



Naturally Inviting

A nature enthusiast fills his contemporary yet classic Georgia home with enduring, organic layers and the things he loves.

As this businessman and father of two young children embarked on a new construction in Milton, Georgia, he had a good idea of the priorities and passions he wanted to translate into the build—chief among them being a light and airy indoor-outdoor ambience with rustic additions to impart warmth and depth. When it came to executing the design details, he brought on Meghan Basinger, principal designer and owner of Stevie Interiors, to help bring his vision to life cohesively in a classic yet comfortable and family-friendly way.

“The homeowner is a lover of his family and friends, entertaining, and the outdoors, and he wanted the home to feel lived-in, homey, cozy, and masculine,” Meghan says, adding that the homeowner’s personal passions drove a lot of the design decisions. “He is a successful business owner who likes to entertain, so a priority was to create several different areas for guests to congregate comfortably. He is also very family oriented, and he wanted the home to be a warm and welcoming space for his children. There was a focus to bring the outdoors in. I incorporated lots of layers and raw



This approach begins in the sprawling, open-concept living area that flows into the kitchen and dining space as well as an expansive covered porch that functions as an outdoor extension of the living room. “Raw texture can be seen in wood elements used throughout, the brick in the kitchen, and the stone used in the outdoor patio,” Meghan says.

The neutral spaces gain interest from the architectural

elements that feature these materials, from the living room’s shiplap wall bearing natural wood planks with a mantel, floating shelves, and ceiling beams to the kitchen’s exposed whitewashed brick accent wall. Simple but often distinctive furnishings with streamlined, contemporary silhouettes mingle with plush selections that bridge style and comfort.

This aesthetic continues as the living area opens out

The exposed brick wall in the kitchen was an early request from the homeowner, already in the works when Meghan joined the project. “However, it really ties into the elements and design that we brought forth nicely,” she says of the space they created to be classic and functional. “This kitchen provides everything the homeowner needs. He can easily entertain guests by the island, and the banquette is great for breakfast or helping his children with homework after school.”



onto the porch, where a striking stone surround keeps company with plenty of logs ready to feed the wood-burning fireplace. “The outdoor patio is a special touch that adds so much ambience to this home,” Meghan says. “The homeowner really enjoys being in nature, and this rustic patio fulfills that urge to be outside but provides all the comforts of the indoors. The outdoor furniture is so comfortable, making this space the perfect place to cozy up by the fire.”

Outside and in, the color scheme furthers the organic feel through neutrals layered with contrasting crisp whites and moody blacks—something Meghan calls the Stevie Interiors signature color palette. “I love using neutrals, browns, blacks, and greens,” she explains. “This use of neutral colors allowed me to then add masculine touches through the art, raw elements, and décor. The color palette really allowed us to create the moods and feelings that the homeowner requested.”

“This covered patio allows the homeowner to enjoy the space in any type of weather, providing shade from the sun or shelter from rain,” Meghan says. “The patio acts like an extension of the living room with the benefit of fresh air.” The homeowner wanted a wood-burning fireplace, and the stone overlay channels the ambience of a cozy mountain cottage. “As soon as you step on the patio, you feel warm and relaxed,” Meghan says.

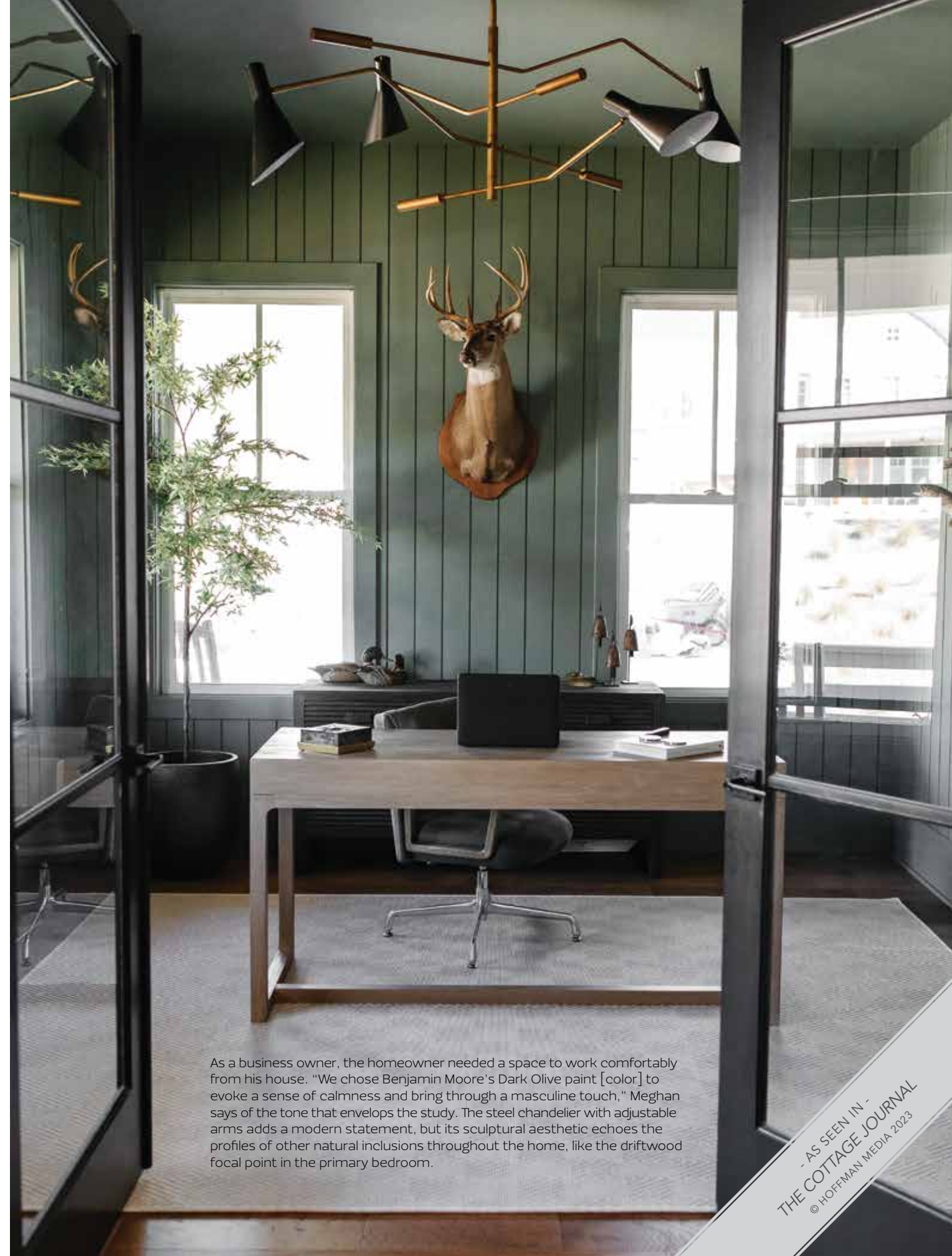


In the primary suite, this palette contributes to a soft, serene environment designed with relaxation in mind. “This space has great natural light, which adds a softness to it, and we chose to use natural materials to add to the cozy atmosphere,” Meghan says of textile inclusions like linen bedding and a wool rug, as well as more tactile pieces like the driftwood branch above the bed.

While remaining on the earthy spectrum, a couple of bolder color moments appear in the powder room’s black faux-crocodile wall covering and the olive green paint color on beaded board walls of the office. Natural touches with a masculine inclination enhance these standout spaces and their neutral counterparts alike with industrial iron, plants rather than flowers, and animal accents that serve as a nod to one of the homeowner’s hobbies.

“He has all his favorite things proudly displayed—from his taxidermy to his guitars,” Meghan says. “The character of the homeowner is all over. This makes the home unique because you immediately get a sense of his personality and passions as soon as you step inside the home.”

TEXT BY ELIZABETH CZAPSKI
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELIZABETH LAUREN GRANGER



As a business owner, the homeowner needed a space to work comfortably from his house. “We chose Benjamin Moore’s Dark Olive paint [color] to evoke a sense of calmness and bring through a masculine touch,” Meghan says of the tone that envelops the study. The steel chandelier with adjustable arms adds a modern statement, but its sculptural aesthetic echoes the profiles of other natural inclusions throughout the home, like the driftwood focal point in the primary bedroom.

- AS SEEN IN -
THE COTTAGE JOURNAL
© HOFFMAN MEDIA 2023