



The announcement came in the mail, mixed in with the oversized cards for a new dentist offering free x-rays and a Stein Mart coupon: New lots were available across the causeway of Marsh Harbor. Debbie English pounced, and in no time she and husband Kevin were bumping over the dirt track to check out land facing the Intracoastal Waterway, just south of the Nocatee Parkway bridge. There was a pie sliced lot, with stunning water views and a gnarled oak tree that stole their hearts. They bought it.

the perfect slice

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Rising out of the marsh alongside the Intracoastal Waterway is a brick-edged pool and a porch swing fashioned of wood reclaimed from the Apalachicola River. It wasn't that long ago that sportsmen hunted turkey on this lot now owned by the English family.



a

dock was built, and for four years, they fished, picnicked and watched—learning their slice of the marsh, watching how the light, water and wildlife

played out across the seasons. A dream team was assembled. Cronk Duch Architects would be the architectural planners. Designer Lisa Gielincki had worked with the Englishes when they lived in Plantation Oaks. Builder John Denneen had also been part of the Plantation Oaks team. Ladd Roberts of Landwise Design also came aboard.

The concept was “Fish Camp.” Kevin had grown up fishing on the Florida panhandle and remains an avid fly fisherman today. Debbie grew up in Jacksonville. The English

family are naturally warm, welcoming people who frequently entertain friends and family in a relaxed, casual way.

The term “Fish Camp” meant different things to each member of the team—who all brought their A game to this enticing but challenging lot. For the architects, fish camp meant clusters of buildings, elements of architecture from the Old South like eight-inch thick walls, one-room width, steep roofs with eaves overhanging endless porches and an elevated foundation. Elevated, not only to raise the home above possible encroaching storm water but also so dehumidifiers could be placed under the floorboards to combat mold and damp. Plus Kevin had spent time at a turn-of-the-century Georgia farm while a student and was impressed by the village look of several four-by-four buildings gath-

ered around a main building. There was much discussion on how such a concept might work on a marsh lot.

“Fish Camp” meant warm and rustic to Lisa. Evolved over time, “curated casual” with fun details, some modern touches, each room with its own “wow” element—sometimes small, sometimes front and center.

The main house’s core living space is three spacious areas that flow with massive breathing room to embrace family life. A great room, adjacent to the kitchen, is actually a sizable screened-in porch with fireplace, TV and views upon views. There are not a lot of rooms here, given the size of the property with three garages that you drove up to. And then it dawns on you that those breezeways and porches lead to another building: The Outpost.



the outpost

A glorious hunting lodge, the Outpost is entirely paneled in reclaimed wood from the Apalachicola River. The wood had to be kiln dried before installation. With a bar at one end, a billiard table in the middle and luxurious seating around a large hearth in the end closest to the water, this space is spectacular. Multiple TVs allow for streaming simultaneous sports. A wall of fishing photos of notable catches is ever expanding between a custom gun and reel cupboard (there's an annual quail hunt) and a guest bathroom, where nautical flags have been sewn into a shower curtain. The sage leather club chairs keep the space from being overwhelmingly manly in the traditional sense, as does a light oriental rug in lush, marsh green tones. This is where everyone hangs out, though the kitchen is a mighty and tempting space.

porches, breezeways & portico

Inspired by the homes of Beaufort and Charleston, SC, this home's front entrance is a square brick portico open on all sides. Though it has a single door at the back, that door is mostly propped open. The entrance marks the beginning of the house, not necessarily the front door. As with most Old Florida traditional homes, there are long porches that lead to any number of double French doors into the public rooms, or the pool, or the deck with brick hearth, or the dock or even Kevin's new potting shed.

A Charleston side court features a "bubbling" fountain in a converted cast iron sugar kettle. One can hear it chortle from the screened porch all the way over to the putting green. The breezeway between the Outpost and the main house is cleverly bordered by a slatted screen that matches the shutters on the exterior. This affords privacy while still allowing breezes to waft through from either side of the causeway.



The overarching theme of "fish camp" plays out in natural woods, shiplap, brick inside and out and soft, muted, classic but casual furniture. Opposite: The living room is bordered on three sides by porches, and four pairs of tall French doors. A sizable brick fireplace anchors the room. This page, clockwise from top: The Outpost is the ultimate man cave, fully clad in reclaimed cyprus, softened by olive-green tones; A porch running to the back door where two brick-red Adirondack chairs tie in with the red mullions and frames on the exterior windows; The entrance to the house, from whence you can reach inside or outside spaces directly.



The massive kitchen island countertop is all one slab, honed with a matte finish for the casual, rustic flavor enhanced by linen barrel shades above and burlap wallpaper on the walls.



the main house

Because they waited to build the house, the Englishes were able to do exactly what they wanted. “We were able to start again with all new furniture, now that our puppy and three children are teens,” Debbie says. She wanted every room to be different, despite the open concept floor plan. The living room’s substantial hearth is balanced by the exposed brick wall in the dining room. A dramatic painting of oysters (left) by Bellamy was sourced in Savannah. A wider than usual dining table accommodates two carvers at each end for increased seating, but also room for the food in the middle of the table and still space for place settings and glassware. (It is a Lisa G trademark.) A mottled, aged copper ceiling lends an inviting tavern feel to the room thanks to faux finishing from Decorative Arts. Yet the parrot back chairs, aged in a gray patina, provide a contemporary twist to the Colonial classic.

The classic farmhouse kitchen is updated with a gigantic island and a fun, H-shaped iron lighting fixture custom-made by Stewart Lighting. The linen shades tie into burlap wallpaper which lends provenance to a room with Wolf appliances and a to-die-for, built-in Thermador coffee machine.

There are five bedrooms in the home, each with its own en-suite bathroom. The children's rooms are separated from the master suite by an upstairs den, where homework and computer gaming take place. Kevin's office resembles a comfy cottage library, with bookshelves and a buttery leather armchair. The extraordinary view down the Intracoastal Waterway from his desk is the same from the master bedroom. That room is romantically tucked into the eaves, like an attic, where there is also a deep-set window seat over-

looking the water at the Easternmost point of the house. The master bathroom has an oversized, multi-headed shower system with a back wall of lustrous glass mosaic tile to add a glamorous fizz to an otherwise traditional space with white Carrara marble counter tops and dark cabinetry. The bathroom epitomizes the overall theme of the home—classic Old Florida, updated over time. Every space filled and every corner accounted for; all four fireplaces get used when it's cool enough.

If the name Kevin English is familiar to

you, it is most likely because he is 2017 Volunteer Chairman who oversaw 2,000 volunteers for THE PLAYERS Championship this past May. Debbie, too, is a volunteer par excellence, whose grateful recipients include St. Vincent's, Palmer Catholic, Ponte Vedra High School, Lady Star of the Sea... the list goes on. Golf factors into their life often now as their youngest child JP is a keen golfer—when not fishing, of course.

The Englishes longed for a home on the water. Now they have a slice of heaven. ✨



Left: The master bedroom has dormers and a steeply sloped roof line, because Debbie and Kevin wanted to feel like they were tucked into the attic. Below left: The master bathroom's glass tile accent wall adds a lustrous contemporary touch to the traditional cabinetry and marble counters.



Kevin's office (above) with built-in shelves furthers the fish camp theme, as does the guest room over the garage with wrought iron twin beds and patchwork quilts.