



# LUXURY *on the* LAKE

*A couple looking to welcome their family and friends to a retreat on the lake works with a design group to create a comfortable yet elegant vacation home.*

TEXT LAUREN GENTRY WALKER  
PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN O'HAGAN





Sophisticated, comfortable, and welcoming. Those words best describe the vision homeowners Nancy and Mark Peeples had when building their dream vacation home on Lake Martin in Alabama. “They’re a very fun and laid-back couple,” says designer Marie Noojin of Defining Home Design Group, “but they wanted the house to be more elegant than a typical lake house.” While Noojin handled the interior design for the project, the rest of the team was made up of Tom Adams, who oversaw the exterior architecture, and Hadley Dobson who selected the interior architectural elements such as cabinetry details, tiles, and fixtures.

Upon walking through the front door of the house, guests are instantly treated to a lake view that is clearly the focal point of the design. A terrace sits just off the living room overlooking the water, and the stunning outdoor surroundings can



The copy you are now reading is not the actual text to be typeset. It is placed here in lieu of the type to be used, so that it will resemble a complete job in every respect. For now, its purpose is for size and color only. Although this may not seem important, it actually is. By producing an initial comp with dummy copy, we can test the physical aspects of the message and make sure that it is not a problem. In an initial state of design this is very important. One can concentrate on the important elements of design rather than the content



The copy you are now reading is not the actual text to be typeset. It is placed here in lieu of the type to be used, so that it will resemble a complete job in every respect. For now, its purpose is for size and color only. Although this may not seem important, it actually is. By producing an initial comp with dummy copy, we can test the physical aspects of the message







be seen from nearly every area. The couple wanted the house to be able to comfortably accommodate their visiting grown children and future grandchildren. “Their biggest need was to have something beautiful but also durable,” says Noojin. “The fabrics needed to be able to hold up and suit their growing family and pets while still feeling inviting and timeless.” Another priority was to make sure the exterior of the home blended in with its surroundings and didn’t stand out too much from the natural beauty of the lakeside community. The end result of careful architectural planning was an understated facade that seemed like it had been around for decades.

To accommodate a large extended family and visiting friends, Noojin spilt the great room into two seating groups that blend together with the outdoor spaces. “The space is great for having more intimate conversations or having everyone in one room together,” says the designer. “It’s a cozy family room, perfect for watching TV and



The copy you are now reading is not the actual text to be typeset. It is placed here in lieu of the type to be used, so that it will resemble a complete job in every respect. For now, its purpose is for size and color only. Although this may not seem important, it actually is. By producing an initial comp with dummy copy, we can test the physical aspects of the message and make sure that it is not a problem. In an initial state of design this is very important. One can concentrate on the important elements of design rather than the content of the copy; the leading, the line length,





relaxing.” The color selection creates a seamless-ness to the space with a mix of textures and materials and a layering of rugs and pillows. From the velvety sofa to the linen chairs, Noojin wanted the furnishings to exude comfort and luxury.

For the sleeping quarters, two full guest bedrooms along with a separate bunkroom were added, along with an ample master suite. The spaces are dressed in a combination of new and old furnishings, and each room was given special attention to detail to ensure visitors would have privacy while still feeling welcome within the community areas. The master bedroom can be closed off from the rest of the home for added tranquility and, rather than distract from the lake view with draperies, automated shades were installed. Nancy Peeples was also drawn to a soft lavender and gray color scheme for the room, and Noojin brought in the hues with pillows and subtle accents.

The patio includes several dining areas and seating arrangements to host casual gatherings. The furniture needed to be substantial and able to withstand weather and day-to-day wear and tear, so heavy teak chairs and a matching sofa were added along with removable cushions. The home’s commitment to indoor/outdoor living can be seen from every corner, and while the palettes are somewhat neutral, just enough color and texture adds depth. “We tell people a lot, ‘If you’re afraid to do too much color, add color into your pillows or ottoman,’” says Noojin. “Those are things that would probably be replaced in five to ten years anyway. We want our clients to have a little fun and not be afraid to think outside the box.”



The copy you are now reading is not the actual text to be typeset. It is placed here in lieu of the type to be used, so that it will resemble a complete job in every respect. For now, its purpose is for size and color only. Although this may not seem important, it actually is. By producing an initial comp with dummy copy, we can test the physical aspects of the message and make sure that it is not a problem. In an initial state of design this is very important. One can concentrate on the important elements of design rather than the content of the copy; the leading, the line length, the depth of the copy and even the running

