

Island Club Oasis

by David Butler

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Taking the Plunge

Is there anything more pleasing to the eye than glistening, crystal clear water? Is there anything more refreshing than a dip in a cool pool on a hot and humid afternoon? It's easy to understand why so many island residents are opting to have pools and/or spas added to their existing property. Having a little piece of paradise in your own back yard is a natural extension of island living, and according to pool dealers and realtors alike, this kind of home improvement is more popular than ever.

A family living in the Island Club set their sights on recreating a family retreat at their primary residence, reflecting what has quickly become a hot new concept nationwide: an at home resort. And, in this case more specifically, a resort within a resort, the ultimate, a true Island Club oasis!

By first selecting an experienced team of professionals, the homeowners began taking the necessary steps to make their dream come true. David Amos, a Saint Simons native, was the architect chosen by the homeowners for the project, and after a process involving several meetings, drafts and modifications, a final plan was produced and agreed upon by all parties. For Amos the project created some interesting challenges, not the least of which was the property set-back issues. According to Amos, "It was a complex project for sure, but the homeowners were super to work with and having those challenges, in the end, actually worked to our advantage."

Dana Mason of Dana Mason Projects was brought on board as the general contractor, but the team was not yet complete. Alicia MacArthur of Island Cottage & Home Fine Kitchen and Bath Design was then selected as lead designer.

Mason and MacArthur were on site for project implementation on behalf of the homeowners. (Mason directing the construction end of things and MacArthur constantly coordinating design details.) If any further information was needed, Amos was readily available for consultation. For Dana, the project, although involved, was facilitated tremendously by Alicia MacArthur's design ideas and vision. "I knew I could count on her for honest answers in a timely fashion," said Mason. Amos, too, felt MacArthur was instrumental in translating the original plans. "I couldn't be more pleased. The materials selected really unite the space beautifully."

For Alicia MacArthur's part, she credits the uniqueness of the architect's approach to the the layout, Dana Mason and his construction crew for their hard work, and the

homeowners, of course, for originally realizing the potential the space held. MacArthur, a native Georgian, was quick to confess, "I really believe in seamless design. Always have. Dana and his crew worked hard to achieve that and it shows."



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The homeowners knew their resort dream would require exquisite plantings and night lighting to highlight the freeform pool properly. To that end, landscape architect Jeffrey Johns of Coastal Greenery and Betsey Worthy of Worthy Pools were both contacted. Johns began work right away on a thorough landscape design.

Each team member in his or her own way made special, personal contributions. Some of those choices included the use of imported Italian tile for the pool, fountain and spa that Island Cottage and & Home was able to secure for the homeowners. Early on, it was clear that an average, run-of-the-mill tile would not enhance the curved pool design or appeal to the homeowners.

One of the last personal appointments to be placed was the incredibly heavy, aged wood beam mantle with corbels over one of the two fireplaces. With this installed, Dana Mason felt the project had come full circle. "That mantle looks like it just belongs there. Beautiful!" And so it does.

Having watched the project from inception to completion, the homeowners can personally attest that the real beauty lies in the wonderful family memories created at their own personal retreat, "For us, that's what this was all about. Spending time with family is so important to us. The pool, outdoor kitchen, shower... everything was arranged with that in mind."

For this lucky family, the dream is now reality and their home has truly become their own private Island Club oasis.

Landscape Architect Jeffrey Johns of Coastal Greenery