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TRENDS



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Above: Entry courtyards, wood doors, arches and even Arabic-look lamps all contribute to a Spanish feel.

Right: Limestone floors, plaster walls and wrought ironwork extend the Mediterranean look indoors.

Facing page: The salon's elongated arches are a central contribution to a facade comprising 40% windows. Exposed cypress beams and a blue-green stained ceiling stand 18ft above the antique French hardwood floors.

history is extended by the use of non-supporting arches and even unusual window positionings – both giving the impression that they are hangovers from an earlier structure, that has since been built over.

In contrast, the ever-changing natural world reaches almost literally to the front gate. A wrought iron entry gate, designed by Summerour, depicts an oak tree with







Top: Yellow, mustards and blues are traditional Moroccan tones and provide a stronger color interest in the kitchen.

Above: Herringbone terra cotta floor tiles and sisal rugs contribute to textural interest. The sisal provides a link to the marsh grasses outside.

Right: The family areas next to the kitchen have an informal feel. The muted tones of white plaster don't detract from the dramatic scenery.

stylized waving marsh grasses at its base. While the plants and tree depicted are local, the idea of infusing architecture with graphic elements has precedents in Moorish architecture.

"Building in such dramatic surroundings means there can be no designated rear to the home," he says. "There is a main entrance on one side, but the other side is equally important, due to the scenery."

To this end, the Spanish style architecture, with entry courtyards and open terraces, provided gracious facades on all sides. The terraces and arches also maximize occupants' views of the scenery.

"The wetlands affected the design in other ways, too," says Summerour. "To further extend the view, the home has a high elevation, and there is another reason. Built over three







levels, the basement has been left relatively unadorned, in case frequent hurricanes in the area bring swamp waters right up through the home."

Instead of formal living spaces, the lower level offers terracing out to the pool as well as a rumpus area for the home.

The second level includes a formal salon, informal living areas, the kitchen and master bedroom. Children's bedrooms

are found at the top of the home, via a feature staircase.

"The Moorish accents are carried through on the interior as well," says Summerour.

This is evident from inside the solid mahogany front door. Wood window frames, wrought ironwork, white plaster walls and limestone floors all suggest southern Spanish influences. Situated a few steps up from the entrance,



Facing page: The staircase is an imposing structure within the home. Stenciling on the rafters, wrought iron railings and ceramic insets in the stair riders all contribute to its strong Moroccan flavor.

Top: The master bedroom has a distinct feature ceiling and a pre-dominance of soft, tactile materials.

Left: A freestanding bathtub in the master bath is complemented by a vanity with a freestanding look.

Architect: Keith Summerour, Summerour and Associates Architects (Atlanta, GA)

Interior designer: Lisa Torbett, ASID, Lisa Torbett Interiors

Builder: EG Pope

Sidings: Tabby from Mark Drury; brick by Old Carolina Brick Company, supplied by Ken Brick

Roof: Sante Fe Green "S" tile from Clarke Brothers

Exterior windows and doors:

Accent Architectural Millworks

Interior doors: Mahogany from Byron Wood Products

Flooring: Entrance foyer, hallway, powder room, laundry room, bar: tumbled Jerusalem limestone in Ramone Grey from G & L Marble; salon: antique French oak hardwood floors from Floor Décor; kitchen: Mexican tile from Forms and Surfaces; stairs: treads in cast stone from Hunter Cast Stone; risers from Floor Décor

Lighting: Entrance foyer: antique from Joanne Sims; breakfast area, stairwell: antique Robuck & Co; salon: Moroccan lanterns from Arabesques; kitchen: antique blue porcelain from Antiques and Interiors, wrought iron modifications by D & M Iron Works

Drapes: Salon drapery: Duralée fabric, Osborne & Little Ribbon Braid trim; keeping room drapery: Westgate fabric, Conso trim, both by Lisa Torbett, fabricated by Collins Fabrication

Salon furniture: chaise longues from Stanford; lounge chairs: velvet from Thomlinson; Century sofa in off-white raw silk; 19th century French sofa table from Anne Flair Antiques; fireplace screens by Steve Shoettle from Apex Industries; rugs from Asia Minor Carpets

Kitchen designer: Summerour and Associates, Lisa Torbett

Kitchen manufacturer: Custom by Architectural Innovations; cabinetry painted and finished by Donald Dearing

Countertops: Jura Green Limestone by G & L Marble

Oven, range: Viking

Wall oven, microwave, warming drawer: Thermador

Ventilation: Vent-A-Hood

Master bathtub, basin: Kohler

Cabinetry: Designed by Summerour and Associates, made by Architectural Innovations



Above: This gate into the entry courtyard features designs of local flora and is in keeping with Arabic architectural traditions. The archway that runs over it is designed to look as if it might pre-date the majority of the architecture – the implication being that the home has evolved over a long period.

Photography by John Umberger

the formal salon has arched windows which echo the exterior terrace arches beyond.

Overhead in the salon, a rustic pecky cypress ceiling has a blue-green wash, with rafters stained in a walnut hue. A similar ceiling over the staircase, here washed cobalt blue, features decorative stencilling, adding to the Spanish feel.

Lisa Torbett was the interior designer on the project and

explains the look required.

"A central consideration was to not detract from the ever-changing panorama outside. To this end we created Spanish off-white interiors, at the same time incorporating the many objects collected by the owners on their travels."

Again not to detract from the view, colors are restricted to highlights such as Arabic antique lamps, artworks and

jewel-toned cushions.

"In place of overwhelming colors, textures are featured – with soft silks and chenilles in the formal areas and earthy textures, such as sisal, in the family rooms off the kitchen," Torbett says.

Summerour says the home's raw Spanish exterior belies the comfortable interior from which occupants look out on the ever-changing marshlands.