

Beautiful Southern HOMES

GRACIOUS & INVITING

WHY EVERY HOME NEEDS A
TOUCH OF SOUTHERN STYLE

DECORATING
SECRETS

FROM DESIGNERS'
OWN HOMES

COLOR
COMBOS
THAT IMPRESS

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2017



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The living room in artist Sally King Benedict's home invites relaxation with its restful palette and soft, textural layers. A driftwood coffee table reminds her of time spent living near the coast in Charleston, South Carolina.



COMFORTS *of* HOME

Artist Sally King Benedict's work is getting notice for its fresh, lively expression. She takes the same approach in styling her Atlanta home.





The dining room serves up a casual mix of modern and midcentury-modern seating. The shirred, skirted tablecloth softens the spare setting. Old maps are a favorite wall hanging; their colors complement Benedict's artwork.

In the family room, opposite, Benedict relaxes with her husband, George Read, and their son, River. Charcoal-colored walls frame verdant views.

F

or Sally King Benedict, the South has always been home.

Having grown up in the same Atlanta neighborhood in which she currently resides, she's made a point of keeping her personal history alive. "It's been wonderful to have the chance to retain the comforts of my childhood as an adult," Benedict says, "while also getting to experience the city in a totally different light." With her husband, George Read, and 3-year-old son, River, Benedict has turned this residence into a sophisticated space imbued with atmosphere and charm. "I tried to 'paint a picture,' so to speak, of a vibrant family home with love and care," says Benedict, an artist for whom that metaphor possesses particular resonance.

The interiors of Benedict's Buckhead abode were inspired by her travels, memories, and knowledge of art history. She prefers a palette of white walls accented by color and art—contemporary works, family portraits, traditional landscapes, and vintage prints. "Southern style is a balance of charm and graciousness," says Benedict. Now, she is transferring that style to a newly purchased home she and her husband are in the process of renovating.



Q&A

Q: *How has being Southern influenced your style?*

A: I live a casual and laid-back lifestyle, yet I can throw an elegant cocktail party at a moment's notice. I've inherited that talent from generations of Southern forebears.

Q: *On what items do you scrimp?*

A: Wineglasses and vases. They're breakable and replaceable—well, maybe they're not all replaceable, but I'm always happy to hunt for more in case they do break.

Q: *On what items do you splurge?*

A: Table, bath, and bed linens, as well as wallpaper, antique textiles, frames, flowers, and cookware.

Q: *What's your idea of perfect luxury?*

A: A cushy hotel with a fabulous pool and amazing room service.

Q: *What's the most beautiful house you've seen?*

A: The Villa Triboli, an 18th-century villa in Impruneta, in the hills outside Florence, Italy.

Q: *Who most embodies "chic" to you?*

A: Brigitte Bardot.

Q: *Who are the geniuses you've known?*

A: My studio art professors from the College of Charleston: Lynn Riding, Barbara Duval, and Cliff Peacock. Oh, and does [*Barefoot Contessa* host] Ina Garten count? I feel like I know her.

Q: *Who has most influenced your style?*

A: My grandmother Charlyne and my mother, Cissy.

Q: *What's the best advice you've ever received?*

A: Success follows authenticity.

Q: *What's your personal motto?*

A: Do unto others as you'd have others do unto you.

Benedict's studio, below, is not just a work in progress, it's several! Soft, pretty color permeates both her work and her home.

A drop-leaf table, right, serves as both a work surface and makeshift bar. Above it hangs one of Benedict's dreamy landscapes.



tips

- 1.** Collect original art, and don't be afraid to move it around.
- 2.** Incorporate decorative items that tell a story and have personal meaning.
- 3.** Invest in high-quality bedding and cookware. When you sleep and eat well, it shows on every surface.
- 4.** Utilize raw, natural materials to warm up a space.
- 5.** If you ever feel like something's missing, it's usually nature. Buy beautiful flowers or a plant to breathe new life into a room.



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—SALLY KING BENEDICT