

# Barefoot Elegance



One Seabrook Island couple sought the help of several different home-building professionals to turn the home of their dreams into a reality.

Story by Lisa Forbes • Photography by Colin Gray Wolf





It might be an understatement to say that when Kevin and Nancy Swan purchased their lot on Seabrook Island, they knew it had potential. Poised right at the meeting of Captain Sam's Creek, the Kiawah River, and the ocean, the scenery from their first story deck and huge second story windows is among the most spectacular in the Lowcountry. The next step to take advantage of their new panoramas was clear: assemble a team of custom home professionals who could capitalize on every aspect of their prime real estate.

That's when the Swans approached

Chris Rose of Christopher Rose Architects. They sought out Chris Rose and his team after a glowing recommendation from a previous client. "We met with a few architects, but we pretty much knew from the start that Chris was the right fit," explains Kevin. "His style and personality really meshed with our own," adds Nancy. The trio sat down and did an initial sketch of the home. From there, they worked closely with Julie Keyes, an architect at Christopher Rose Architects, to nail down the details of the design. Since Nancy also has a background in interior de-

sign, she and Julie traveled tirelessly over each feature of the home to cultivate an abode that emulates what Chris calls "Barefoot Elegance."

Around the same time, Nancy and Kevin interviewed with several builders to find the right crew to complete their casually sophisticated domicile. When they met with Matt Byrd of Byrd Builders, something he mentioned piqued their interest. "The Swans selected us as their builder just prior to finalizing the design of the home so that we could help with a term we like to use, 'value

(left) Southern Lumber & Millwork manufactured and installed all of the radial woodwork in the Swans home, including the curved work on the main living room ceiling and Robert Palge Cabinetry installed the shelves and cabinets. (above right) Chris, Julie, and the Swans worked together to ensure that each bedroom in the house utilizes the spectacular views that were the original reasons Nancy and Kevin purchased the lot. (bottom right) Due to the shape and size of the lot, Chris and Julie designed a curved roof style to meet building codes as well as aesthetic wishes and placed the garage at an angle from the house with a covered walkway to the house and guest suite above the garage.

engineering,' which means that we go through each aspect of the home and try to find design criteria that we can change without changing the architecture to reduce the cost of the project," describes Matt. Another trait that both Kevin and Nancy agreed was key was for the builder they chose to be directly involved in the process. Since Byrd Builders only works on a

few projects at a time, Matt makes a point to be on every work site every day. "That was a huge deal for us," Kevin says. "We wanted someone who would be as invested in our project as we were, and Matt did just that."

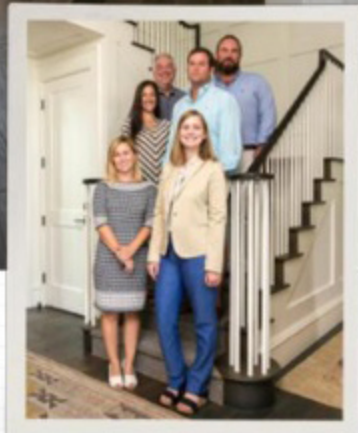
Nancy and Kevin knew that it was vital to install the right materials in their coastal home to help it with-

stand the salty elements. That's where Southern Lumber & Millwork came into the picture. The long-established local company provided all of the custom millwork for the home, as well as the Andersen A-Series impact-rated doors and windows. "When it comes to prepping for a storm, this home is a turnkey package. The homeowners just make sure the doors are locked.





(left) The entryway was designed to open to the views at the back of the home while also providing a beautiful, yet practical stairway to the second-story bedrooms and second living room. (right) The second story living room is one of Kevin and Nancy's favorite spots because the room itself boasts a radius "barrel" ceiling, and the best views of the waterways beyond. (Inset) Home professionals: Jennifer Blackwelder, Julie Keyes, Danielle Yacovella, Matt Byrd, Chris Rose, and Brad Watkins.



Then they can stay or you can evacuate, but the home and everything inside will remain safe and dry during the majority of storms. That's the benefit of choosing hurricane-resistant building products," details Jennifer Blackwelder of Southern Lumber. Because Kevin and Nancy travel frequently, that peace of mind was priceless.

Some of the most architecturally impressive custom millwork aspects that Southern Lumber's custom millwork can be seen in the interior and exterior radius mouldings, the oval portals by the outdoor fireplace, and the radius framing for the barrel roof in the upstairs living room. "Other than the views from that space in the house, the barrel ceiling is one of our favorite features," Nancy describes.

As their favorite spot in the house, it serves not only as a great place to share the wildlife with guests, but also as a place to kick up their bare feet and enjoy the scenery. ❖

*For more information about the architect, call Christopher Rose Architects at (843) 559-7670 or visit [christopherrosearchitects.com](http://christopherrosearchitects.com).*

*For more information about the custom millwork & building materials, call Southern Lumber & Millwork Corp. at (843) 744-6281 or [solumber.com](http://solumber.com).*

*For more information about the builder, call Byrd Builders at (843) 243-0343 or visit [byrdbuildersinc.com](http://byrdbuildersinc.com).*

## VIDEO EXCLUSIVE

**Company:** Christopher Rose Architects  
Southern Lumber & Millwork Corp.  
**Project Type:** New Construction  
**Location:** Seabrook Island

See additional photos and watch a brief interview by scanning the code below or visiting [charlestonhomeanddesign.com](http://charlestonhomeanddesign.com).

