

KICK UP YOUR HEELS

WATERSOUND

The promise of a relaxed 30A lifestyle where rooms are utterly inviting and with no boundaries between indoors and out captured the imagination of Nikki Nickerson and Jennifer Green as they set out to build a new home in West Beach. As owners of the popular Cowgirl Kitchen restaurants and Feed & Supply Gourmet Shop, Nikki and Jennifer turned to Rosemary Beach architect Ron Domin and designer Paige Schnell of Tracery to translate these desires into a highly personal house uniquely suited to how they live, work, and play.

“We love to cook and entertain, so not surprisingly, the center of gravity is the kitchen,” says Jennifer. Navy blue cabinets and shiplap siding were their starting points. “I’ve known Paige since we were both at Auburn more than twenty years ago, and we can communicate in shorthand,” recalls Jennifer. “Everything came together naturally.” The large island with its marble top and comfy stools complements hard-working butcher-block counters flanking the stove. As restaurateurs, Jennifer and Nikki understand the importance of “back of the house” kitchen functions. Sliding cypress barn doors access an in-wall pantry and a wine room. “One day we might be sitting around the island with a vintner sampling a new release and the next day weekend guests are watching Nikki cooking breakfast,” says Jennifer.

Their gracious style of entertaining spills into a congenial conversation area with a plush sofa and four swivel chairs upholstered in a durable and dog-friendly soft green leather. Colors, textures, patterns, and art animate the space, but when the glass wall recedes, the house really opens up to engage a screened porch where a large table accommodates al fresco dining in any season.

Upstairs is devoted to a generous master suite with a media nook and a truly luxurious spa bath. Conventional wisdom (especially at the beach) calls for at least three bedrooms in case resale is desirable. Accordingly, two potential bedrooms connected with a bath currently provide two generous offices off the foyer. Although the offices sport built-in day beds, their two dogs, Gracie Cole and Bilzie, have staked claim to those resting spots.

A freestanding carriage house provides more than ample accommodations for out-of-town guests. “Our goal was always a house expressive of our live/work lifestyle,” says Nikki. The design nods to their culinary culture and grants gestures of friendship, but it’s the personality of Jennifer and Nikki that gives the new home its unique brand of warmth and welcome and so perfectly reflects their contributions and connections to 30A.



The kitchen stands front and center at the heart of this home. Rough-hewn wooden beams against a shiplap wooden ceiling instills warmth and character.



Above: The dining area features French doors that swing open onto the pool terrace. Comfortable upholstered chairs encourage family and friends to linger over meals prepared with loving care. Opposite: The kitchen finishes, fixtures, and layout reflect the owners' culinary roots. The metal shelves are restaurant grade and the dark-stained butcher-block counters can withstand the demands of the most serious chef.





Left: Outfitted with a state-of-the-art grill, ice maker, fridge, sink, and storage, the screened porch is a full-service, year-round summer kitchen. Sunbrella curtains and ceiling fans further enhance the feel of a real room. Above: With casual outdoor entertaining in mind, the powder room off the foyer also opens onto the pool deck.





Overleaf: Any division between indoors and outdoors completely disappears when the glass doors fold open to allow the living room to engage the screened porch. Above: An antique pine chest and art create a playful vignette at the top of the stairway landing. Right: Shutters in the upstairs master bedroom open up to look down on the living room.



Above: The master bedroom is a restful retreat rendered in varied shades of white and gray. Right: The bath is truly a luxurious spa experience. The glass wall cordons off the large bathing area that contains a soaking tub and two showerheads. Double vanities line one wall, while a pine hutch lends an air of old-world character.

