

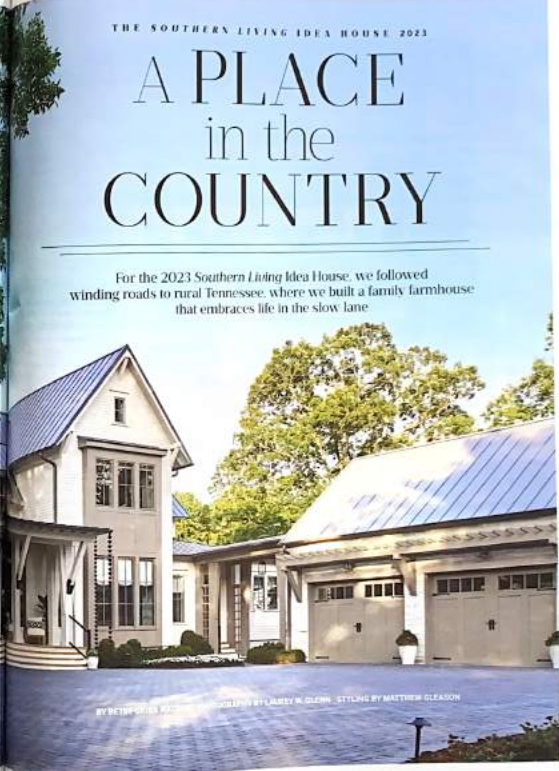


Listen to the Land
Lake + Land Studio selected James Hardie® Hardie
Plank Lap Siding and custom cut limestone from
Alabama Stone, a division of Vetter Stone, for old house
character. "We tried to create layers of history to tell
a story about how this farmhouse could have evolved
on the site," says residential designer Bill Holloway.

THE SOUTHERN LIVING IDEA HOUSE 2023

A PLACE in the COUNTRY

For the 2023 *Southern Living* Idea House, we followed winding roads to rural Tennessee, where we built a family farmhouse that embraces life in the slow lane.



BY KEVIN WILES, PHOTOGRAPHER; DESIGN BY LARRY N. GLENN; STYLING BY MATTHEW GLEASON



Set the Scene

"I hope that you're greeted immediately by natural materials," says Laura, who's from Garner Classic Santa Barbara Teak Lounge chairs for the porch. "The space lets guests know what to anticipate inside," she adds.

"It was very natural for me to be inspired by the landscape when I created the color palette, materials, and general spirit of the house," notes Laura. "We always aim for sustain-ability. In our design phase we've picked out materials that made sense for the property." The footprint of the structure also takes its cues from the 63-acre surrounding land, with a main house that unfolds along the hilltop plus a garden, fully and a multipurpose

room that snugly flank the pool and open air entertaining space back. "We thought it would be a house that looked like it had been there for a while, something that seemed settled and organic," says BH. "We wanted it to appear as if the grounds had developed around the house instead of the other way around," adds Lutz. To bring architecture, the gardens, landscape and nature into the best balance with the land, the team crafted a holistic vision that is naturally rooted in its environment and also intentionally designed for the future.

T

HE TENNESSEE countryside is magical. The land rolls like a quilt, with two elegant valleys that cradle the green hills that stretch toward the sky. In the middle the rolling ridges of nearby Nashville, about 30 miles southeast of the heart of the Laurel Fork area, are a mix of fields and woods with leafy trees, ferns and mossy oaks. A patch perfect choice for the site of our 2023 Idea House, a residential landscape that honors its surroundings and creates open-plan living spaces.

We've walked a mile and a half across the region to bring our readers a glimpse into the lives of Laura and Peter, who live in the house. Laura, a former Laura Harper Studio and interior design consultant, and Peter, a former BH Habitat and Lake Chapel of Lake. Land lives in Nashville, Tennessee, holds a BA and Peter, a BA of the BH University in Nashville, Tennessee, and landscape designer. Both have a background in landscape design, which is also based in Nashville.

LAURA'S SMART PICK

"Vintage pieces have their perks," says the designer, who grounded the living room with a natural leather chair from the 1950s. "It's really made better than a lot of the other stuff out there," she notes. "It's been around for a long time, so we're going to use it."

Balance the Scale

The expansive space comes with high ceilings and vaulted beams, which make it feel even bigger. Laura designed two smaller gathering spaces within it for lounging and dining. "You're going to sit on the sofa, an armchair, a chair, a table, a chair," she says. "We have a lot of chairs, but we don't want the living room with too many and what are the relationships of that kind of things."



Great White
An exterior paint color, including Whitehall (SW 7033) in the dining room, are Sherwin-Williams Emerald Designer Edition.



Prioritize Pieces Made in the U.S.

The dining room is rooted in Earth-conscious choices, says Latta. "We have vintage chairs neighborhood with fabric from Kravet's Recycled Canvas collection (which is made from plastic bottles) and a table handcrafted in Pennsylvania using American oak." She worked with Goodhouse to design the custom table, pulling elements from both Georgian silhouettes and West African furniture.



Carve Out a Focal Point

Rather than diverting the eye from the ceiling, Latta framed the Mielegreen Canyon Appliances 48-inch range as the kitchen's main event. Flanking it with an arched plaster hood that extends the length of the ceiling and the neighboring white oak built-ins. "We designed the cabinets with deep hardware and fluted, and it was taken care by Tennessee maker Henry's Cabinet's. Like a custom freestanding island from Biggs, Latta chose steel light on the finished oak island, where natural-wrapped stools suggest easy entertaining."



LAURA'S SMART PICK

The designer selected imperial Earth marble for the countertops and backsplash. "It sourced out of Vermont, so it's not leaving from overseas," says Latta. "It's surprisingly easy to live with. I think people are afraid of staining it, but marble lasts and lasts."

Design the Breakfast Nook for All Hours

In a space off the kitchen, Laura granted the connection to the outdoors as an ideally room measuring. Later her window color the walls in a softened version of the natural landscape to English pine table from I hearted, a pair of 1980s, bent wood chairs, and hanging seating tucked up the corners. In the evening, this space feels loungey, notes the designer. "There are beautiful views of the ocean through these windows."



Elevate the Everyday

Wood and linen walls, marble and white Carrara marble floors, and a table-top layer. Designer Adams refers to the home's thoughtful design approach as "curating space." "The motivation to take a home like this is to take your best when you're going to work and school, and to the spot that lets you know where you're going to be."

LAURA'S SMART PICK

Decorating items into great combinations allowed you to purchase in bulk and help avoid so much waste," she says of the pantry storage. "You don't have to take on a sustainable lifestyle at the time, but this is a great step to take when it's time."

Use Your Imagination in Utilitarian Places

Located in Sherman, Williams forged Sorel (SR 5012) the casual pantry becomes a great look like a centerpiece. Thanks to its well-considered details, the new styling was made by hand against the wall. Williams and her team worked with the client to create a space that is both functional and beautiful. The all-around use of Williams' Laura's better goods shop.



Sorel Green
The breakfast room's tree, ceiling, and lantern are all painted in Sherman-Williams' Member (SR 5022).



Build in Room To Play

This area was meant to be light-filled for kids, but it could easily transition into a guest room," says Laura about her approach to the new bedroom updates. "To maximize the square footage, the designer focused on built-in pieces. From the beds built around the window to storage for the desks and shelves, the headboard, upholstered in Fildes's Old-Artist and hung from brass rods, extend around the walls. "I wanted little details," says Laura, who covered work in Dufour's Vase table in Customa so the kids could pop up artwork and messages.



Steak the Landing
 "The second story was a good enough space, but I still wanted it to feel rewarding," says Louis, who added a bench with Jayne Thompson Adipras, a vintage find from Louisville Reg Gallery, and artwork by Casey Phipps (see the PopPulse Artist Collective).



Connect the Dots

"There were spots on site that we wanted to celebrate [through the architecture]," says LR. This is one of the treatments during updates in Madison, where Laura highlighted the existing back-and-forth and provided an option for blocking the ceiling with wide window treatments in Thibaut's new-lined Faded in a Forest. She worked with Alabama Furniture maker Rich Kline to change the wooden bar, painted red, which frames leather drapery up top as a nod to the clock on the main floor.



Energize the Home Office

Colling High Architects booked this intermediary space between the great room and the primary bedroom, flooding the oak-paneled nook with natural light.

Five Minutes' Pleasure
Light filtering out from Stone City Shade Company offer some privacy in the primary bath, where a Pergolux Suburban-style tile spoils a shower.



LAURA'S SMART PICK

"We always start with vintage," says the decorator who scored a pair of antique nightstands from Cheyenne for the primary bedroom. "It's so fun to be able to find unique pieces that all speak of just well-crafted and it's more custom-like because that wasn't really what"

Spin a Tranquil Cocoon

"There's a lot of natural light but also an incredible feeling of warmth, like you're being wrapped up in the coziness of the space," says Laura of the primary suite. Laura followed the architect's lead, employing a rich, low-carbon-colored velvet by Philip Jeffries and dressing the bed in contemporary layers from the Southern Living Collection. Exclusively at Target's Regain Andrew's collection by Darro Charbonnet flows overhead.



Make Outdoor Areas Extra Comfy

'Porches should be cozy, especially one like this that's covered and has retractable Phantom Screens that come down,' says Laura, who furnished it with pieces from Summer Classics Havana collection. Chestnut-colored Zuri Premium Decking by Westlake Royal Building Products mirrors natural wood but is hardy enough to withstand any rainwater that manages to sneak past the porch's exaggerated overhangs.





Secret Garden
The elements are no match for this adorable potting shed, where a GE mini-split heating and cooling system maintains a consistent environment for plants year-round.

Gather Around

Louisa relied on Southern Classics' Adland Teak Adland chairs to anchor the pool and the deck. "I hope the seating style that someone else could bring there all together and have it feel intentional, not like a mish-mash of furniture," she says. The grounds surrounding the pool, designed by Birch Barns of Southern Classics Landscaping, Inc., equally delivers thanks to a well-curated mix of greenery and flowers from the Southern Living Plant Collection.



Let's Back Living
 Durable outdoor furniture allows for hanging around the table in wet-looking suits while the pool waits for Postscript®'s Day Pool nearby.



Rethink the Barn

It's coming with the season's agricultural roots. Louisa (and her husband) wanted a home reflecting its rich Southern history. "I think Barns, Barns, and Barns is the best name for it," says Louisa. "I like the idea of a barn, but I don't want it to look like a barn. I want it to look like a barn that's been reimagined. I wanted it to be modern so it could be used for lots of occasions," says the designer, who opted for a 2022 AIAA Best and Strongest (shown below left).





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Local Flare
A culinary garden designed by Sara Gasbarra of Veritas brings fresh ingredients and lively hues to the yard.

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Michael Carr Designs
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