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LASTING IMPRESSION

With the help of Tracery Interiors, a young Birmingham family built a lake house on a foundation of fun. Elegant design and sustainable building practices make this a getaway that's sure to grow even better with age.

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Photography by JEAN ALLSOPP

Paige Sumblin Schnell (seated) and Anna Kay Porch of Tracery Interiors relax in the living room of the Lake Martin home that took four years to complete. Based in Birmingham and Rosemary Beach, Florida, the design boutique offers everything from individual pieces to complete architectural and interior projects.



THE RIDGE AT LAKE MARTIN IS KNOWN FOR ITS GRAND HOMES AND VAST LAKEFRONT VISTAS. ITS ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS ARE ON PAR WITH THE FINEST RESIDENCES IN THE CITY. THERE'S NO ROUGHING IT HERE—JUST PURE INDULGENCE.

When Paige Sumblin Schnell of Tracery Interiors was called in to a project in the enclave, she drove up from Rosemary Beach, Florida to find a framed house with no roof on a spectacular point. Paige stepped in and signed on for what would become a four-year project that would creatively combine her architectural and interior design talents. Cultivating a lake-meets-French-countryside aesthetic, Paige and her assistant, Anna Kay Porch, worked with builder John Lanier to craft a retreat that conveyed all the owner's requests: comfort, relaxation, a place for family—and white, definitely white. "It was the easiest paint schedule ever," says Paige of the decision to swath the plank wood interiors in Benjamin Moore's china white. What could have easily come across as a big white box is smartly tempered by the infusion of architectural texture: reclaimed wood beams culled from barns and warehouses in Maine, Vermont, and Virginia. Shutters, painted a warm gray, also break the tension, and a wall of windows filter in vast water views. "There's not a bit of sheetrock in the entire house," says Paige. The reclaimed wood, hand cut on site by John, creates a striking framework for the clean interiors that are part modern furnishings, part sophisticated antiques. "Our goal throughout the interiors and architecture was to strike a balance between the rustic and the fine," Paige says.

Though the home does showcase lodge-like notions such as natural stone columns and wood, it also imparts a European romance. "At one time, the owners considered a stacked stone fireplace," Paige says. "It would have changed the whole vibe." Instead of the expected stone chimney, Paige and Anna Kay designed a fireplace that would anchor the massive room with a perfectly proportioned architectural statement. For softness, linen draperies frame windows. Seagrass and antique rugs offer subtle pattern and texture underfoot. Furnishings—mostly antiques—and an organic line of upholstery by Lee Industries play to the environmentally-friendly home. "This house belongs to a young family. They wanted things to be fresh, fun, and durable," Paige says. Durable comes in faux



The homeowner asked for a casual kitchen that opened to the main living area of the house. Though the room appears minimalist, there is plenty of storage in the adjacent pantry. Seating is ample. Go ahead and count—there are six bongo stools — one for everyone in the family. Prep area is abundant with dual four-foot square islands topped in honed Vientano marble from Triton Stone. The Sub-Zero fridge and Wolf range offer a sleek, industrial feel.



This house is hard to describe. When it was on the Lake Martin tour of homes, visitors tried to pin it to a particular designer or architect. Whenever they asked, Anna Kay and I just smiled and answered, 'No. We did it.' Half the time I don't think they believed us."

—Designer Paige Sumblin Schnell



ABOVE: Industrial elements such as the aluminum fans balance sweet sensibilities including pink damask draperies and soft linens in this master bedroom. **OPPOSITE:** Chandeliers from Village Firefly illuminate the hallway. Though they aren't perfect matches, the fixtures are perfectly suited to the collected feel of the house. Another stairwell showcases photos of family fun on the lake. The custom dining table is five feet wide. "The owner wanted to make sure it was big enough to seat everyone," says Paige.

leather covered bongo stools and dining seat upholstery. The floor, antique oak, with its layers of paint and stain could snub any skateboard. And furniture such as the metal chairs in the casual dining area certainly don't object to wet wipes. As sturdy and hardworking as it appears, its girly influence is widely apparent too. "The owner wanted feminine touches throughout," Paige says. There's a floral print here, a pintuck there, and swooping flourishes everywhere. Chandeliers exhibit graceful curves and the staircase (look closely!) rolls like incoming ripples on the lake. There are even hints of pink and eyelet in a few of the bedrooms. Other bits of glamour come in mercury glass lamps, a floor mirror, and a crystal chandelier in the master suite.

Paige and Anna Kay finished the house down to the last piece of artwork and yummy-thread count sheets. "The family uses this getaway for holidays and weekends away. They aren't big travelers. This is their retreat so they wanted it to be as comfortable and user-friendly as possible," says Paige who often drives in to deck the home with additional accessories for parties and special events. Already filled with laughter and memories of good times, this home is sure to become an heirloom for future generations.






"We love to use antiques in a home. It is a great way to give a piece new life and add a sense of age to a new home. Plus, it is good for the environment."

—Designer Paige Sumblin Schnell



What's Green About it?

- Reclaimed materials include salvaged barn beams, the dining table and breakfast table made from antique oak, white oak floor, and antique furnishings and light fixtures.
- Eco-friendly upholstery from Lee Industries boasts soy-based cushions, organic fabric, and FSC and SFI certified wood frames. NOTE: Two of the major certification organizations for sustainable forestry in North America are the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).
- The designers chose organic materials and natural fibers such as 100% jute rugs, all-cotton bedding, and linen window treatments.
- Local vendors, craftspeople, and suppliers cut down on gas and travel expenses.
- Low-VOC paint (Benjamin Moore, China White) ensures healthy air quality.



An architecturally inspired chimney centers the great room and gives the grand space a much-needed divider. Paige and Anna Kay looked to traditional lines and Southern notions to design what would become the centerpiece of the room. Further dividing the space, the designers used an antique sofa table to delineate the breakfast area from the fireside seating area. Reclaimed wood beams and a soaring bank of windows unite the vast space that also includes the kitchen and five-foot wide dining table. Opposite: Bedrooms exude hotel luxury. A guest bed resides in a sleeping porch. Bathrooms revel in nostalgic style and the second master bedroom (bottom right) takes on modern glamour.

The lake side of the house offers a striking facade with its covered porches and sprawling U-shaped design configured to make sure every room has a view. The landscape is pristine, studded with pines and a perfectly manicured lawn. The dock side patio presents an enviable entertaining area complete with weather-tolerant seating, a grill, and fireplace. OPPOSITE PAGE: An antique clock, no less than 7-feet tall, announces that it's always 5-o'clock at the lake.





RESOURCES: interiors: **TRACERY INTERIORS** • DESIGNERS: **PAIGE SUMBLIN SCHNELL AND ANNA KAY PORCH** • 650.231.6755 or 205.239.7030 • www.traceryinteriors.com NOTE: All furnishings and accessories are available through Tracery Interiors builder: **JOHN LANIER** 334.799.6105 or 334.541.3976 • finishes: paint: **BENJAMIN MOORE CHINA WHITE** • www.benjaminmoore.com Page 42: kitchen: custom cabinets and shelving: **RANDY BURNHAM FINE CABINETRY** • 205.326.1730 • www.burnhamfs.com cabinet hardware: **RESTORATION HARDWARE** • www.restorationhardware.com appliances: **WOLF RANGE, SUB-ZERO REFRIGERATOR** sink, faucet, and pot filler: **V & W SUPPLY INC.** • 205.324.9521 • www.vwsupply.com striped rug: **DESIGN** Seagrave Beach, FL • www.designseagrave.com countertop: Honed Vientano marble **TRITON STONE** • 205.592.0202 • www.tritonstonebirmingham.com pendant fixtures: **VISUAL COMFORT** Page 45: Bedroom: bed: **OLY STUDIO** • 775.336.2100 • www.olystudio.com bedding: **ANKASA** • 212.861.6800 • www.ankasa.com drapes: **OSBOURNE AND LITTLE** • 203.359.1500 • www.osbourneandlittle.com sheers: **KATHRYN IRELAND** • www.kathrynireland.com chair and ottoman: **REDFORD HOUSE** • 310.639.9696 • www.redfordhouse.com bedside lamps: **STRAY DOG** • 866.478.7297 • www.straydogdesigns.com art over bed: **JUSTIN GAFFREY** • 850.267.0228 • www.justingaffrey.com Page 45: top left hallway: lamp: **SIMON PEARCE** www.simonpearce.com hall runner: **PAIGE ALBRIGHT ORIENTALS** • 205.877.3232 • www.paigealbrightorientals.com top right hallway: chest: **HAWTHORNE HOUSE** • 706.227.3560 • www.hawthornehouseinc.com hanging lamps: **SOLARIA LIGHTING** • 404.508.1987 • www.solaria-lighting.com bottom photo: dining room: fabric on back of head chairs: **ROMO** • 954.922.3970 • www.romo.com fabric on seat of chairs: **FABRICUT** • 205.322.5497 • www.fabricut.com chandelier: **LES TROIS MARCHES** • www.lestroismarches.com • Page 46: guest bedroom: bed: **REDFORD HOUSE** bedding: **MATTEO** • www.matteohome.com custom euros: **LEE JOFA** • 888.533.5632 • www.leejofa.com side table: **HENHOUSE** • 205.918.0505 • www.shopperhouse.com lamp: **ARTERIORS** • 877.488.8866 • www.arteriors.com bench: **OLY STUDIO** • 775.336.2100 • www.olystudio.com roman shades: **CREATION BAUMAN** • 516.764.7431 master bath: tub: **WATERWORKS** • 800.899.6757 • towel hooks: **RESTORATION HARDWARE** master bedroom: lamps: **BARBARA COSGROVE** • 816.221.3481 • www.barbaracosgrovelamps.com Page 47: breakfast room table and antique sofa table: **CIRCA INTERIORS AND ANTIQUES** • 205.868.9199 • www.circaonline.net bench and pitcher on table: **HENHOUSE** • 205.918.0505 • www.shopperhouseantiques.com fabric on antique French chairs: **OSBORNE AND LITTLE** outdoor furniture: **KINGSLEY BATE** • 703.361.7000 • www.kingsleybate.com antique clock on side of house: **PERSONAL COLLECTION**

