

# SOUTH CAROLINA HOMES & GARDENS

New Home Guide

Majesty on Hilton Head

Greenville Designer  
Show House



# Living on the harbor



*With its first floor 12 feet above ground, this inviting house faces the street. The wing on the right with its wrap-around porch contains Doug Van Scoy's office. The sunroom (left) faces the harbor.*

*This grand house on the Charleston Harbor lives large, yet is comfortable and homey. Many of the rooms have a commanding view of the harbor, and the owners never tire of watching ships cruise past. From tugboats to freighters, they all have to pass within a few hundred yards of the outer edge of Sullivan's Island. Text: Marsha M. Hewitt. Photography: Jay Vaughan. Architect: Stephen Herlong and Associates. Interior Designers: Laura Boyle and Bitsy Schwabe. Builder: Phillip Smith.*



*The living room (above) is one step below the dining room (facing page). The big farm style table was the inspiration for a custom-designed sideboard under the window. The informal floor plan maximizes the view. Doug's office (below right) also serves as a library.*

Doug and Pam Van Scoy wanted plenty of light and air in their new house on the water. They had visited Sullivan's Island when they lived in Atlanta, and in fact had bought a house there. When they decided to retire from the New York area, they moved into their beach house, then acquired a nice piece of property on the harbor for their dream house.

Architect Steve Herlong explained that the Van Scoys wanted a comfortable home where their three grown children and their families could visit. "They wanted the house to look like it fit the environment, possibly like an older home with additions. They didn't want the façade to be overwhelming."

Steve nailed the design with his first sketch. The Van Scoys loved it, with only minor changes to the Lowcountry vernacular style. The architect won a prestigious Robert Mills Residential Design Award for the house this year.

Like many coastal homes with great views, the two-story house has lots of windows to connect to the outside. Porches, balconies and a deck continue the open-air feel of the island, while the interior has a wonderful flow that makes guests feel right at home.

Just inside the entry hall is the living room, where the step-down seating area doesn't interfere with the view. A baby grand piano, which Pam plays for her own enjoyment and to entertain







*The kitchen (above left) is just a few steps from the dining room. The upstairs bedrooms (below left and facing page) are dressed in different colors. The cheerful yellow room faces the street, while the marine blue guest room, with its interesting peaked ceiling, is almost the same shape and size as the master bedroom beneath it.*



guests, balances the fireplace. To the right of the living room is an informal dining section where a large farm table can accommodate plenty of guests. A custom-designed sideboard under a large window completes the dining space.

The dining area flows into the roomy kitchen, where a large granite island takes center stage. "Doug loves to cook, and this is his work space. I just hand him things," says Pam modestly. Beyond the kitchen is a favorite sunroom, complete with telescope for up-close viewing of the ships that pass. A painting over the sofa reminds the couple of their three girls.

The house has a few quirky touches, like the painting of a giant hamburger that dominates the dining area. "That's another of Doug's choices," his wife said. "We just love it." A large ceramic rooster chef presides over the kitchen.

The first floor, which is actually about 12 feet above ground, has a long L-shaped porch that wraps around Doug's office. As a retired executive with Smith Barney, he keeps busy with various projects. With floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, a huge desk and a fireplace, his office resembles a fine library. French doors open to a private porch on the land side of the house, which still has a great view and wonderful island breezes. This one-room-wide wing, which also boasts an





*The inviting green and white master bedroom (above) doesn't need window treatments to enhance the view. Its lines are clean and simple. In the master bath (facing page) a pair of mirrors reflects to infinity. The Teddy bear belonged to Doug when he was a little boy.*



exercise room, is Doug's retreat when he's not on the golf course.

The couple's bedroom is at the opposite end of the house. Its large bay windows give them a superb view of the harbor. Their room is a soothing green with crisp white accents, as is the impressive master bath. Mirrors over his and her vanities on opposite walls create an interesting optical illusion. The mirrors reflect each other to infinity, a fact that keeps the grandchildren—and even some grown-up guests—coming back time and again to view the phenomenon.

Colorful art enlivens the walls in every room. Pam loves bright colors, but nothing is too fussy. While interior designer Laura Boyle was responsible for many of the choices in this livable home, the Van Scoys' daughter Sarah helped too. A student in interior design at the time, she has since gone

to work with Herlong and Associates.

From the entry, the stairs go up to a landing with still another window and bookshelves, then turn to open onto a casual upstairs sitting room. Bookshelves, a TV and a vintage popcorn machine make this an inviting space, with a balcony beyond.

Each of the five bedrooms has its own color scheme. From the apple green guest room with twin beds and complementary bath to the warm sunny yellow room with a cove ceiling on the other end, each displays artifacts dear to the couple's heart. The most popular guest room is the one directly above their own suite, with similar bay windows. This cheerful marine blue room with white trim is inviting and comfortable.

"People don't want to leave," Pam said. And that's exactly the idea. †