

A large, two-story white house with a wide porch, surrounded by a large tree and a swimming pool. The house features a mix of white clapboard siding and wood shingles. The porch is covered and has several columns. A large tree stands in the front yard, and a swimming pool is visible in the lower right corner.

Clapboard siding, wood shingles and wide porches come together in this Southern-style home with architecture by Tim Barber and Kirk Snyder.

# Southern ROOTS

You may move from the South, but you'll never leave it behind. This couple pooled their childhood memories to build a Southern family home up North.

Photographs by *lauren Hill*



House of Antique Hardware was Triggs' resource for the many drawer and cabinet handles in the kitchen.



A vintage tricycle, found at an antiques market, is parked as decoration in the wide arched foyer. Period-style lighting is by The Urban Electric Co.

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GENTEEL, SOUTHERN ESTATE in the Bay Area is an anomaly unless you're ready to build it from the ground up. Which is exactly what one couple did. "They wanted to create a house for their children that had the feel and the character of where they both grew up," says designer Tineke Triggs of Artistic Designs for Living. "That meant including things like the wraparound porches you'd find on a beautiful old plantation house."

Both husband and wife felt a strong connection to the leisurely lifestyle that's so pervasive in the Southern states where they were raised. That traditionally slower, savor-the-day approach is even woven into the South's residential architecture, which they aimed to re-create up north.

Sprawled across an acre of San Mateo County land dotted with mature oaks and redwoods, the Georgian-style home seems to curtsy with classic charm inside and out. Rocking chairs the color of Spanish moss line the front porch in a hue that also washes across the front door and second-floor shutters. Clapboard siding, a cedar shake roof, and a gable over the front door evoke a Southern-style hospitality that captivates from first



In the living room, Triggs reupholstered the sofas then placed them on either side of a custom coffee table by The Cottage Table. The far wall wears a placid blue Solstice Silk wallcovering by Phillip Jeffries.



Outdoor gatherings couldn't be sweeter when set in the family's backyard. John Dalrymple Landscape Architecture designed an Old South setting that seems generations' old.



In the butler's pantry just off the dining room, custom cabinetry by Innovative Casework is painted with a country-blue lacquer finish. Elan Evans created the hand-stenciled wall treatment.



The homeowners' elegant wood dining table is a family heirloom.

glance, inviting you to come in, drop your cares and sit a spell.

Inside, the warm richness of white oak floors makes a strong and durable foundation for the couple and their three young children. Wide, oversized arches lend a feeling of grandeur and refinement, while their softness simultaneously adds a welcoming sense of comfort. A long walnut table and refinished dining chairs set in the middle of the kitchen, not far from the farmhouse sink, speak to the informality of Southern family meals. An antique burnished-brass light fixture overhead provides a cozy mealtime glow from above.

While it looks as if it's straight from the pages of a Southern storybook, the new residence is the deft design of architect Tim Barber and Kirk Snyder of Tim Barber Ltd. "There are

enough big porches and screen doors to capture the outdoor-living feel reminiscent of their youth," Snyder says. "And fortunately, that idea translates well to Northern California."

Memories of growing up in the arms of nature amid a carefree, indoor-outdoor sensibility are reflected in the many gathering places for the family of five. Generous seating for eight allows room for company or friends who come to play. Options run from the café-style outdoor dining area and its European bistro chairs to the stately formal dining room that effuses a sense of history centered around the couple's family heirloom table that Triggs had refinished. "This house is unusual for the area," says builder Erik Hughes of Eric Hughes, Ebon Corporation / Hughes Construction, noting the crown moldings, wainscots and vintage-inspired millwork throughout. "Not many projects take

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—KIRK SNYDER



In the master bedroom, a coffered ceiling differentiates the window-side sitting area. A subdued color palette in a silvery blue and cream keeps both areas cohesive.



A custom hand-stencil by Elan Evans Decorative Painting gives one daughter's bedroom a soft and traditional touch without feeling too formal or dated.



The large round window in the girls' bathroom is part of the historic architectural design by Tim Barber Ltd. The vanity's casework matches the period.

into account things like period details anymore." But the couple, in tandem with their architect, builder and designer, proved that those details can be family-friendly too.

When it came to furnishings, Triggs wanted to respect and stay consistent with Barber's timeless architecture while still being mindful of her clients' modern spirit. "I wanted to work with traditional pieces, but not things that felt stuffy or like your grandmother's house," she says. "They are not formal people, so it was important that every space be approachable," right down to dedicated play spaces for the children and a wooden porch swing out back.

Even when selecting new pieces, Triggs focused her sights on heirloom-quality work with craftsman details—pieces that look as if they've been passed down through generations, and that their children may one day enjoy with their own families. Lighting, hardware and custom casework were carefully selected or designed to mirror vintage styles of the Old South.

Triggs's color choices reflect period-specific muted pastels that were popular in the early 1900s. Pale smoky blues, greens and pinks that fill the bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchen are strong examples. The girls' bedrooms feature a traditional hand-stenciled paisley pattern by Elan Evans that

rings more true to the period than wallpaper.

Six-inch-wide tongue-and-groove planks across the ceiling complete the old-fashioned retreat that is the tranquil, tone-on-tone master suite. A coffered ceiling adds detail above an adjacent sitting area.

The dream team behind the home's architecture, construction and design aesthetic say many are fooled by the project, mistaking it for a historical gem. Well, every heritage has to begin somewhere. This home marks a stunning new beginning out West for one young family who set out to build a place where new memories can thrive.

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—TINEKE TRIGGS