prosser (left). Stool, covered in Agn. Acetate.



At first glance, Molly and Ted Courtney's elegant home looks as if it has existed for hundreds of years. Located in the historic city of Charleston, South Carolina, with its cobble streets, horse-drawn carriages and antebellum houses, the property fits perfectly into its setting on the idyllic waterfront.

Molly and Ted, the founders of baby-singapore company Babycare, have two sons, Sawyer, seven, and Fin, three, and moved to Charleston five years ago. "We wanted to raise our family here," says Molly. "Building our own home was an obvious next step, but we were intending to buy a period house and restore it. We wanted to create an interior with a New York loft/warehouse feel, whereas a lot of South Carolina interiors have spaces designed for a purpose. I wanted a house that had fun, entertaining and one where the boys could easily run around."

Molly and Ted searched for a year for a house, then their architect Heather Wilson suggested they build their own home with a traditional Southern exterior and a modern interior. The idea made perfect sense. Molly and Ted managed to recreate the look available for as little as the city's downtown market, then they worked with Heather on plans for the design.

"We worked for a month to design a house that honored the city's historic architecture but that was fresh and modern," says Molly. "We wanted a traditional Southern two-story house with a raised ground level in case of flood, and the columns and wide porches that are so typical of Charleston. We made minor differences to the exterior to show it was modern - for instance, there are no shutters and no classic black window moldings and a metal roof."

Eventually the plan was approved and Molly and Ted then met Courtney Bishop of design/build firm Courtney Bishop Design, who joined the project a year before the building work commenced. "Courtney and I instantly hit it off," says Molly. "We had the same vision." The house took five years to build and

was completed in 2020. For Molly, it was important that the interior had a clean, almost French feel, as in her home. "One of the ways this was achieved was by using white-plank, bleached grey European-oak flooring throughout most of the house."

Different wall treatments are used to differentiate areas. The nook at the front of the house has white plaster walls for a clean look, helping to ease in the busy playroom for an informal feel, and charcoal wallpaper in the library creates a dark, cozy nook. "Bring from New York, black, grey and white are my favorite colors," says Molly, with a smile. "This set the tone for the family's Charleston home." "We played the same palette throughout the house," says Courtney, but incorporated pops of color. "The large open-plan reception room encompasses a relaxed living area and room formal dining space that's perfect for entertaining. The living and dining area is an ideal gathering space for a family that loves to host," says Courtney.

The separate kitchen room became the heart of the house. "It's where we spend 75 per cent of our time as a family," says Molly. "I work here and the boys eat and do their homework here. It's the focus of the family's day. It should be beautiful, warm and fun." The kitchen has custom cabinetry that intentionally matches the hardwood floors, but getting it right was a grueling process," says Courtney. "We installed the kitchen and they had to rip it out because it was too green. We were nervous we'd suggested something we couldn't achieve. But I'm happy to say we got there eventually."

Updates, the emphasis is on transparency. "The master bedroom was designed as a sanctuary," says Molly. "You get there and relax." It is also special because it has its own balcony where Molly and Ted run up and enjoy the views of Charleston Harbour. "We all love the pool nook," says Molly. "The house blends beautifully into the area but still has a modern interior with a work and play ethos. It's a little bit of New York in the South!" ■



RECEPTION IDEAS
A circular table, custom chairs and decorative seating create an informal dining area for the family.
Dining table: Emma, 28 chairs, vintage, with cushions from the 1950s. Table: custom, 28 chairs: 28

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HALLWAY

The wooden flooring is replaced with tiles in an area that leads to an exterior door.
Niche, Zola cement tiles,
Cantina for Inglese
Surfaces, Custom metal
Scones, Farrow&Ball



KITCHEN

Custom cabinetry was stained to match the colour of the floorboards and topped with marble worktops for contrast.
Custom cabinetry,
Euroncraft, Chicago pendant
light (shower room),
Bella Biscotti for Thrill
Concept, Custom tiles,
Kismet, Arca Lighting

**INSIDER INSIGHT
FROM DESIGNER
COURTNEY BISHOP**

SECRET ADDRESS

Last Autumn in NYC, The owners have created a deep fall of artisan-made, wall-to-wall tapestry that always end up meeting floors with me.

BEST FEELING

We live for the moment I ask clients to stay away on installation day because it's why we're celebrating and chaotic. It's when they walk into their "new" home, it is the best moment. We're more love, gags and emotion...and it's all worth it.

GO-TO COLOURS

Don't Forget Behind House White, built by Pantone & Bull.

**SMALL CHANGE -
BIG IMPACT**

Definitely wallpaper - it's instant **gl** on your walls.

SHIMM AREA

Designer Courtney wanted a more formal look for the entertaining area, with curved statement chairs adding to the sense of occasion.

Custom dining table, Egonoff, Elm chairs, Kelly Martini by E. Van's chairs by Gustafson. Bishop: Chair/pendant light, Aspen Gray Marble top, Vase/Center





MASTER BATHROOM

Flourish elegance here: the look modern while a sheepskin stool and Moroccan rug add an eclectic touch.

Custom tuiling, subway, Eurocraft, Chaps-Robin wall light, Kelly Rowland for SouthCoast.



MASTER BEDROOM

Clean lines and graphic shapes, including a bed with elliptical styling and a light installed on an arm, add to the contemporary aesthetic. Select upholstered High Bed, Hyatt Construction for Hickory Chair Furniture Company. Rug, Vivienne, Shown on The Rug Company. Built-in bed, SouthCoast. Bedside chest of drawers, Bonelli Custom. Arm, standard light, Acropolis.



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GUEST BATHROOM
 Brass accents bring glamour to the monochromatic scheme. Vanity made out of Elm. Grey marble tile. Aris. Double Pan wallpaper, Linc. Robbery Greenwall wall light, Visual Comfort.