



**GREAT IDEA!**  
A custom glass tile  
"area rug" inset in  
the foyer sets an artful  
tone for the house.  
The warm colors and  
dark grout make a  
glamorous statement  
in the simple space.



# Creole Chic

Bayou Bend, our quaint coastal cottage in **Covington, Louisiana**, is rooted in the architectural traditions of the Deep South, but its open floor plan and vibrant interiors are fit for the modern family. Step inside to see our favorite ideas.



**OUR DESIGN TEAM**  
(from left to right)  
Interior decorators Vesta Fort and Grace Kaynor, Chance Miller of Miller Building Company, architect Michael Piazza, and Wayne Miller



## WELCOME TO BAYOU BEND

The visionaries behind our Craftsman-Creole cottage wanted the house to feel classic but with a modern twist. Taking their cue from the traditional neighborhood development of TerraBella Village, the architect, builders, and decorators worked to create a home that would suit a community-minded family with an eclectic style all their own.

**THE INSPIRATION:** "We were inspired by the architecture of 100-year-old Louisiana homes, which were built to fit the climate," says architect Michael Piazza. "Porches with large overhangs and tall windows with shutters protect the interior but still let in lots of light."

**THE PALETTE:** "This region of the country tends to play it safe when it comes to decorating, but we wanted to go bold," says interior decorator Grace Kaynor. "We kept the walls mostly neutral but used color on upholstery: purples, oranges, reds, blues, and greens."

**THE SIGNATURE DETAILS:** "We focused on incorporating the old with the new," says interior decorator Vesta Fort. "We searched out antiques for a collected feel and mixed them with brand-new pieces," Grace adds. "We also worked with local galleries to build a strong art collection." →

LOCAL SOURCE

*Lighting*

The dining room's dramatic five-piece installation of golden glass pendants was created by New Orleans lighting designer Fifi B. Laughlin ([fifiblaughlin.com](http://fifiblaughlin.com)), who specializes in one-of-a-kind glass lamps and fixtures.



**BREAKFAST NOOK  
PILLOW FABRIC**  
Birds in Ocean  
by Galbraith & Paul;  
[galbraithandpaul.com](http://galbraithandpaul.com)

**BENCH FABRIC**  
Tuscan in Cypress  
by Calico Corners;  
[calicocorners.com](http://calicocorners.com)

## Notice the Details

**ECLECTIC DINING AREA** In the dining room (pictured at left), Grace and Vesta surrounded the marble-topped trestle table with a set of antique caned-back chairs and a pair of upholstered armchairs for a creative mix of old and new. The host chairs, designed in a modified Parsons style, are upholstered in durable outdoor fabric to withstand spills.

**GALLEY KITCHEN** The sage green kitchen cabinetry has generous space for dinnerware and pantry items, and a fossilized countertop surface adds a sense of history to the space. The built-in benches in the attached breakfast nook, with cushions covered in easy-care vinyl, are punctuated with block-print pillows in shades of blue and green to bring the outside in.

**BOLD LIVING ROOM** To provide ample seating but still allow traffic flow, Grace and Vesta paired a deep sofa with a tailored love seat, both in shades of lavender. A floral rug and coordinating pillows add more color, while an animal-print chair heightens the drama. A graphic painting by Amanda Talley hangs above the chest in the nook beside the Venetian plaster fireplace. ➔



**GREAT IDEA!**  
Add sparkle  
to wood shelves  
(here, cypress  
built-ins)  
with mirrors.



## Notice the Details

**HANDSOME BOOKSHELVES** One of the few private spaces on the downstairs level of the house is this cozy study, which closes off from the open living spaces with a set of cypress pocket doors, a signature of Miller Building Company. The wall-to-wall built-ins evoke a library feel. Grace and Vesta hung a landscape by noted New Orleans painter Alexander J. Drysdale (1870-1934) in the center of the unit, then balanced their arrangement of books and accessories with two tall mirrors leaning inside the shelves.

**WRITING TABLE** An elegant gold partners desk, perfect for letter-writing, sits beside the window. Instead of matching chairs, Grace and Vesta chose a brown-and-white geometric storage ottoman for one side and a bold floral club chair for the opposite side. The window is dressed with a linen Roman shade embellished with a wide, textured tape trim.

**VELVET SETTEE** The plush chesterfield love seat is a comfy spot to curl up with a book. A Turkish rug pulls together the colors and fabrics, while the ceramic elephant table helps lighten up the otherwise serious space. ➔

### LOCAL SOURCES

#### Artwork

Graphic paintings from New Orleans galleries Guthrie Contemporary Gallery ([guthriecontemporary.com](http://guthriecontemporary.com)), Studio Amanda Talley ([amandatalley.com](http://amandatalley.com)), and Arthur Roger Gallery ([arthurogerygallery.com](http://arthurogerygallery.com)) add color and pattern throughout.

**CHAIR & PILLOW FABRIC**  
Catana Floral Chocolate  
by Ballard Designs;  
[ballarddesigns.com](http://ballarddesigns.com)

## idea house master suite



**BED SKIRT FABRIC**  
Etienne Moire  
Check in Moss/  
Chamois 51261  
by Schumacher;  
fschumacher.com

**DUVET FABRIC**  
Ipek Damask in  
Fresco 2602-0  
by Carleton V;  
carletonvlt.com

### Notice the Details

**WELL-APPOINTED BED** Grace and Vesta "refinished" a vintage brass headboard with metallic Rust-Oleum paint ([rustoleum.com](http://rustoleum.com)). The bed linens, a modern floral duvet paired with a checked bed skirt and shams, are sweet but not too feminine. At the foot of the bed, a lavender ottoman with an ivory flange trim by Best Slipcover Company ([bestslipcovercompany.com](http://bestslipcovercompany.com)) sits on a rug from the Southern Living Home Collection ([southernlivinghomecollection.com](http://southernlivinghomecollection.com)).

**FINISHING TOUCHES** A striking chandelier (made with sea urchins and crystals) plus blue glass bedside lamps light the room. Hanging over the bed is an acrylic by artist Bernd Haussmann from New Orleans's Guthrie Contemporary Gallery.

**SPA BATH** The curved tub wall, striped with Daltile's iridescent glass tiles in various shades of blue ([daltile.com](http://daltile.com)), strikes a spa tone in the master bath. A trio of windows lets in lots of light, but their height allows privacy. An antique Oushak rug (instead of a bath mat) and a dainty brass chandelier keep the room elegant.

**LUXE SHOWER** The generously sized master shower with built-in benches has walls of the same Carrara marble that covers the floor. Nearby, beaded mirrors and criss-cross wall lights hang above each vanity. →



**WE LOVE THIS COLOR!**  
Quicksilver  
by Sherwin-Williams,  
[sherwin-williams.com](http://sherwin-williams.com)

#### LOCAL SOURCE

#### Bedside Table

Grace and Vesta found the marble-topped cloverleaf bedside table at Covington's Abode ([shopatabode.com](http://shopatabode.com)), just a few miles from our Idea House.





**GREAT IDEA!**  
A brown-and-khaki stripe adds a grown-up, masculine touch to the boy's bedroom.

**CURTAIN FABRIC**  
Melong Batik  
Border in Brown on  
Tint 6450-07  
by China Seas;  
[quadrillefabrics.com](http://quadrillefabrics.com)

**TAPE TRIM**  
Cabana Ring  
Border in Firewood  
(1.5") 977-41248-05  
by Samuel & Sons;  
[samuelandsons.com](http://samuelandsons.com)

**LOCAL SOURCE**  
*Bedding*

New Orleans's Leontine  
Linens ([leontinelinens.com](http://leontinelinens.com))  
is the authority on couture  
linens with bold appliqué  
monograms and fresh,  
unexpected colors.



*Notice the Details*

**SAFARI-CHIC BEDROOM** A classic striped headboard and bed skirt are combined with Indian batik-inspired textiles for a sophisticated yet boyish look. The curtains' woven tape trim adds natural textures, and a photograph of an alligator above the bed is a nod to Louisiana's gator-inhabited marshlands.

**GATHERING SPACE** In a genius use of often-overlooked space, the upstairs landing was transformed into a small den that makes an inviting, casual family hangout. An upholstered wall softens the space above the built-in bench, while bamboo Chippendale-style chairs and vibrant turquoise Moroccan poufs add plenty of extra seating.

**BOOKSHELVES** Grace and Vesta prove that storage can be both beautiful and functional with their clever bookshelf arrangements. In the boy's room, a narrow bedside bookcase, painted with a subtle beige-and-ivory striation, showcases trophies, books, and treasured mementos. The cypress shelves in the den hold photos, color-coded books, and funky accessories. →

idea house editors' picks



1 Back porch



2 Mudroom



3 Garage apartment



4 Breakfast nook

*Eight more ideas we love!*

1 The living room opens onto a porch designed exclusively of items from Ballard Designs. 2 Cubbies and cabinets near the back door keep the family organized.

3 The garage apartment has a Murphy bed that folds up to create an open living area. 4 A geometric iron lantern hangs in the kitchen's built-in eating area.

5 Antique iron chairs surround a rustic trestle table in the garage apartment. 6 Tucked beneath the stairs is a built-in desk for homework and bill-paying.

7 Decorative painter E. Lee Jahncke Mead created a metallic floral pattern in the powder room. 8 The master bedroom has access to the front balcony, with a great view of the sunrise.

➔



5 Garage apartment



6 Desk



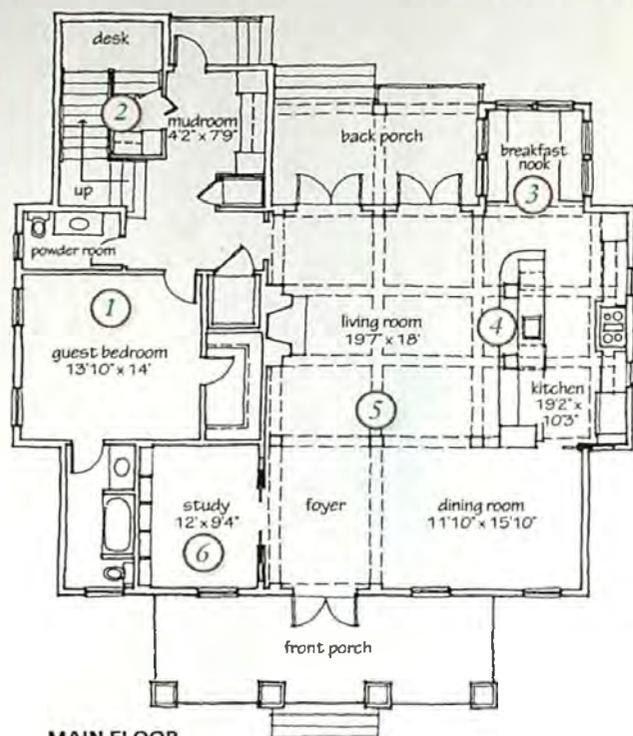
7 Powder room



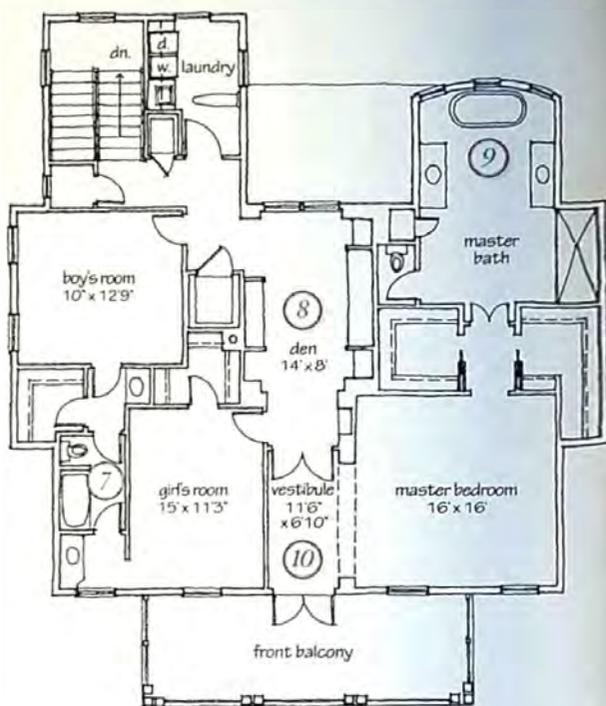
8 Front balcony



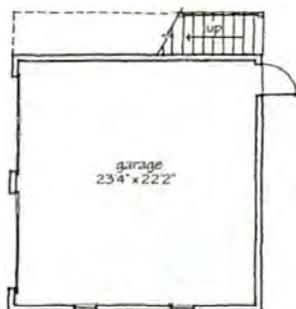
## idea house floor plans



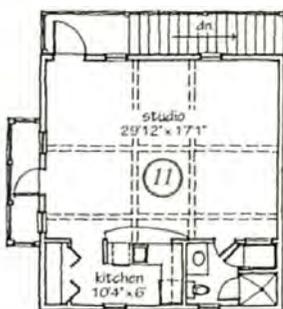
MAIN FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



GARAGE



GARAGE APARTMENT

### Contributors

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WINDSOR WINDOWS  
& DOORS  
[windsorwindows.com](http://windsorwindows.com)



### Notice the Details

**1** The downstairs bedroom and bath give overnight guests privacy.  
**2** Beneath the stairs are a home office and a deluxe wet bar.  
**3** Two built-in banquettes comfortably seat at least eight people in the light-filled breakfast nook.  
**4** A ceiling-mounted Roman shade pulls down between cypress beams for privacy.  
**5** Intersecting cypress beams visually distinguish

the living room, foyer, and dining room in this open floor plan.

**6** A cozy study closes off from the open living spaces with cypress pocket doors.

**7** The upstairs kids' bedrooms share a Jack-and-jill bath.

**8** Wall-to-wall bookcases with a built-in bench face a TV cabinet in the den.

**9** The luxurious master bath has a freestanding tub, double vanities,

and a Carrara marble shower.

**10** The vestibule beside the master bedroom serves as a vanity area and opens onto the front balcony.

**11** The studio apartment above the garage offers its own kitchen, dining, living, sleeping, and bath areas. →

→ SEE MORE  
CONTRIBUTORS,  
TRAVEL TIPS, AND  
SOURCE INFO (P. 150).



## idea house sponsors

### Our Sponsors

**1 SUNBRELLA** The Louisiana heat calls for shade, so we chose awning solutions made with stylish and functional Sunbrella fabrics. Sunbrella offers more design possibilities than ever before. [sunbrella.com](http://sunbrella.com)

**2 ARMSTRONG FLOOR PRODUCTS** Armstrong Hardwood Flooring is crafted from the finest domestic and exotic hardwoods. They offer a range of finishes from rustic hand-sculpted and hand-scraped to classic and smoothly sanded. [armstrong.com](http://armstrong.com)

**3 RUST-OLEUM** Project paint can bring color and creativity to your home in a weekend. We road tested everything from chalkboard paint to shiny metallic finishes from the expansive selection of Rust-Oleum paints. [rustoleum.com](http://rustoleum.com)

**4 CUB CADET** No Southern home is complete without the right garden tools. Cub Cadet offers riding mowers and utility vehicles that work harder and perform better than other products in the industry. [cubcadet.com](http://cubcadet.com)

**5 LENNOX** The humidity in Louisiana can create a challenge for maintaining the right temperature inside. Lennox systems reliably deliver comfort in any season. [lennox.com](http://lennox.com)



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*Project Team*



**DEVELOPMENT**

TerraBella Village's vision for a better way of life includes a return to the traditional neighborhood: public spaces mixed with homes and parks. Footpaths connect this community, which has wide-open porches and gardens for everyone to enjoy. [terrabellavillage.com](http://terrabellavillage.com)

**BUILDERS**

President Wayne Miller and his son, Chance, bring a commitment to hard work and quality materials to their projects. The family has been building homes in the New Orleans area for four generations, since Wayne's grandfather, Paul Masino, started Miller Building Company, Inc., in 1917. [millerbuilding.net](http://millerbuilding.net)

**ARCHITECT**

In business in Mandeville, Louisiana, since 1981, Piazza Architecture Planning specializes in commercial and residential projects along the Gulf Coast. Architect Michael Piazza, AIA, incorporated his trademark details, including an open plan with full views out the front and back of the house, in our house. "Many of our homes have a mixture of Caribbean simplicity and Craftsman details," he says. 985/626-1564 or [piazza-aia.com](http://piazza-aia.com)

**INTERIOR DECORATORS**

Native New Orleanian Grace Kaynor and Arkansas transplant Vesta Fort teamed up for the first time on our home's interiors. Along with a mix of antique and modern pieces, Grace cites an "unabashed use of color" as a signature in this house. *Grace Kaynor*, 917/355-1678, [gwkdsgns.com](http://gwkdsgns.com); *Vesta Fort*, 504/897-9039

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**

For 25 years, Daly-Sublette Landscape Architects has been working on high-quality landscape design and horticultural services across the Southeast. Landscape architect Brian Sublette implemented the Idea House's hardscape and softscape components, including lush plantings and unique water features. [dalysublette.com](http://dalysublette.com)

**BENEFICIARY**

The Junior League of Greater Covington, in partnership with St. Tammany Parish, supports the planned Children's Museum of St. Tammany. The Junior League also sponsors a traveling outreach program called Museum Without Walls aimed at bringing hands-on activities and art awareness to children. [jlgc.net](http://jlgc.net) \*



**AL SAYS, "REAL DOGS RIDE IN PICKUPS, NOT PURSES."**

**AL'S THE VOICE OF REAL DOGS.**

He's tired of watching dogs being drawn into the crazy complications of everyday human life. Enough of decorator collars, doggie day care, playdates and food that's better suited to a science lab than a dog dish. Al thinks it's time to get back to the business of dogs being dogs.

**REAL DOGS EAT MEAT:**

