



# Swanky-Swamp GETAWAY

That's what one designer calls it when you work  
a dozen wallpapers and a truckload  
of antiques into a Low Country retreat.

interior designer CHARLOTTE BARNES / architects HISTORICAL CONCEPTS & H. PEARCE SCOTT  
writer EMMA BAZILIAN / photographer JANE BEILES / producer ANNE HARDY



**BAR** Once a closet, this nook got an upgrade, thanks to custom glass shelves and some Lioness & Palms wallcovering by [CommonRoom](#). **Bird painting:** [Mary Maguire](#). **Vintage glassware:** [Gray Antiques](#).

**< FRONT PORCH** What's better than sitting on a porch? Swinging on one! **Bench swing:** [Lowcountry Originals](#) in [Mokum](#) fabric. **Pillows:** [St. Frank](#) (large blue and small yellow) and [Bunny Williams Home](#) (small blue). **Chairs:** [Palecek](#). **Stool and rug:** [World Market](#). **Fan:** [Monte Carlo Fans](#).

Even the owners' car—a 1948 Jeepster—is extra-colorful.



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**“SWANKY SWAMP.” THAT’S HOW CONNECTICUT-BASED CHARLOTTE BARNES** describes her vision for a client’s pattern-filled house in Palmetto Bluff, a high-end community in South Carolina’s Low Country where a parcel of luxury real estate might come with an alligator in the backyard. Or, as Barnes discovered while on a site visit several years ago, a bobcat.

“It was just walking around the perimeter of the house!” laughs the designer, whose brush with local wildlife inspired her to choose a palm leaf and mountain lion–printed wallcovering for a bar nook off of the living room. It’s just one of many wallpapers that appear throughout the four-bedroom home. Originally built as a showhouse by architecture firm Historical Concepts, **“it was beautiful, but didn’t have a ton of detail,”** says Barnes, **“so we decided to wallpaper just about every room—it totally transformed the whole feel!”**

In the few spots where Barnes didn’t (or couldn’t) use wallpaper, she and local architect H. Pearce Scott found other ways to add character. They clad an upstairs bunk room in beadboard from floor to ceiling, and painted the new kitchen a look-at-me color, Farrow & Ball’s Hague Blue. After widening the front porch, shutters were installed on each side to create the feeling of an outdoor room; a pair of swinging benches give the owners an ideal spot for evening cocktails. And in the bathrooms, simple open-shelf vanities became close-to-custom with the addition of an oh-so-Southern ruffled fabric skirt.

When it came to choosing furnishings, every detail had to feel special. Pictures taken by the owners while on safari were turned into a gallery wall, custom linens by Julia B. feature the family’s monogram on a palmetto, and there’s not a single plain white lampshade in sight. “It’s a new house, but it feels like a place where things have been collected and evolved over time,” says Barnes. “It’s magical!” ■

## BUNK ROOM

Full-size daybeds (three of them!) are comfortable for visiting kids *and* grown-ups. **Pendants:** Christopher Spitzmiller for [Circa Lighting](#). **Roman shade fabric:** [Quadrille](#). **Swivel chairs and stool:** custom, in [Christopher Farr Cloth](#). **Daybeds:** custom, in [Rogers & Goffigon](#) and [Soane Britain](#) fabrics. **Desk and chair:** vintage, [Circa Who](#). **Art:** [Mary Maguire](#). **Rug:** [Kaleen](#).

BUILT-IN CLOSETS  
WERE ADDED TO MAKE  
THE SPACE WORK AS A  
GUEST ROOM.





EVERY SINGLE LAMP  
IN THE HOUSE HAS  
A CUSTOM SHADE.

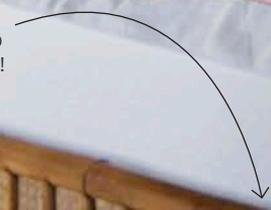
## GREAT ROOM

Placed back-to-back, a banquette and [Charlotte Barnes](#) sofa in [Soane Britain](#) fabric anchor the dining and living spaces. **Pillow fabrics** (from left): [Carolina Irving Textiles](#), [Soane Britain](#), and [Katie Ridder](#), with [Samuel & Sons](#) and [Rogers & Goffigon](#) trims. **Chandelier:** [Circa Lighting](#). **Lamps:** [Bunny Williams Home](#) with a custom [Shades From the Midnight Sun](#) shade.



**GUEST ROOM**  
“I have first dibs if they ever want to get rid of the bed!” Barnes says. **Wallcovering:** Balinese Peacock, Scalamandré. **Lamp:** Bunny Williams Home.

THIS VINTAGE  
BED ONCE  
BELONGED TO  
THE DESIGNER!





**KITCHEN**  
 “Nothing matches, but it all works together,” says Barnes. **Cabinet paint:** Hague Blue, Farrow & Ball. **Stools:** vintage with Osborne & Little cushions. **Pendant:** Atelier Vime.



**MASTER BATH**  
 Cole & Son's Palm Jungle wallcovering is instant vacation mode. **Pendant:** The Antique and Artisan Gallery. **Mirror:** Noir. **Rugs:** Knot & Co.



**GUEST ROOM**  
**Mirror:** Bunny Williams Home. **Vintage chest:** Circa Who in Farrow & Ball's Brinjal. **Rug:** Mark D. Sikes for Merida. **Wallcovering:** Potalla Outline, Quadrille.



### *The Neutral Zone*

Farrow & Ball's Brinjal, a deep aubergine, is "almost a brown, but not quite; it works with any color," she says. Hague Blue is another perennial favorite for its versatility: "It looks great flat or lacquered, it's timeless, and who doesn't love blue?"

### MASTER BEDROOM

Barnes worked with [Julia B.](#) to design custom monogrammed bedding (featuring a palmetto, of course).

**Bed:** [Aesthetic](#) with [Bennison](#)

[Fabrics](#) upholstery. **Night-**

**stands:** [Chelsea Textiles](#).

**Wallcovering:** [Quadrille](#).

**Sconces:** [Vaughan](#). **Bench:** vintage, in [Soane Britain](#) fabric.



### GUEST BATH

A small blue pattern on the vanity skirt plays nice with bolder Bali Isle (both from [Quadrille](#)) on the walls. **Wall mirror:** [Made Goods](#). For more details, see [Resources](#).





A FABRIC SKIRT WAS ADDED TO HIDE UNDER-SINK SHELVES.