

# MAGNOLIA



CELEBRATING WHAT BRINGS US TOGETHER

**THIS SEASON**  
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS  
PAST & PRESENT

**AT HOME**  
DINING ROOMS MADE  
FOR GATHERING

**ON THE TABLE**  
FONDUE, CRANBERRIES  
& SOUTHERN CLASSICS



*There's room for*  
**EVERY**



# ONE

The renovation of a family lodge  
brings together four generations.

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PHOTOGRAPH (THIS SPREAD) BY RYANN FORD

# IN THE WOODS OF EAST TEXAS,

along a lakeshore lined with cypress trees, 30 people (give or take a few) arrive at the family lodge for a Thanksgiving meal and their annual shuffleboard tournament. Four generations gather from across the country to share food, games, and time together. It wasn't always so easy to fit everyone. Before architect Christopher Sanders and designer Killy Scheer renovated the space (a process that started in 2015 and stretched into 2018), the property consisted of a 1940s hunting lodge and a few outbuildings. "We transformed a one-bedroom cabin into a place where a growing extended family can gather under one roof," Sanders said.

To make room for everyone, they added an east-facing porch, built a large addition, added a bedroom suite, reconfigured the interiors, and used corridors lined with built-in seating and storage to connect the various spaces. "We stayed true to the original structure," Sanders said. Outside, he extended the pine shiplap cladding and metal roof across the additions. Inside, the team reused original materials wherever possible, including the living room's cypress-paneled walls and the family's heirloom furniture.



*Living Room* "We were selective about our finishes to ensure they needed minimal maintenance," designer Killy Scheer said. Reclaimed cypress paneling, vintage rugs, and a custom sofa covered in dense, plush mohair withstand wear.

*Hallway* Every square inch of space is used—including the hallways, where architect Christopher Sanders designed custom shelves, hidden storage, and window seating to give guests a quiet place to retreat.



*Kitchen* Old and new come together in the kitchen, where an heirloom painting hangs on a pegboard wall among the family's cast-iron cookware. Quartzite counters, custom cabinets, and an industrial-style light fixture complement the heritage pieces.





*Bar* Surfaces and seats at a variety of heights allow guests to form small groups. Woven chairs surround a burl wood bridge table while charming stools invite conversation at the bar.

Scheer described the interiors as “a mix of old and new.” In the kitchen, an antique Spanish Colonial worktable mingles with custom cabinets stained a rich black. High-gloss white ceilings add contrast and reflect light from the picture window. Above the counters, a pegboard—inspired by the original kitchen—displays cast ironware and a painting passed down through the generations.

Another family inheritance: the salmon pink dining set in the adjoining breakfast room. Seating eight to 10, the table has a lazy Susan in the center for help-yourself meals. To create the breakfast room, Sanders reconfigured and repurposed a previously underused anteroom. “Before, it was one of those spaces where clutter collected,” he said, “and now it’s a beautiful spot to sit with views of the lake.”

The views carry into the all-new game room, where windows line a wall and the family’s beloved shuffleboard table determined the proportions of the space. Below the windows, a long banquette provides seating, storage, and plenty of room for people to split into small groups. “We painted the millwork a deep blue-green,” Scheer said, “and it carries through the transitional spaces and into different zones.”

In the bar, the color is the perfect backdrop for a favorite painting by Texas artist Donna Howell-Sickles. Carved wood barstools from Rose Tarlow complement the cypress slab that tops the bar, reclaimed from a 300-year-old tree uprooted in a local flood.

That reverence for materials extends into the living room, where new European oak floors feel like they’ve always been there. “The house is closed up for periods of time,” Scheer said, “so all the finishes had to be washable, wipeable, or easy to dust.” Durable furnishings—like a vintage rug and a dense mohair-upholstered sofa that can withstand long-term use—make the home feel clean and comfortable. Both Sanders and Scheer said their favorite part of the project is hearing stories from family members who’ve gathered at the lodge. “This place gets used and loved,” Sanders said, “from generation to generation.”

*Game Room* This room revolves around the shuffleboard table, where the family hosts an annual Thanksgiving tournament. A custom banquette provides plenty of seating while vintage rugs, a small table, and cozy beanbag chairs define the kids’ zone.





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*gets used and loved*  
*from* **GENERATION**  
*to* **GENERATION.”**

*—Architect Christopher Sanders*