

Soaring Aspirations

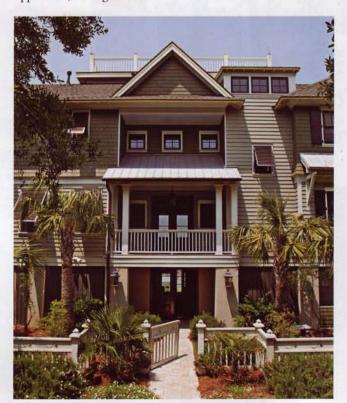
On the shores of South Carolina's Sullivan's Island, an architect reaches for the stars to create a spacious home within a limited footprint.



An expert at navigating the quirks

of coastal home design, architect Stephen Herlong knew the only way to fulfill his clients' wishes for a spacious home on a narrow lot on South Carolina's Sullivan's Island was to build up. But the exact details took a little time to come together. "We had to be extra creative," says Herlong, who was restrained by zoning laws and the natural shoreline the house overlooks.

Working with project manager Sabrina Cochran, Herlong devised a barbell-shape design. Essentially one room deep, the home climbs four levels and includes multiple porches and outdoor spaces. The main living areas and master bedroom occupy the upper level, while guest rooms reside on the main level. "The most



stunning views are up high, and we had such a small footprint to work with, so this plan made the most sense," Herlong says. "Plus, it gave us rooflines that create additional volume. We were able to create some really dramatic open spaces on the upper level using what would otherwise have been attic space. That, more than anything, helped us create a true beach-house feel, which is what we were really after."

Dormer windows tucked into the lofty trussed ceiling of the combined living and dining rooms welcome in light and set an airy mood, which is reflected by walls covered in white beaded board and a pair of mirror-front cabinets that flank the fireplace. A crisp ivory and blue color palette plays off the breathtaking water views, amplifying the effect of spaciousness while striking a casual note.

To achieve the relaxed elegance his clients were after and to add an instant patina to the new home, Herlong incorporated salvaged materials. An etched-glass door turns a corner cabinet into a showpiece in the dining room, and a pair of antique doors provide a grand entrance to the master bath. In the master suite, a wall of antique mirrors visually expands the space.

In the kitchen, Herlong used exquisite crown molding and custom cabinetry to pack a lot of luxury into a relatively small space. As elsewhere in the house, the grand millwork is balanced by informal elements, such as a large island, which features open shelves for cookbooks and a deep overhang to accommodate wicker bar stools. "My clients wanted a family kitchen that also had a lot of warmth and character," Herlong says.

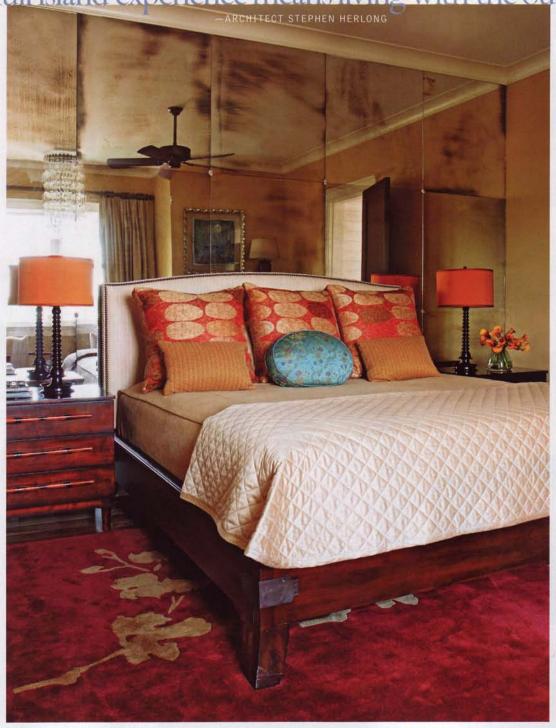
Working a host of outdoor entertaining options—a deck, two porches, and a ground-level alfresco living room—into the home's basic footprint ensured a seamless transition between inside and out that further caters to relaxed living. "Nearly all of the rooms share the porch areas, so it creates a sense of fluidity," Herlong says. "You can enter from the living room and exit to the hallway, so it's almost like there's no division between inside and outside." And for Herlong, that's mission accomplished.







"The full island experience means living with the outdoors."



Above: In the master bedroom, a deep cranberry-color rug and silk accent pillows with Asian motifs play off the intricate carved doors that lead to the master bath (shown opposite top right). A wall of antique mirrors provides a dramatic backdrop for a linen-covered headboard.

