Charleston LIVING

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Living in the Great Outdoors

Turn Your Backyard into an Outdoor Space Worthy of Celebrating

Charleston at Night

Fresh Ideas on What to Do After the Sun Goes Down

Brunch Recipes | **At Home on Sullivan's Island** | **Spring Travel**

Anderson Studio of Architecture and Design

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Photos by DANA HOFF

When it comes to creating a house, Anderson Studio of Architecture and Design goes from designing the foundation, to selecting the curtains, to figuring out even the cushions on the couch.

Owner and director Scott Anderson has more than 20 years of architectural experience, and his studio has the skill to carry out a wide variety of projects, with the instinct of knowing what works best where. Often times, it's perfecting the views. "Everyone wants to spend more time outdoors and having that living space be seamless," he says.

One particular project on Kiawah Island resulted in a classic, shingle-style, New England-themed house (built by R.M. Buck Builders) that makes a visitor feel as though they've stepped into the Hamptons. The studio and client wanted to make the outdoor living space more enjoyable by spreading it out parallel to the beach and making it so every space in the interior had a view of the ocean. Main elements include

a screened-in porch accessed from the den, a center terrace that provides a simple space for the family to sit and enjoy a view of the ocean, and an outdoor kitchen and dining space that visually connects to the terrace.

The furnishings are set up to look like classic pieces that were collected over time; some are antiques and others are completely brand new—all of which Anderson describes as durable and comfortable.

Designers opted to nestle the outdoor living into the natural landscape and make it easier to get up onto the pool deck, the screened porch, and the outdoor kitchen area. They brought in nearly 10 feet of fill and constructed a dune across the back of the house so that the sand and landscape (designed by landscape architect Designworks) were no more than 30 inches below the deck. Anderson notes this eliminates handrails from blocking views.

"From my perspective," he says, "if you're on the beach, finding a way to get rid of that rail is the number-one show-stopper that my clients love in the end."

Another major area is the pool deck. At one end of the lap pool is a modern-looking spa with a shallow sun shelf and chaise lounges partially submerged under an umbrella. Opposite the spa, Anderson built a fire pit, designed to create focus areas on either end of the pool, with a sitting area composed of four swivel chairs.

Leading from the pool deck to the upper terrace are two primary stairs coming up from the pool deck to the upper terrace, lined with sweetgrass and podocarpus in planters. The foliage helps to blend the terrace even further into the landscape.

Anderson said the Studio consists of experts in designing living spaces—spaces people want to be in. "We've got some modern work, but there's a real thing about giving folks something that they're comfortable in and something that's really new and theirs," he says.

Tips for Customers:

1. Integrate good landscape design into the outdoor space.
2. The outdoor space should be treated with as much importance as an indoor space, and relate well to the house.
3. Don't undersize the outdoor area; at around 12 feet, you really start to approach a real living space and can furnish it properly. ■