

Southern
home



Fresh Start

WHEN A HOMEOWNER REQUESTS THAT HER LAKE HOUSE ACCOMMODATE LARGE GATHERINGS AND DAILY LIVING ALIKE, DESIGNER PATRICK LEWIS AND ARCHITECT HARRY SCHRADER HELP MAKE THAT DREAM A REALITY.

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Kathryn Keele was ready for a fresh start. In 2012, the empty nester moved cross-country from California to Charlotte, North Carolina, to be closer to her family. She purchased a waterfront home on Lake Norman, just north of the city, and lived there until 2018, when the home-buying bug bit her once again. “I’m getting older, and I’d had five knee surgeries and was faced with a total reconstruction down the road, and that slope to the water was just too much for me,” says Keele. Situated at the top of a steep grade leading down to the water, the home was no longer practical for Keele, not to mention she hadn’t designed the home herself, something she deeply desired to do. The avid entertainer also wanted a property that aligned more with her lifestyle, where she could seamlessly host small dinner parties and large events while still living comfortably daily.

In 2018 the search commenced, and Keele found a sprawling flat lakefront lot that would afford her the land to build her dream home. Once the existing home was razed, Keele began to put her team in place, enlisting her longtime friend, designer Patrick Lewis, to head up the interior design, and architect Harry Schrader and builder Kingswood Homes to bring to fruition the house she envisioned. “Kathryn was clear that she wanted to design a home for the first time that was all about her,” says Schrader. “The decisions we made and the priorities that were integrated into the layout were specifically about what served her and her lifestyle well.”

“By every account Kathryn is a sophisticated client, so I wanted this home to summarize all of that,” says Schrader. “The detailing



Previous pages: The home is rooted in an English manor vernacular, which can be seen in both its architecture by Harry Schrader and interior design by Patrick Lewis. Opposite: Schrader designed the home with several courtyards, loggias, and formal gardens, a nod to the home’s European design. This page: A grand salon consists of three major living and dining areas, providing an open floor plan while remaining true to the traditional architectural roots of the home. Lewis then layered the interior with a modernized color palette inspired by the client’s previous home and toned it down to complement the home’s abundant natural light.





This page, clockwise from top: In lieu of a traditional table and chairs, Lewis had a custom banquette made by Morgan Chair and paired it with a Holland MacRae dining table for the breakfast area. Schrader designed the home with intimate outdoor living spaces ideal for small gatherings and larger lounge areas for hosting larger functions. Opposite, clockwise from top: The kitchen is a nod to the homeowner's previous residence on Kiawah Island, which boasted an oversized U-shaped island. Lewis also designed the kitchen with options to display his client's collection of blue-and-white pottery on ledges, behind glass cabinetry, and on counter spaces. The main outdoor dining area features a prized view of Lake Norman and can accommodate a large gathering. The scullery features an antique work table from Europe and an intricate brick ceiling, a design choice that the homeowner had in a previous home.



needed to reflect the culture of her life now. My thought was to design a throwback room. The grand salon was this elegant space with a hint of feminine geometry.” The room—which was initially inspired by Keele’s home on Kiawah Island—was also a nod to refined European architecture and style, a formality that complemented her sophisticated style. “The idea was to design a home that was rooted in this English manor house DNA, and, as a result, more formal rooms like a grand salon come to light,” explains Schrader. “But we didn’t want to distract from the more modern, open flow, dramatic views, and the laid-back lifestyle everyone wants on the lakes.” Small pockets of living spaces were designed like spokes on a wheel off the grand salon that make the home feel more cozy and comfortable for everyday living but functional for entertaining big and small.

Schrader’s traditional architectural details, such as grand archways that thread spaces together and 3-and-a-half-foot serpentine crown molding that dramatically defines the grand salon from the adjacent rooms, feels formal and elegant. Lewis used Schrader’s architectural details as inspiration for the aesthetic. “With this home, the architectural details became a lot grander in scale,” says Lewis, who had designed the interiors of Keele’s previous home as well as a mountain residence.



This page, from top: The main bedroom features expansive views of the lake as well as a private patio ideal for morning coffee. Opposite page, clockwise from top: Lewis reupholstered his client’s existing bed and layered the room with antiques from her previous home to design the main bedroom retreat. The main bathroom features a large soaking tub with an expansive lake view as well as a stunning de Gournay wallcovering, resulting in a sophisticated feminine look.

“Everything in this house was bumped up a bit. We weren’t looking to make the home more modern with the interior design, but instead we wanted to find a balance between casual and sophisticated.” To achieve this, Lewis took the color palette from her previous home, which was more saturated blues, reds, and golds, and toned them down to complement the natural light, which floods the entire home. The gold hues transitioned to a sandy color, while the red was discarded and the blue made less bold and softer. “We modernized the home with the color palette versus doing so with the furnishings,” explains Lewis.

