



# Artful ABODE

A curated collection of artwork and textiles gives this contemporary lakeside home a layered design full of history and heart.

Situated on Alabama's Lake Martin, Chris and John Hutcheson's 1998 home serves as a welcoming waterfront retreat filled with cherished mementos the couple has collected over the years. "We love simple lines, layered textiles, and all things that have a story to tell," says Chris, owner of interior design studio Hutche and Co. based in Atlanta, Georgia.

Since purchasing the home in 2017, the Hutchesons split their time between Atlanta and Lake Martin, bringing along their two water-loving English cocker spaniels, Sam and Gus. To accommodate lots of guests, wet bathing suits, and their furry companions, the couple set out to create a space that was stylish yet comfortable.

With entertaining in mind, Chris and John opted for an open floor plan between the living, dining, and kitchen spaces to ensure they could enjoy everyone's company when hosting large gatherings. Neutral accents, layered textures, and crisp white walls serve to seamlessly blend the spaces together. Reclaimed from the old Sears catalog-printing building in Chicago, the heart pine wood floors ground the airy design while also lending a touch of history.

(Opposite) To enhance the casual feel of the dining space and incorporate texture, designer Chris Hutcheson selected a natural rope material for the expansive light fixture.







When it comes to design, Chris likes to incorporate interesting finds that make a space unique. "The [tree stump] stools are fun and unexpected," says Chris. "We don't like anything too serious or playing by the 'design rules.'"

The home's most extensive renovation took place in the kitchen, where Chris sought to incorporate as much storage space as possible. To keep the visual lines clean, the appliances are hidden with cabinet fronts that match the surrounding floor-to-ceiling cabinetry painted Lime White by Farrow & Ball. Chris chose a matte finish for the quartz countertops, shelving, and waterfall island for its durability and to give the kitchen an aged look. Brass hardware, leather embellishments, and wood accents mingle with white tones for a bright kitchen that emanates warmth.

Versatility is the first thing Chris looks for in

furniture, since she loves to move pieces around, and the medley of various seating options creates a fun mix in the dining area. A trio of tree stump stools line one end of the lacquered wood table, adding an unexpected element to the space.

Leading to the second floor, the staircase serves as a striking focal point. Emphasizing the contrast of the black handrail and spindles with the light walls, Chris incorporated a black-and-white quilt, made by a New York artisan co-op, on the wall. "We believe art is what brings life and personality to a space," says Chris. "It is the perfect piece—bold but balanced."





In the main bedroom, deep olive greens, blacks, and taupe tones intermingle for a space where Chris and John can escape and rest. “It is like a cocoon that hugs us at the day’s end,” Chris says.

Avid collectors, the couple displays beloved paintings and antique pieces throughout their home, inspiring distinct designs in the guest bedrooms. An antique rug serves as a starting point for a blue-and-white guest room, while Indian paintings pair with patterned textiles in another.

The Hutchesons’ lake house blends a casual aesthetic with one-of-a-kind pieces for a contemporary design full of history. “The house tells the story of us, and it all came together perfectly for the way we live,” Chris says. ☐

TEXT BY HOLLY SENG  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALI HARPER

Chris brings adventure to the guest bath with artisan-made Turkish towels and a coconut bath salt scoop she discovered in Bali. “We want our guests to feel like they have escaped from reality a bit while staying at the lake,” says Chris.



The master bedroom boasts a vaulted ceiling covered with the same reclaimed heart pine wood as in the downstairs space.

