

In Harmony

A STately VIRGINIA HOME AND ITS SURROUNDING PROPERTY BALANCE THE ELEGANCE OF THE PAST WITH THE MODERN AESTHETIC OF TODAY.

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One look at the beautiful grounds and gardens surrounding this gracious Virginia home leaves no doubt that the owners have great appreciation for the landscape. And it is that appreciation that undeniably ties into the overall aesthetic of the home and its many elegant rooms.

Originally built in the mid-1800s, the three-story, brick, Greek Revival-style manor was first renovated in 2000, when previous owners hired the talented team of contractors and architects with Dalglish Gilpin Paxton (DGP) Architects. The design professionals transformed the home by marrying interior spaces with exterior landscaping, opening up the floor plan to bring in more natural light, and creating a sense of peace and calm. Inspired by the stunning results, the current owners, who bought the property and the

adjacent farm years later, called on DGP Architects once again, knowing that their new vision for the estate would be in capable hands.

“What we always try to do at our firm is consider the architecture, interiors, and landscape together so that all of the components are complementary to each other,” says architect Bob Paxton. “You end up with a simple elegance, and that translates to people having the sense that the place feels right. That feeling is what made this couple want to purchase this home.”

What came next were further changes to enhance the property by giving more attention to the gardens and creating additional usable outdoor space adjacent to the kitchen and breakfast area with a covered terrace. Inside, the team converted a spacious cedar closet into a wine room to hold the owners’ impressive wine collection. Because the European couple already had an extensive

Previous pages: Reminiscent of an Old-World European garden, the vast property displays the owners’ affinity for the outdoors. These pages, above: Designed as a sanctuary, the arbor provides a sheltered space perfect for growing vegetables and flowers while also serving as an entertainment venue. Top right: The drawing room, with its neoclassical millwork and Venetian plaster walls, displays an antique Bechstein rosewood grand piano. Right: Boasting the original mid-19th-century staircase, the entryway also features tongue-and-groove heart pine floors that seem fresh and new even as they reference the past. Far right: Opposite the staircase, an 18th-century Louis XVI commode injects refinement and is further highlighted by an antique French mirror and early Rococo-style wall brackets.





Above: Flooded in light from French doors that open out onto a terrace, the garden room is an elegant sanctuary featuring a tumbled limestone floor laid in a herringbone pattern. An 18th-century Swedish Gustavian daybed offers the ideal spot for sitting with a midday cup of tea. Opposite: Just off the garden room, the drawing room continues the theme of muted tones, vast windows, and classic millwork and includes a collection of beautifully upholstered furnishings. A custom Aubusson rug grounds the space.



An antique Italian chandelier takes center stage in the library/dining room. Walls of limed white oak offer a casual vibe that balances the couple's collection of French antiques and European art. Painted gilt-hand-caned dining chairs surround the custom dining table.





collection of antiques and fine art that possessed a darker, more sober aesthetic, designer David Craig was tasked with blending those items with the airiness of the modernized interiors. To bring the two styles together, Craig worked with the client to source new pieces with designs, color palettes, and lines that were more in keeping with the home's lighter aesthetic yet also worked well with the owners' existing furniture. "The combination adds a certain richness to the house that looks—and is—very collected," the designer says.

While the house does have a certain elegance, it definitely does not seem overly pristine or as though it should be left untouched. These are rooms that are lived in, reflective of the couple that spends six months of the year enjoying the beauty of these grounds, entertaining friends, and tirelessly working with abused horses that have been brought to the farm to be rehabilitated. A talented equestrian rider with a passion for all animals, the wife says she and her husband could not have found a more perfect place as their second home. "This is what I dreamed of," she says. "I love waking up here every day."



Opposite, top to bottom: The limed white oak paneling continues in the family room, where a plush sofa and loveseat create an intimate conversation area in front of the fireplace. In the kitchen, painted and glazed cabinets sit beneath marble countertops, keeping the room both light and modern without stripping its classic style. Above the massive island, a custom pot rack hangs from the peaked ceiling. This page, above: Offset by grand columns, the curved, terraced porch features a dining table and chairs for serving casual meals and taking in the view of the surrounding landscape.

An antique 18th-century gilt baldachin above the bed plays up the grandeur of the master suite.



Above: The understated elegance of the master suite's sitting room is highlighted by a mirrored cocktail table and 18th-century French marquetry secretaire. The office just beyond boasts a custom Spanish-style desk. Top right: An antique 18th-century Louis XVI commode and a 19th-century Louis XVI-style armchair add elegance to an otherwise modest guest room. Right: The master bath's massive soaking tub by Waterworks is highlighted by a floor-to-ceiling window. Below: The antique three-piece duchesse brisee adds sumptuous seating in the master bedroom.





Above and left: Grounded with a wall of both brick and wood fencing, the garden serves as a barrier to native wildlife. A lead garden fountain offers calming sounds. Opposite: Handmade wood-molded bricks, vertical grain cedar, fieldstone, and slate make the hardscape virtually maintenance-free.

