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Advertising Supplement to *The Post and Courier*  
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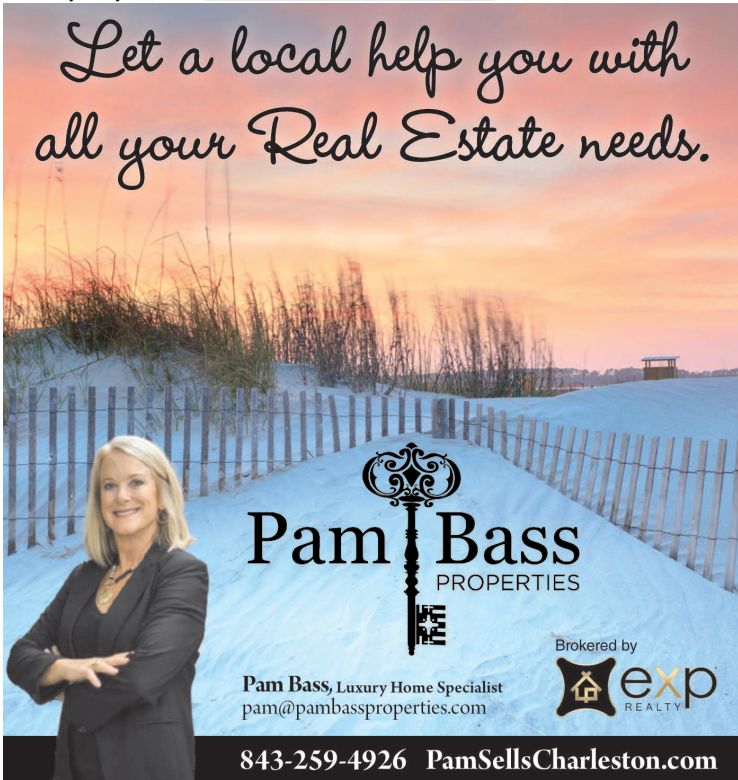
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Classical design and contemporary style are wedded with 140 Queen's pool house and gardens. This property in downtown Charleston is listed for \$9,950,000.

# Lowcountry by Design

From charming to sophisticated, home styles evolve yet remain rooted in place

BY ROBERT SALVO  
Special to *The Post and Courier*

Style is the art of expression: the functional, the personal, what is revealed and what is concealed. From ultra-contemporary enclaves nestled along Kiawah's tidal creeks, to fresh takes on classic

Downtown style, to deep porches and timeless Southern appeal in Summerville, the Lowcountry is a superlative setting for distinctive residential design.

## Southern style in Summerville

Historic Summerville has long offered a style all its own. Its roots as a late 19th-cen-

tury resort left the town with an abundance of beautiful Victorian, Queen Anne and Neoclassical revival homes.

One with a particularly stylish past is 108 Rutherford St., currently on offer through Roni Haskell of Keller Williams. The two-bed, two-bath main home was built in the early 1870s by William Carrington — a

noteworthy jeweler, silversmith and watchmaker who trained in New York before establishing his business in Charleston. The magazine-worthy hallmarks of small-town Southern warmth and character are all in here: the cottage features deep wrap-around porches supported with craftsman columns, heart pine floors, lofty ceilings and hand-



RONI AND CO./KELLER WILLIAMS/PROVIDED

This historic cottage in downtown Summerville features an authentic wrap-around porch.



Haskell

some fireplaces. “It’s full of character,” says Haskell. “These charming homes on large lots are a big reason for many people moving to downtown Summerville.” The grounds are equally inviting, with the ubiquitous pines accompanied by mature azaleas, hydrangeas, gardenias and much more. “Homes like this one, they have historic charm but they’re not grandiose . . . these were summer residences,” she says. Compared to historic offerings like those in neighboring Charleston, “Things are just less visually heavy; these homes are easy to live in and keep and maintain. They’re historic, but they’re also just very comfortable,” Haskell said.

The home also offers ample opportunity for modernization and personalization. “The formality of past generations is just not in force today,” Haskell says. “People want to open up walls, adapt these spaces, add closets, open up the kitchens.” And while Summerville does have protective historic ordinances, this particular home is not on the National Register, “that means a lot more flexibility, especially on the interior,” notes Haskell.

Where might the next owner go in terms of design? Haskell offers thoughts on the path forward: “There might be a little more elbow room inside,” but much of the elevated style will likely be outdoors. “I can

see the next owner putting a pool in, focusing on hardscaping, installing a patio or an outdoor kitchen.”

**A new Charleston classic**

For buyers less interested in undertaking a restoration themselves, Charleston’s luxury market also offers meticulously curated turnkey homes where every detail has already been thoughtfully considered.

A perfect example might be 140 Queen Street. Located in the heart of historic Charleston and immediately impressive with its position set back from the sidewalk,



Turner

the dwelling blends in seamlessly with its 19th century neighbors, so well that it received the prestigious Carolopolis Award when built in the mid-1990s. A down-to-the-studs renovation in 2024 took what was good and made it exceptional, a bold testament to the power of its owners’ masterful stylistic vision.

“It was overgrown, it looked like ‘Grey Gardens,’” said Leslie Turner of Maison Real Estate, of the property before the renovations. Turner is currently listing the home at a price point just south of \$10 million. “They pulled out three whole dumpsters worth of underbrush.”

That was just the beginning; the owners added a new primary suite and a spacious pool house. The additions, the preexisting



NICK CANN PHOTO/PROVIDED

Bold colors set the stage in the entry hall of 140 Queen Street in downtown Charleston. The home is listed by Maison Real Estate for just under \$10 million.

home and the garden spaces all transition seamlessly. “It’s a beautiful living experience,” Turner says. “It feels like a resort.”

An invigorating rhythm alternates between the formal and the playful, with high-end appointments, designer finishes and bold patterns and colors throughout. Strong choices, like the many varied ceiling treatments — some wallpapered, or in a range of shades both dark and light, warm and cool — draw the eye from floor to ceiling.

“Attention to detail is everywhere . . . every detail was so well planned,” notes Turner, cataloging how the trim in one section of the home echoes details in the another, use of classical elements to honor the relatively-new home’s historic setting, the layered lighting and clever design tricks like a custom pop-up television.

Thoroughness, thoughtfulness and attention to the little things serve to anchor the dwelling, giving the whole home a

joyful personality. Rather than polarizing potential buyers, such striking style choices have obvious appeal in the modern market. “People want a punch of color,” Turner says. “Today’s buyers want to come to Charleston with a suitcase . . . they want to start doing it all on day one.”

**Coastal sophistication on Kiawah**

A more restrained palette can be equally compelling, as exemplified by 141 High Dunes Lane, a strikingly-set home in the Ocean Park community on Kiawah Island. Currently on offer through David Wertz of Kiawah Island Real Estate, the shingle style home is set in crisp, luxuriant black-and-white, elevated through the powerful use of high-end materials like the oyster tabby in the foundation, extensive natural stone and oak flooring. The aesthetic ultimately

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## mainstory

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NICK CANN PHOTO/PROVIDED

The interior of 140 Queen Street is designed both sophisticated and expressive, artfully layering antique furnishings with bold contemporary elements.

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directs attention outward, toward the surrounding marsh and maritime landscape.

“On Kiawah, given the extraordinary natural beauty, the luxury is the view,” notes Wertz. “Large windows and folding glass doors provide access to seemingly endless marsh landscapes ... [buyers] want to feel like they are in Kiawah. It cannot be overstated how much access to the outdoors — whether on the patio, porch, piazza or through large windows — influences their design decisions.”

The outdoors here means sweeping sightlines across the marsh and a wildlife preserve adjoining one side of the property. Landscape architecture by Glen Gardner maximizes marsh views while preserving privacy, creating the feeling of a secluded retreat just steps from the Ocean Course. And in an environment so deeply shaped by water, who could resist a swimming pool? It is the amenity that is consistently the most requested extra amongst Kiawah buyers, notes Wertz. The home at 141 High Dunes, in particular, has a stunning, high-style example of a pool that “seems to pour directly into the marsh,” says Wertz. With an integrated spa, extensive use of sumptuous Turkish marble, a nearby grilling area, screened porch and firepit, it’s like a resort within a resort.

“Being connected to the kitchen via a

screened-in porch makes for easy transition from indoor to outdoor enjoyment,” Wertz offers.

The interiors prove equally compelling. With six bedrooms, six baths and over 6,100 square foot of living space, there’s room for everyone to enjoy the vaulted 16-foot ceilings, extensive custom millwork and artisan fixtures, up-to-the-minute smart home features, and much more. Even the typically humble working spaces of the home are given the luxury touch, like the scullery and pastry kitchen’s arresting French blue cabinetry, or the powder room pedestal sink hewn from a single monumental block of marble. “The custom-made fixtures are a consistent focus of admirers of this home,” says Wertz and it is easy to see why.

While this sea island mansion’s interior is mostly a restrained range of black, white and grey, the design is anything but bland. “The interiors are unmistakably modern, with a dark dining area featuring a lacquered bar, contrasted on each side by a bright kitchen and living room,” Wertz said. “This dramatic presentation helps to define the various social zones while still taking advantage of an open floor plan.” It’s simple in presentation, but also the obvious result of keen design. “The preferred look is modern sophistication thoughtfully placed in nature and the surrounding environment,” he continues.

Further, the many high-end materials have an added benefit beyond their beauty: “Buyers are tending to be younger and interested in design elements and building materials that are highly durable and low mainte-



KIAWAH ISLAND REAL ESTATE/PROVIDED

The contemporary design of 141 High Dunes Lane on Kiawah Island continually draws the eye to the beauty of the outdoors with grand windows throughout that let in natural light.



KIAWAH ISLAND REAL ESTATE/PROVIDED

The three-sided infinity pool with integrated spa is the pinnacle of high-style outdoor living at this home on Kiawah Island.

nance,” Wertz said. What could be more stylish than a home you can spend your time enjoying rather than repairing?

Whether expressed through a lovingly-preserved Summerville cottage, a boldly layered Downtown showpiece or a classic-yet-contemporary Kiawah retreat open to the marsh and sky, Lowcountry style continues to evolve while remaining deeply rooted in place. These homes differ dramatically in presentation, yet all reflect the same

intentionality, a connection to the rhythms of Lowcountry life. They are places to linger and to savor, from a well-manicured garden, to a soaking tub surveying miles of marsh grass, to rocking chairs on a deep-set porch that’s welcomed friends and guests for generations.

Here, style isn’t a rigid formula, it’s a conversation between classic and contemporary, architecture and landscape and even the past and present.