



Southern Living®

Grilled Peach
Cobbler, pg. 91

TASTE *of* SUMMER

Peach desserts,
chocolate pie,
and other
sweet delights

The Veggie
Garden of
Your Dreams

A Carolina
Lake House
Escape

Next-Level
Grilling
Recipes

+

MOUNTAIN MAGIC
IN NORTH GEORGIA

Create a Quiet Hideaway

Accessible only through the primary bedroom, the upstairs porch makes a peaceful start to the day. "It's sort of in the trees, and you can see the water. It's just really lovely," says homeowner Cay Stevenson. "Every morning, we sit here and have coffee, and sometimes at night, we'll cozy up with a glass of wine after the kids go to bed."



Take It to the Terrace

While the house has an indoor dining room, the family gravitates toward the terrace for entertaining. "We love being outside, so I wanted a big living area (which we have on the back porch), but I also wanted somewhere we could host 10 to 12 people," says Cay.

OUTSIDE INTEREST

WITH PLENTY OF PORCHES AND COMFY PLACES TO GATHER, THIS **LAKE WYLIE, SOUTH CAROLINA**, HOME PROVES THE IDEAL SUMMER ESCAPE

BY CAMERON BEALL PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRIE WILLIAMS STYLING BY FRANCES BAILEY

Pick the Right Sofa

"Everyone always ends up hanging out in this space off the kitchen," says Cay. The homeowners' one requirement for the tight area: "a couch that's big and comfortable." To honor their request while maximizing seating, Ryann paired a curved-edge sofa with mismatched club chairs and selected a nesting coffee table with stools for more places to sit.

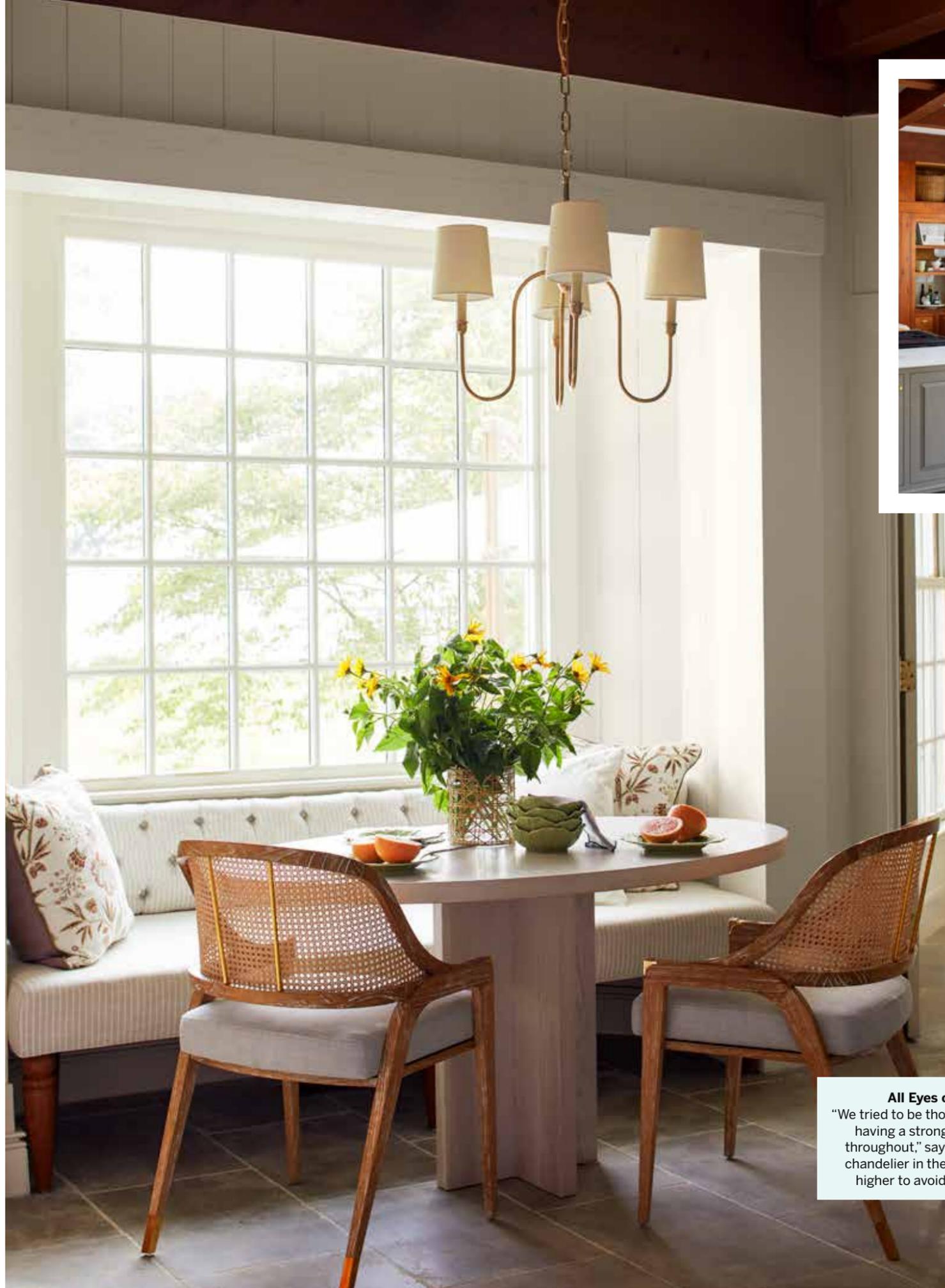


CAY AND CRAIG Stevenson, along with their now 13-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter, were on the hunt for a place their whole family could enjoy when they fell for this lakefront spot not far from their hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina. "We loved the house, but it was really the property that drew us to it," says Cay of its large, flat lot and quiet cove with a beach. "We were looking for a way we could all spend more time together in the summer with an activity that everyone likes (despite the big age gap), and everyone loves the water!"

The existing house, built in 2007 as a replica of a 1700s Georgian residence, caught the couple's attention with its architectural depth, but it was the ample outdoor living spaces—including stacked porches that run the length of the house and overlook the lake—that really made the place sing. "It's a unique build, and it's unusual to find such a lovely home that has a graciousness to it that newer ones just don't," says Cay. Even so, it wasn't entirely functional for their family.

To accommodate their four-person crew (plus their black Lab, Max) and a revolving door of visitors, the Stevensons tapped interior designer Ryann Swan to help transform the quirky two-bedroom, 3,500-square-foot house into a cohesive, relaxing retreat suited to entertaining indoors and out. "The first thing Cay told me was, 'This is going to be our forever home; we're always going to come here,'" recalls Ryann. She took a forward-thinking approach, asking, "How can this house grow with them over the years?"

Upstairs, an awkward layout needed some serious TLC. A huge primary suite that occupied the whole floor was split into a still-large primary space and a kid's room—while a detached area above the garage was made into a bunk room and game area and connected to the main house's second level by extending the roofline. Reimagining the downstairs was an easier lift that Ryann tackled with paint plus new flooring and light fixtures. She reworked two closets into a makeshift mudroom as a drop zone for lake gear and also a wine niche (a surprise for Craig). Here's how they turned an empty nester's build into a welcoming family getaway.



LEAN ON NATURAL MATERIALS

The existing rustic kitchen, which was decked wall to wall (and floor to ceiling) with four types of wood and five finishes, called for a refresh. "Everything was brown and dark," says Cay. To brighten it up while retaining some of the original wood detailing (including the knotty pine beams), the designer replaced half of it with tile and paint—Farrow & Ball Slipper Satin (No. 2004) on the walls, ceiling, and trim and Mole's Breath (No. 276) on the island. She also traded the cobbled-together wood flooring for limestone—a better choice, given all the wet feet coming in and out.

All Eyes on the Scenery

"We tried to be thoughtful about the home having a strong nod to the outdoors throughout," says Ryann, who hung the chandelier in the breakfast nook a little higher to avoid impeding lake views.

Spring For Comfort

Ryann maintained the indoor-outdoor connection while filling the primary bedroom with warm textures and tones—Elizabeth Eakins Alur wallpaper in Blush, a custom-mixed purple paint to match for the trim, and a traditional four-poster bed.



Room To Grow

"We waited nine years to have a little girl, so it had to be lovely," says Cay, whose daughter's room was designed to be sweet enough for a child but elevated enough to mature with her. Ryann layered it with Sanderson's Annandale on the walls, Chelsea Textiles' Small Check Seamist on the Lee Industries bed, and Farrow & Ball's Cromarty (No. 285) on the millwork.

THE BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE

"We basically live out here, and Max can always be found sitting at the top of the stairs soaking in the sun," says Cay with a laugh. "The house is set back quite far from the lake, so you get the sense of being in a quieter place." To provide room for a crowd, Ryann outfitted the spacious covered porch with a massive 112-inch sofa that has cushions in sturdy fabrics to "withstand Max." She also opted for a pair of coffee tables for better flow when entertaining.



EVERYONE PILE IN

With no designated guest accommodations, their son's room pulls double duty. "It's all one big space with a pair of bunks across from the king bed," says Cay of the summer camp-style arrangement adjacent to the kids' rec room. "Everyone loves to crowd in and says it's relaxing. I think people just love the lake life."

"MY RULE IS IF ANYONE WANTS TO COME, THEY CAN. IF I HAVE A BED FOR YOU, YOU'RE WELCOME," CAY SAYS.

