Above: The design reflects the owners' wish that the house feel more intimate than its 7,000sf by tucking the second floor into the roof.

Right: An entry procession plan was carefully articulated to conceal the home's apparent height and scale.

ROBERTMILLS**RESIDENTAL DESIGN**AWARDS 2011 HONOR AWARD

RED CHARRETTE ARCHITECTS

57 SURFSONG, KIAWAH ISLAND, SC

FIRM CREDITS Scott Anderson, AIA, ASID (CEO), Ken Huggins, AIA (COO), Sid Mullins, AIA (CFO), Jailynne Wood, James "J" Quarles, Emily Cox, Curt Berg, AIA, Wayne Butler

CLIENT Private Owner

LOCATION Kiawah Island, SC

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT DesignWorks, LLC, Robert "Bob" Maerlender, CLA

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER Britt Peters & Associates, Inc., Iason McDonald

DIMINISHING SCALE

A PROCESSIONAL ENTRY AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL BRINGS THIS HOUSE DOWN TO SIZE

"What's interesting about this house is that the owners wanted it to feel smaller, but they gave us a pretty large program," said architect Scott Anderson, AIA, ASID. Over 7,000 square feet of large program, that is, but footprint wasn't the only problem standing in the way of "feeling small."

"We had to raise the site because it's located in a flood plain, and that would end up making it look taller and larger," said Anderson. To solve that problem, the design team used fill that blends into this Kiawah Island, South Carolina oceanfront home's surroundings to partially conceal the house and make it appear less massive. The design strategy disguises the variance caused by the grade to the first floor by creating a long, varied entry sequence of path, stair, and terrace leading to an exterior foyer that opens into an internal foyer, which in turn steps up to the main living level affording ocean views above and between maritime oaks.

"It reveals the home in layers and creates an illusion that obscures the fact that the house is four feet off the ground," said Anderson. "It's a very interesting way to approach the house, and it begins the moment you step out of your car."

Massing is diminished by concealed spaces within consistent, limited roof forms of classically informed proportions, and the illusion that the building is smaller than its 7,000 plus square feet had to be carried inside as well. "We divided the main living area from the guest area with a classic dogtrot," said Anderson, and the home is organized into two, one-room wide levels with varied roof projections that calm the intense natural light coming in. A circular stairway and the dogtrot mediate between family and guest areas located in separate legs of the L-shaped building, giving occupants a sense that the house is two smaller buildings, and the one-room width adds intimacy and brings daylight into every space in the house.

The Carolina Room enjoys abundant natural light and views in three directions.

The main living space was divided into two seating groups for both intimate conversation or large gatherings.

The kitchen's bright white ambience is reinforced with a bank of light-filled windows.

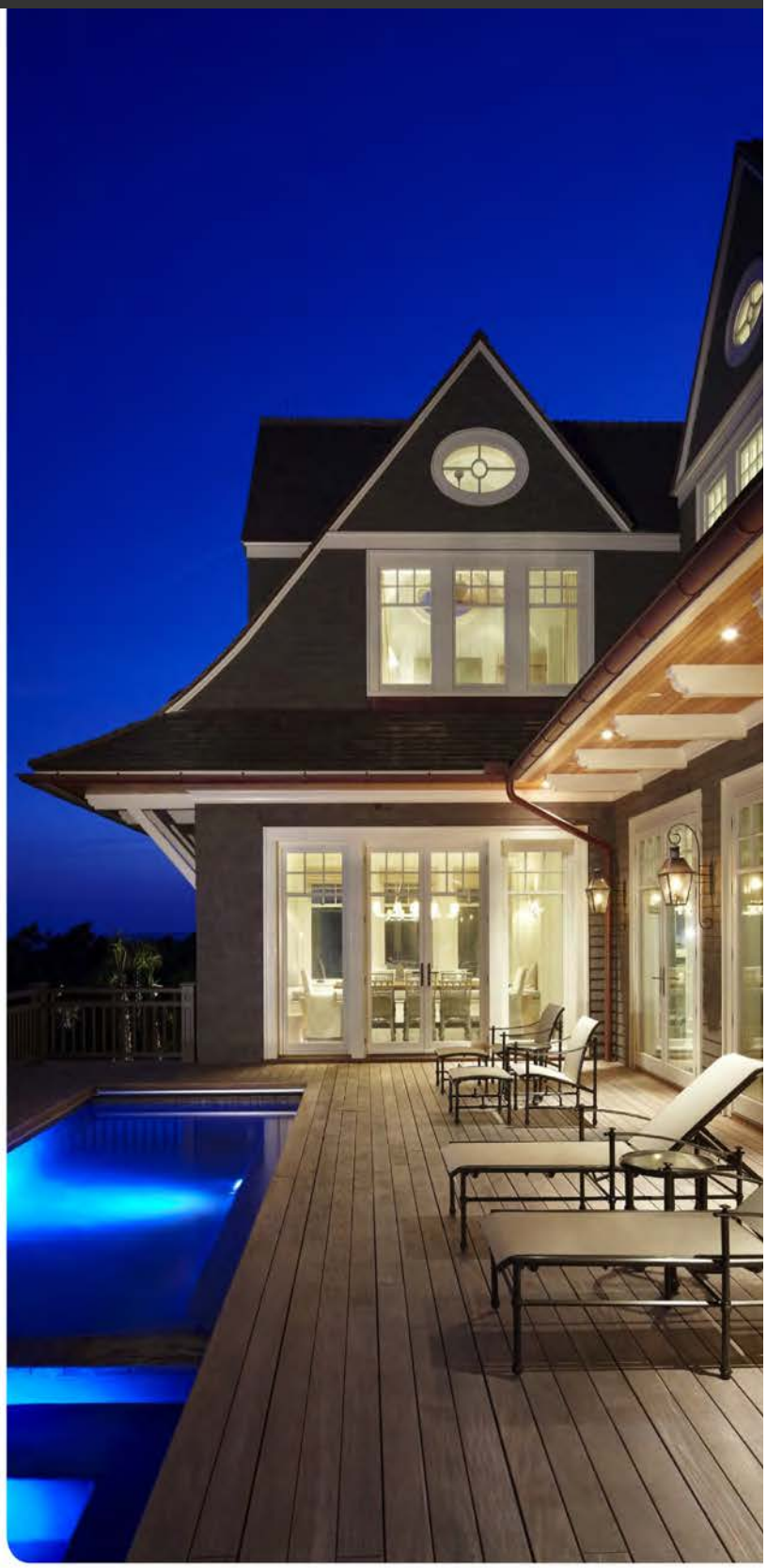
"We used a classic shingle style for this home," Anderson said of the aesthetics. "The owners are from New England and we wanted to do something that would remind them of home, but still have a sense of place. And they wanted something that isn't too 'loud,' so the roof and trim is elegant and classic, yet understated." To that end, all of the home's details are designed to reinforce the sense of quiet. "It's really supposed to be a 'soft' house."

As is so common for a South Carolina Lowcountry site, the surrounding land and scenery is something that you want to disturb as little as possible. "The site is on the edge of the maritime forest, so we tried to be sensitive to the live oaks, and give great views to the ocean," said Anderson. To accomplish that, Anderson arranged the site so that the trees form a frame around the house. They were carefully and strategically pruned as part of the design and building processes to optimize views without upsetting the scene.

While the principal living areas offer gracious spaces for large gatherings, the separate family and guest areas provide ample opportunity for privacy to rest and rejuvenate and enjoy the ocean views. An overall sense of calmness is reinforced through restrained, consistent detailing, material selection, color and texture. The end result is an idyllic seaside retreat for a family of five that also accommodates visitors invited for long holidays.

The house was designed to disturb the majestic live oaks as little as possible.

Exquisite details set off an elegant stairway leading to private guest quarters.



The shingle-style exterior recalls the owners' New England roots, yet blends with the modern Lowcountry vernacular such as large windows and deep overhangs.

all of the home's details are designed

HONOR AWARD 2011

Outdoor living spaces are designed to blend building to landscape. Note the clever use of terraced planters to avoid the need for railing barriers.

ROBERT MILLS RESIDENTAL DESIGN AWARDS 2011

HONOR AWARD

RED CHARRETTE ARCHITECTS

87 SALTHOUSE, KIAWAH ISLAND, SC

FIRM CREDITS Scott Anderson, AIA, ASID (CEO), Ken Huggins, AIA (COO), Sid Mullins, AIA (CFO), Jailynne Wood, Emily Cox, Curt Berg, AIA, Wayne Butler

CLIENT Private Owner

LOCATION Kiawah Island, SC

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT Hiers Landscape Contracting, John Hiers

GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER Matt Silveston

INTERIOR DESIGN Red Charrette Architects

PHOTOGRAPHY Holger Obenaus

Designed by the TREES

Live Oaks are part of the experience of living in this house

This classic shingle style cottage is carefully sited amongst ancient live oaks on the edge of a marsh, with the living spaces wrapped around the stately trees to create an intimacy between the landscape and the built volumes. "What's amazing about this site is that there were so many significant live oaks on the property," said Scott Anderson, AIA, ASID. "We designed around them in a way that would make them part of the experience of living in the house."

Easy enough, you would think, if we were only talking about the experience of time spent in the exterior spaces, but that's not what Anderson had in mind for this project. In this house the live oaks – those iconic images belonging to so many South Carolina Lowcountry landscapes – are part of the experience of being inside as well as outside. Look out any window and you'll see one or more of those trees, not blocking or obstructing, but enhancing – or framing – the view. Beyond the trees, vistas over the water are given primacy as views are carefully aligned with the most striking aspects of the tidal marsh.

The trees and views, and the natural surroundings in general, are essential to almost every element of the house's design. An example is seen in the way nature and architecture combine to create and define the home's outdoor entry space, where an overarching tree canopy forms the "rooftop" for an entry court at the front of the house. Below that, the space is framed by other natural vegetation and by architecture, with sweeping roof forms directing attention to the main entrance.

The outdoor living spaces are designed to orient your gaze toward the magnificent marsh views, and to "blend the building into the landscape," according to Anderson. You'll find no railings or other obstructions between the landscape and the screened porch and pool deck at the rear of the house. A planter at one end of the deck functions as a modern-day ha-ha wall, allowing an unhindered view while creating a fluid transition from structure to nature. "It makes you feel closer to the land," said Anderson.

The owners of this approximately 4,000 sq. ft. home make their permanent residence on the West Coast in a community where styles reminiscent of the famed Greene & Greene Architects are the norm. Anderson did not want to duplicate that style,

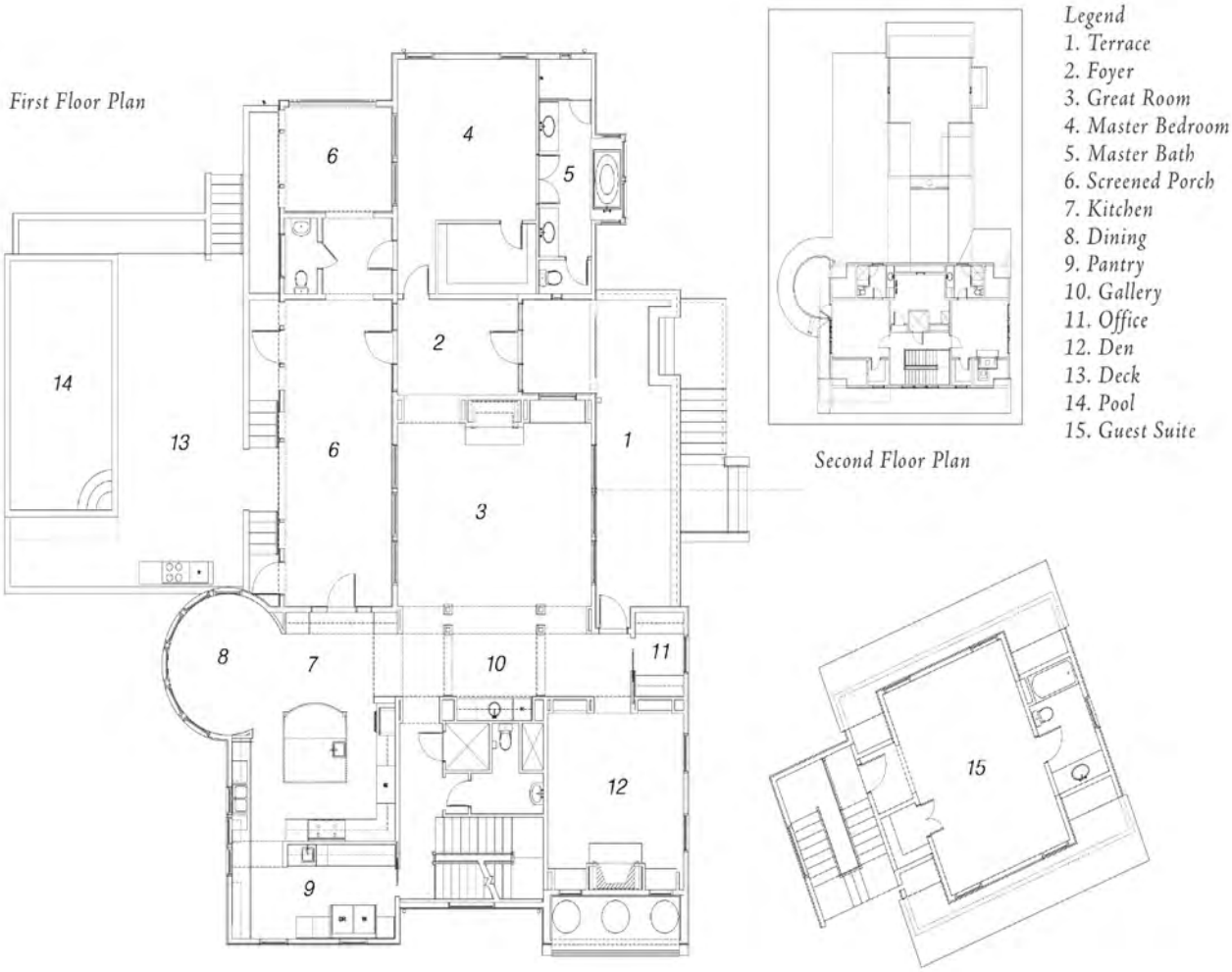
The interiors pay particular attention to casual traditional design through extensive use of simple mouldings and panelling.

2011 HONOR AWARD

> The trees and views, and the natural surroundings in general, are essential to almost every element of the house's design.

Above: An overarching tree canopy creates a "rooftop" for the entry court. Below Left: Dining space enjoys 180-degree views thanks to its curved window-wall design. Below Right: The den is a cozy room that looks right out through live oak branches.

The Architect's concept takes major consideration of the site's abundant canopy of live oaks.



as the cottage's intent is to be less formal than their primary residence, but he did want to incorporate some familiarity. "My challenge was to get something that was familiar to them, while translating it to the shingle style more familiar to its Lowcountry site." To achieve that balance, Anderson used quiet material palette is restrained, merging seamlessly with the surrounding natural landscape.

The classically conceived interior is, by design, also less formal than the owners' primary home, but more so than the cottage's exterior. A

2011 CITATION AWARD

Tree House **design** Puts its owners in touch with nature

Outdoors and casual are the operative words in defining the clients' vision for this "tree house" in Kiawah Island, South Carolina. "They didn't want classical and they didn't want modern. They wanted outdoor," said architect Scott Anderson, AIA, ASID of their request. The owners are avid travelers, but their travels don't take them to big cities and luxurious resorts. Their preference is for more adventurous journeys that bring them in touch with nature, and they wanted their home to reflect that.

"There are more live oaks on this site than on any parcel of land that I've ever worked with," said Anderson, so the concept of a tree house was the perfect solution. He achieved that by designing multiple small-scale structures connected by a glass bridge, allowing true integration with the landscape and creating ambiguity between the interior and exterior.

Grand glass expanses invite the outdoors in along the water's edge. Heavy timbers supporting soaring ceilings and a warm palette of wood paneling further enhance the interior's outdoor metaphor. Expansive openings throughout allow occupants to experience the landscape intimately as though it were a house within the trees, and flood the house with so much natural light that, according to Anderson, "You don't have to turn a light on until after dark." One can just imagine how striking the unlit interior would be on a full moon evening.

Left: The tree house design is reinforced by heavy timbers in the interior. Middle: Huge expanses of glass flood the house with natural light. Right: The raised design puts the house up among the live oak branches that create a canopy over the property.

ROBERTMILLS**RESIDENTAL DESIGN**AWARDS 2011

CITATION AWARD

RED CHARRETTE ARCHITECTS

28 CORMORANT ISLAND DRIVE, KIAWAH ISLAND, SC

FIRM CREDITS Scott Anderson, AIA, ASID (CEO), Ken Huggins, AIA (COO), Sid Mullins, AIA (CFO), Jailynne Wood, James "J" Quarles, Emily Cox

CLIENT Private Owner

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT Robert "Bob" Maerlender

PHOTOGRAPHY Holger Obenaus

LOCATION Kiawah Island, SC

ENGINEER Fluhrer Reed, PA, Mitchell A. "Mitch" Fluhrer, PE

CONTRACTOR Greathouse Construction Management