

DESIGN ELEGANCE STYLE

AT HOME

IN ARKANSAS

Waterfront Living



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Fun in the Sun

GARDENING, FASHION & TRAVEL TIPS

Lakeside Luxe

On **Lake Ouachita**, elegant furnishings, enticing colors and ample spaces for entertaining combine to create a crowd-pleasing lakeside home

Text: Diane Carroll Photography: Nancy Nolan
Styling: Mandy Keener





Martha Murphy relaxes on one of the oversized armchairs on the screened porch at the waterfront retreat she and her husband, Venz, recently renovated. Designer Tobi Fairley used synthetic wicker and durable fabrics to weatherproof the space.



"ENTERTAINING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A source of pleasure for us," says Martha Murphy, who along with her husband, Vase, and their three daughters has hosted numerous parties at their home in Ft. Smith and at a condo they owned on Lake Hamilton. The relaxed, summer get-togethers on the lake were their potential favorite, though, prompting Martha and Vase to look for a larger place where extended family and friends could gather.

Their search led them to a water-view lot on Lake Oahe, and they had begun drawing up house plans with designer Tobi Fairley, who had worked with them on their Ft. Smith residence, when an opportunity arose. A house next to their lot went on the market, and it boasted an excellent view of the lake as well as ample square footage. Even though it needed some remodeling, there was no doubt that renovating an existing house would be faster than building new," says Fairley. The thought that they wouldn't miss a summer of lakeside entertaining was enough to persuade the Murphys, and they opted for the change in plans.

In the living room (left) and dining area, neutral colors keep the emphasis on the views, which are framed by linen draperies with chocolate-colored edge banding.





Renovation work began in the winter months, geared around creating accommodating spaces for family and friends and updating the building materials in the early 1990s home. Laminare flooring was replaced with hardwood, custom cabinets were added alongside the living room fireplace and a wet bar was built into an unused portion of the entry hall. The kitchen in particular needed to be overhauled to handle large-scale entertaining, and Fairley had it refurbished with new cabinetry for increased storage, high-efficiency appliances and easily cleaned tile and quartz surfaces. "We went for quality and classic styles so that the elements would be long-lasting," she says. The existing bathrooms were similarly updated with a more streamlined floor plan and durable scuffing, and a new one was added alongside the guest bedroom.

At the onset of the project, Fairley and the Murphys had agreed that the emphasis of the home should be on the views. When it came to furnishing the renovated spaces, Fairley opted for a neutral color palette on the home's main level to complement the natural setting and the views out the windows. From the brown and cream colors used in the living and dining areas, she mixed in bold strokes of green on the adjacent screened porch. "That seemed like a natural connection to the Osage National Forest that surrounds the house," says Fairley.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The home's open floor plan makes for easy indoor-outdoor entertaining. The kitchen was reworked to include ceiling-height cabinetry, updated appliances, durable Walker Zanger tile and Zodiaq quartz counters. A wet bar was built into the hallway for easy access.



ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: The streamlined master bath features dual-height vanities. A soothing color palette and crisp bedding from Matouk make the master bedroom a restful retreat. Bold stripes and lively patterns brighten the lower level living area and guest room.



On the lower level, a space designed as a retreat for the Murphy's daughters and their friends and whose the views weren't as prominent, Fairley incorporated brighter colors to enliven the area. "The downstairs was darker, and we certainly didn't want it to seem gloomy," she says. "So we used reds and greens, plus a variety of patterns, to make it feel fresh and fun."

Throughout the home, Fairley ensured that the furnishings would accommodate large gatherings. She incorporated a living room on each level, so that college-age kids could have a separate relaxing space from the adults. On the screened porch, she worked in two dining areas as well as multiple chairs, a sofa and even ottomans for extra seating. In the dining room, she included a table that can easily be extended to fit 10 or more guests. "We also used multi-purpose pieces whenever we could," says Fairley. "Like ottomans with removable tray tops and benches that double as seating or tables."

The home's transformation was wrapped up in time for the Murphys to enjoy it that summer, and they celebrated its completion by throwing a 4th of July celebration. "We've been enjoying here ever since, and it's a fall house on summer weekends," says Martha. "For our family and friends, it's become a destination, and we love that."

DESIGN RESOURCES

Design: **Tobi Fairley**, Tobi Fairley Interior Design, Little Rock
 Contractor: **Robert Wirtzsmith**, Wirtzsmith Construction, Mt. Ida
 Appliances: **Metro Builders Supply**, North Little Rock
 Pictures: **Falk Plumbing Supply**, Hot Springs
 Flooring: **ProSource**, North Little Rock
 Tile: **Elder Distributing**, North Little Rock
 Window treatments: **Mourjoy's Custom Draperies**, Mabelvale



THE DETAILS

1. In builder Richard Harp's Little Rock home, recessed paneled columns capped with decorative crown moulding from Quality Millwork in Northwest Arkansas add architectural interest to a hallway. Interiors by Tobl Fairley Interior Design.

2. Crown moulding is supported by hand-carved corbels, all made of poplar, from Greenfield Millworks in North Little Rock.

3. Interior designer Andrea Corneil, ASID, of iSpace in Fayetteville designed this kitchen to incorporate White River Hardwood's cove, dentil, dimensional and smooth panel moulding, all made of poplar. Acanthus corbels made of maple flank the range.

4. Crown moulding of poplar combines with a polystyrene decorative moulding which is designed for flexibility in fitting a variety of settings. Available through Kaufman Lumber in Little Rock.

5. These kitchen cabinets include a classic crown moulding of knotty alder with an egg-and-dart pattern insert. Through Lumber One locations in Stuttgart and Mayflower.

