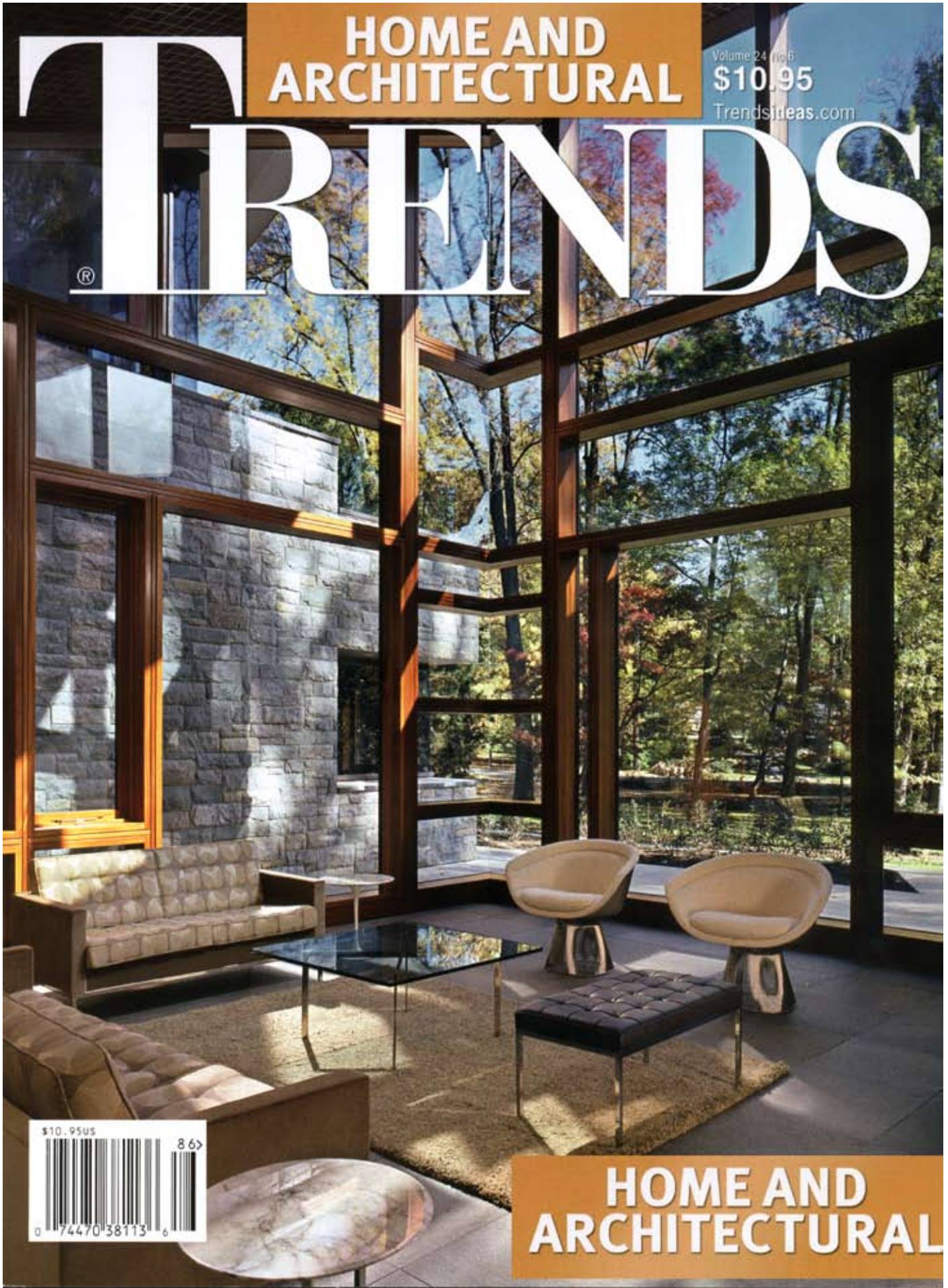


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Lady of leisure

Mediterranean architecture has influenced the design of this airy, resort-style home

Often situated close to water or among attractive natural surroundings, resort areas call for a certain style of residence. Houses are frequently large and set on sprawling grounds, but there is a sense of relaxation reflected in the architecture.

Influences from Spanish, Moroccan and Italian architecture help to capture an atmosphere of leisure in this house, which is located in a private resort area off the

coast of Georgia, says architect William Harrison of Harrison Design Associates.

"The vernacular of the house is appropriate, as the Spanish were the first Europeans to live in the area. For the entry, we created a loggia with spiral columns and a terrace above, which opens from a bedroom. The stair hall inside has a double-height window, visible from outside. This adds to the light, open look."

Left: The layout of this Sea Island home was fitted around 200-year-old Southern Live Oak trees.

Above: Mediterranean architecture influenced the look and ambiance of the large home.



Above: The design of the entry hall features a high level of detailing, such as tiled terra cotta floors and a patterned wood ceiling. Directly ahead is the living room, and to the left is the library. To the right is the stair hall, which leads into the dining room, as well as upstairs to the guest bedrooms.

Right: The living room is connected to the kitchen and sunroom via arched openings. Furniture chosen for its comfort is upholstered in rich, gold tones.

The patterned ceiling and terra cotta floor in the entry hall is directly influenced by Moorish architecture, where geometric shapes are used to create visual texture. The entry hall features curved corners and arched doorways that lead into the library, main stairwell, and ahead to the formal living room.

"The level of detail in the foyer is very intricate. The archways are tiled in terra cotta, with a wood frame that matches the ceiling. All the materials, furniture and fixtures in this house were sourced







Above: A high level of detail makes this family room both visually textured and relaxed. A timber ledge along the wall shows where the upper level begins, and also creates part of the balcony. Mediterranean-style wrought iron railings on the upstairs balconies relate to the chandelier.

Right: Timber paneling and shelving gives the library an old-fashioned atmosphere, which ties in well with its leather furniture and antique lamps and tables. The library is accessed from both the entry hall and the living room, and adjoins the master bedroom suite.

or designed by a local company, Island Design & Architectural Center, which uses the house as a show home," says project architect Bulent Baydar.

The open archways are echoed in the living room, where a series of arches gives a visual connection to a sunroom beyond, which in turn links to the outdoor area, again via arched doors.

Next door, and linked through an open fireplace surround, is the family room. This space has a double-height vaulted ceiling, and features balconies that look out from







Above and right: Linked to the kitchen via a butler's pantry, the dining room can also be accessed from the front door through the stair hall, convenient when entertaining guests.

Above right: A large chandelier light fitting hangs in the space above the kitchen island. The color of the leather-backed chairs in the kitchen corresponds to the mahogany range hood. Similarly, the green granite island top is color-matched with the cabinetry.

upper-floor rooms, says Baydar.

"The larger of the balconies opens from the games room upstairs. This allows light to flood into the vaulted space, and also creates a connection between two social areas of the house. The other balcony opens from partway up the stairs."

Wood elements connect the rooms. Exposed beams give the living room a warm and intimate ambiance, while a timber ledge indicates the level of the second floor in the vaulted family room space. Wood paneling on the walls and





ceiling gives a rich, traditional feel to the library. This is accentuated by the leather furnishings and chandelier lighting. Wood is also used for detailing on doorways throughout the house.

In the kitchen, which is accessed from the family room, a combination of wood and stone floors relates to the exposed beams on the ceilings, says Harrison.

"Cabinetry and fittings in the kitchen are chosen to appear like furniture. The range hood is mahogany, with a tiled backsplash. The island and cabinets around the

cooktop have antique-style handles and turned legs. Again, this was all supplied by IDAC for the project."

The rear sunroom connects with the family room, living room and kitchen. The design features a series of arched doors, with Corinthian-style columns, that open to the outside. This again relates to a Spanish style of architecture, which is pleasant in a hot climate.

"However, there are some American aspects to the design. The ceiling in the sunroom is planed pecky cypress wood,

which is native to the Southern and Eastern states," says Baydar.

Above the sunroom is a large terrace that overlooks the outdoor area. This can be approached from both the games room and a guest bedroom. Windows on the terrace gaze into the vaulted family room.

"Visual connections and shared light are a large part of the design. The direct line and visual link between the front and rear doors also emphasize the airiness of the home," says Harrison.

Across the lawn and connected to the



Above: All the arched openings in the sunroom can be opened to the air, prompting the selection of outdoor-style cane furniture.

Right: The cabana, water feature and lagoon-style pool add to the Mediterranean look of the house and grounds.

Facing page: All rooms on the rear of the house overlook or open onto the pool terrace. On the lower floor, French doors open from the dining room, allowing a breeze to pass through the room. Above this is the games room, which also has a balcony overlooking the family room.

house by a breezeway is a garage with guest quarters above. These quarters are completely self contained and look out toward the garden and pool.

"On the pool terrace, a cabana contains a bathroom and equipment storage area, as well as a small outdoor living space. Here, a fireplace allows the terrace to be used year round," says Baydar.

A spa is positioned beyond the pool. Facing back towards the rear of the house, this completes the resort-style atmosphere of the residence.





Architect: William Harrison, AIA, Bulent Baydar, AIA, Lindsay Weiss, Harrison Design Associates (Atlanta, GA)
Interior designer: Lisa Torbett Interiors, ASID
Kitchen designer: Maureen Hodor, Island Design & Architectural Center, AKBD, NKBA
Kitchen manufacturer: Rutt Handcrafted Cabinetry
Product source and supply: Island Design & Architectural Center
Builder: Live Oaks Development
Structural engineer: Bill Train
Siding: Stucco with integral color and texture; stained timbers
Roofing: Ludowici clay roof tile
Doors and windows: Sipo Mahogany by Tischler

Paints and varnishes: Duroplex
Heating: Unico high velocity air handler with Trane compressor
Flooring: Asia Minor Rugs; Asmara Rugs; Old Savannah Flooring; Old World terra cotta tile
Lighting: Ardley Hall; House of Troy; Chelsea House; Arte de Mexico; Alexander John; Ashore; Visual Comfort; Richard Ray Design
Furniture: Baker; Alfonso Marina; Artitalia; Palecek; Woodland; Hancock & Moore; Pavilion; Hickory Chair
Blinds: Blind Ambitions
Drapes: Empire Drapery
Kitchen cabinetry: Wycombe Court door in cherry wood with Dijon paint finish and brown antiquing for

perimeter cabinets; Wycombe Court door in cherry wood finished in thinned Keylime paint with brown antiquing on island cabinets; mahogany wood finished in butterscotch stain with brown glaze on refrigerator door, from Rutt Handcrafted Cabinetry
Countertop: Honed Bamboo green granite on island; Noce Travertine with laminated edge on others
Backsplash: Etruscan gold hand-made tiles in antiqued hammered copper
Faucets: Rohl
Ventilation: Best by Broan

Story by Camille Butler
Photography by John Umberger