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SOUTHERN ACCENT

A SOUTH CAROLINA HOME SHINES WHEN ITS BEACH-HOUSE ARCHITECTURE IS SET OFF BY JUICY COLOURS AND A DIVERSE COLLECTION OF ART.

Text by ELLEN HIMELFARB | Photography by JULIA LYNN



ON PAPER AT LEAST, designer Angie Hranowsky was a curious choice for this Charleston, S.C., homeowner. The owner had painted her family's newly built plantation-style home almost all white and wanted it to stay that way. She'd just purchased a white sectional sofa from B&B Italia for the living room. She is, for all intents and purposes, a monochrome devotee. Hranowsky, on the other hand, is a big fan of colour, purple especially. "I use purple like most people use grey," she says. "It almost becomes a neutral for me." But when they met at a showhome Hranowsky decorated for *Coastal Living* magazine in Charleston in 2009, owner and designer just bonded. "She and her husband had just started building their house with Mark Bragg, and she said I'd made her rethink everything," says Hranowsky. "She'd wanted to use lots of grey, black and white, and ebony floors." Hranowsky entered the picture just in time to reverse course, suggesting lighter pickled white oak floors and casual open shelving in the kitchen. The owner took that advice to heart, and then a year later, when construction finished, "She called and said, 'We've moved in, and it's empty. You've got to come over and decorate it for me!'" says Hranowsky.

The owner resolved to hand over the reins entirely. "She said, 'Push me a bit — just don't go too far outside my comfort zone.'" The pair agreed on the jumping-off point for the 5,600-square-foot home: a sunset-hued Buddha made entirely with bottlecaps. That piece took them into a juicy palette of corals and yellows — set against a neutral backdrop and within the limits of the owner's comfort zone — but outside the realm of more traditional homes here on the Intracoastal Waterway. On this sultry stretch of marsh facing historic Sullivan's Island, you're more apt to see nautical blues and crisp whites. "But we wanted warm, inviting colours," says Hranowsky. They introduced more colour with jewel-toned rugs and furnishings purchased intuitively, along with vibrant artwork commissioned all over town.

Despite the overall sumptuousness achieved by pairing auction-house conquests with rich, textural accessories and original art, this is above all a family home, with two children, 10 and 13, and a steady stream of visiting relatives. The oak floor can handle scuffs from boisterous feet. The fabrics work hard, hiding spills and marks from wet bathing suits. Friends can kick back, Southern style. And the homeowner? Says Hranowsky, "She's almost always barefoot when I go over."

LEFT: The living room sets the tone, in palette and style: curated, yet seemingly over decades. Using the Buddha artwork, created in bottlecaps by Molly B. Right, as inspiration, designer Angie Hranowsky brought in brass, chrome and rattan pieces straddling 20th-century eras. A wall of french doors makes the space airy, while their dark stain grounds the look. Panelled ceilings establish a beach-house vibe, and diverse artwork adds a push-pull energy. **Sofa,** B&B Italia; **purple chair fabric,** Pierre Frey.



• In the Kitchen • MODERN BEACH HOUSE

What's New

It has the clapboard, the panelling and the classic symmetry you'd find in a plantation-style home, but this kitchen by SieMatic doesn't fit the mould for the definitive Southern living look. For one thing, the clapboard was cleverly diverted to the ceiling, and the panelling used on the cabinet doors is refreshingly sleek and subtle. The full-height pickled-oak backsplash subverts the conventions of traditional tile, and together with the floating shelves, it makes a striking accent wall — and an apt complement to the fireplace focal point at the opposite end of the long, open-concept main floor.

Why It Works

Two sculptural ribbon chandeliers further elevate the mod beach house look beyond the practical, in keeping with the rest of the house. And yet, for all its polish, the kitchen is incredibly functional. The family requested an oversized island, so it could double as a buffet table and dining space — it's just far enough from the main dining room that it doesn't seem redundant. Everything is topped with hard-wearing marble. "I love how open it is," says Hranowsky. "It's really inviting for people to gather around." The owner sought out the comfortable barstools (not an easy find in the minimalist world) for their high backs and the brass-nail detailing that faces the living room. State-of-the-art appliances (concealed by panelling) bring it all bang up to date. **Chandeliers**, Brodley.

RIGHT: The more intimate "keeping room," between the living room and kitchen, is where the kids hang out while dinner is in the works. The silk-cotton drapes tie in tonally with the wood panelling in the kitchen, and rattan chairs enhance the seaside home's indoor-outdoor spirit. **Sofa**, Lee Industries; **rattan chair**, Ralph Lauren Home; **ikat fabric**, Peter Dunham.



DESIGNER PROFILE ANGIE HRANOWSKY

BASED IN: Charleston, S.C.

SIGNATURE STYLE: In a city noted for antebellum mansions dripping with Spanish moss and streetscapes filled with period Georgian and Federal buildings, designer Angie Hranowsky's gutsy interiors feel like a breath of fresh ocean air. She mixes bright strokes of colour and offbeat vintage finds with pedigreed collectibles and tactile finishes, all the while toeing the line between traditional and contemporary design. Her spaces are also warm, inviting and seriously comfortable — an especially perfect balance for a family home like this.

BACKSTORY: Hranowsky worked as a graphic designer before making the leap to interior design and has since been celebrated by *Traditional Home* magazine as one of "20 Designers To Watch" and included in *Southern Living* magazine's roundup of "Top Five Tastemakers." She has a busy list of commercial and residential clients (including a few celebs) and works on spaces as diverse as South Carolina beach houses and Manhattan apartments. She recently launched a line of wallpaper with Studio Four NYC. Her spaces have been featured in a range of publications, from *The Wall Street Journal* to *House Beautiful*.



When Hranowsky found the front hall's immense brass mirror at Vermillion in Miami, "a lightbulb went off." Beneath it, there was just enough room for a display bench, so the owner enlisted her brother, a contractor, to do the honours. A vintage Moroccan rug in juicy hues sets a welcoming tone for the spaces beyond. **Rug**, Woven Accents.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: The dining room is a departure from the rest of the house, with bare windows and a barely-there chandelier to protect the view, a quiet bespoke table and vintage chrome chairs by Milo Baughman. A rug in beachy colours energizes the space and grounds the seating area. **Rug**, Woven Accents.





TOP LEFT: Hranowsky says the vintage Pierre Cardin console in the living room was "one of the most amazing pieces I've chosen for a client." Two 1970s stools covered in John Robshaw's Vala Gold fabric slip underneath. **Artwork** by Sally King Benedict.

TOP RIGHT: The lower covered porch, at one end of the pool, feels less serious than the one upstairs; the grey is cosy and dramatic. A teak settee and rattan peacock chairs invite lounging, even in wet swimsuits.

LEFT: The sculptural white Emilio Rock table in the crook of the staircase was inspired by a 1930s-era rock console by Cuban-born French architect Emilio Terry. The owners styled it with curios and an assortment of art from their collection — including drawings by Picasso. Low-level lighting adds intimacy. **Table**, Hollywood At Home.

BOTTOM LEFT: The upper porch offers great views of the area. Plantation shutters and exposed rafters add Southern charm, and ceiling fans encourage lazy breezes. **Chairs**, Lee Industries; **table**, Oly Studio.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The salt marsh setting required minimal landscaping intervention, thanks to the stark but striking vistas and horizon line. **Chairs**, Ikea.



The principal bedroom is a far cry from the cool grey space it used to be. The leather-and-brass headboard is still here, but Hranowsky redid the walls in wheat-toned grasscloth and brought in diaphanous drapes and intriguing accessories like the mod brass ceiling light. Gifts from a friend, the suzani pillows and slipper chairs inject just enough pattern. Dressers add piles of storage as bedside tables. **Chair fabric**, Lee Jofo; **dressers**, Bungelow 5; **art** by Kate Long Stevenson.



GET THE LOOK

Bold stripes underfoot ground a sitting area. **Draper Stripe outdoor rug**, Polypropylene. 8' x 10'. Approx. \$896. Through DwellStudio.



A jewel-toned pillow adds upbeat colour. **Plum Ikot pillow**, Silk; cotton; down. 18" sq. Approx. \$525. Through Madeline Weinrib.



The breezy Sona lounge invites relaxing after a day by the pool. **Rice fabric; leather-wrapped rattan**. 31½" h. x 28" w. x 32" d. Approx. \$1,711. Through Selamat Designs.



Hard-wearing black lacquer is a handsome contrast to gold gilt on Bolier & Company's Kata Ribbon console. **Rosewood**. 72" w. \$3,240. At South Hill Home.



The delicate Auburn chandelier gives ceilings a glam hit without obstructing views. **Brass**. 27" h. x 27" diam. Approx. \$2,513. Through Arteriors.