- AS SEEN IN -
SOUTHERN HOME
©HOFFMAN MEDIA 2026

Casual Country House

A BUCOLIC EUROPEAN-STYLE HOMESTEAD SURROUNDED BY FIELDS OF FLOWERS EMBRACES SOLITUDE MINUTES FROM A BUSY NORTH CAROLINA CITY.

TEXT **DANA W. TODD** | PHOTOGRAPHY **ABIGAIL JACKSON** | STYLING **GTHRD**

Tankersley intentionally broke the rambling home into three structures—the main body, a garage, and a guesthouse—so it wouldn't read as a huge mass under one roof. "It creates an unassuming approach at the end of the long, romantic driveway to the home," he says.

- AS SEEN IN -
SOUTHERN HOME
©HOFFMAN MEDIA 2026

When most people think of Cary, North Carolina, they picture the Research Triangle, a technology hub surrounded by suburban neighborhoods and urban conveniences. What they likely don't imagine is a secluded 17-acre woodland retreat tucked into the heart of the city, with a winding drive and a bridge spanning a babbling creek that leads to a European country house surrounded by wildflower and vegetable gardens.

It was natural that a couple chose architect Greg Tankersley of McAlpine to design their family home in the middle of the bustling city on the acreage they had purchased years earlier. He had designed many homes for other family members over the years. "Whenever I design a house, I'm basically painting the owners' portraits," says Tankersley. "I pictured this couple in a rambling farmhouse."

To capture the family's unpretentious personalities, he designed a home modeled after an old English country estate. "Historically,

Opposite and this page: The central placement of a double-sided fireplace creates disparate spaces in the open living room. A clean-lined Gregory sectional is the neutral base for midnight velvet and red ottomans and pillows, blue Baker chairs, and purple upholstered club chairs on the library side of the living room. "The interiors fit the fun and colorful family," says Moncada-Mainz.

The formal dining room sits between the living room and kitchen, with a modern Huppé table and chairs with vibrant, playful Pixel Velvet Gummy Bear fabric by S. Harris. Opposite, above: Transparent glass hanging cabinetry enables the kitchen to read as part of the open-concept main floor while showcasing dishware and goblets. Opposite, below: The designer worked color into the breakfast nook in the otherwise neutral kitchen.

- AS SEEN IN -
SOUTHERN HOME
©HOFFMAN MEDIA 2026

an English home's entrance is asymmetrical and unassuming, and the back of the residence is formal," explains Tankersley. "It's an appropriate aesthetic for a lovely, down-to-earth and approachable couple." He designed an off-center entrance, with a formal manicured lawn behind the home, giving way to fields of wildflowers the homeowner designed and planted in conjunction with landscape architect Liggett Design Group. A series of formal stone archways on the back separates covered outdoor living spaces from the pool deck.

Inside, the home lives casually, with an open living room, dining room, and kitchen flowing into a single space, punctuated by furniture placement and architectural details. The kitchen, for instance, is visually separated from the living area by suspended glass-and-steel cabinetry. Distinct "rooms" are designated in the living room, separated by a two-sided fireplace that sits in the middle of the space.

The homeowners requested sunny and bright interiors, which the architect provided through a one-room-deep design. "I also pushed the porch to the periphery instead of putting it across the back of the house, which shades the rooms like a visor on a baseball cap," Tankersley says.

- AS SEEN IN -
SOUTHERN HOME
©HOFFMAN MEDIA 2026

Right: Several contemporary furniture pieces were sourced from European luxury companies, including the Spanish Hurtado bed in the primary suite. The designer added luxury bed linens custom-sewn from fabrics sourced from GP & J Baker, Schumacher, and S. Harris. Below and opposite: The primary bathroom's elevated finishes include Bianco Carrara honed marble flooring and tile walls and a European-style Cheviot freestanding tub.

Designer Sandra Moncada-Mainz of Couture Haus laid down an elegant foundation of taupe, gray, white, and warm wood tones in the interiors and dotted them with the homeowners' chosen palette of pinks and blues to energize the spaces. "The couple has an extensive art collection," says the designer. "I asked them to choose their favorite pieces, which set the color scheme."

Moncada-Mainz sprinkled in bold hues through fabrics and accessories to balance the homeowners' request for calm spaces with a touch of whimsy. "They have a beautiful sense of style," she says about the homeowners, who came to her with some furniture they wanted to repurpose along with the modern pieces the designer sourced. "They already had two Baker side chairs that were not very exciting and had been forgotten in their former home," the designer explains. "I lacquered and reupholstered them in blue velvet, and they came alive in a corner of the living room."

The designer used performance fabrics and wool rugs throughout the home, honoring the family's wishes for a functional,

livable home that has both children and cats running throughout the rooms. The walkout terrace level features a recreation room and a playroom with a rock-climbing wall. “I didn’t want the home to look or feel like a museum,” she says.

“Like many American homes, this home is not a purebred but a lovable mutt,” analogizes the architect. “We were not classicists, but romantics in designing it. Everyone loves this home. It doesn’t have a time stamp on it. It knows it lives in the North Carolina woods.”

- AS SEEN IN -
SOUTHERN HOME
©HOFFMAN MEDIA 2026

The symmetrical, formal back side of the home, with carefully placed stone archways, gives way to wildly colorful fields of wildflowers and grasses inspired by the owner’s childhood home. Opposite, above: The archways provide covered outdoor dining space for the family, steps from the pool and other alfresco lounging spaces. Opposite, below: Whimsy and color define the recreation room’s Roche Bobois Mah Jong sofa, covered in a variety of luxury Kenzo fabrics. “The sofa was part of the homeowner’s initial vision,” says Moncada-Mainz.