

Story by **Kay Gordon** | Photographs by **Tracy Glantz**

Wendell and Nancy Clamp's dream house on Lake Murray is a home they've been planning since 1990, when they bought their lakefront lot.

At the time, they were living in Quail Valley near Irmo with their two daughters, Carol and Beth. They planned that one day they would retire and move to the lake they love.

The Clamps paid meticulous attention to detail and design in the manicured lawn overlooking the 199 feet of shoreline, and in every inch of the 6,800-square-foot home. Every room offers a view of the lake. First, they researched and took photographs of homes under construction in the Atlanta area when they lived in Georgia.

"We drove around for years and went into many gorgeous homes," Nancy Clamp says.

Wendell Clamp, originally from Salley, and Nancy, from Sandy Springs, Ga., are both retired educators. He was principal of Irmo Elementary School, then an assistant superintendent and later superintendent of Lexington-Richland School District Five until 1993. The Clamps then moved to Covington, Ga., where he was superintendent of Newton County Schools for more than 13 years.

Nancy taught public school music for 26 years – 19 years at Seven Oaks Elementary School and seven in Georgia. The couple will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary in December.

They decided to move back to the Columbia area because of family and friends. Their house is a home away from home for their daughters, their husbands and four grandchildren, who love to "camp" in the spacious basement.

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Back to the Lake

Retirees from Georgia return for lake vistas, space for their antiques and lots of room for the grandkids



Bath time.

The master bath has a soothing palette, accented with a sparkling chandelier.

In the

round. The corner kitchen is designed for the modern cook, but has traditional touches such as the pendants.



About the house

Wendell and Nancy Clamp's home was one of three featured on the spring annual Lake Murray Association's Tour of Homes.

The exterior of the home features real hurricane shutters.

The front columns, blended with old style brick and white mortar, give an Old Charleston or Savannah look.

The ceiling in the foyer is 22 feet high. Other ceilings are 10 feet high, except for the 11-foot high coffered ceiling in the great room.

Architectural plans for the home were drawn by Mark Kane of Atlanta, with constant adjustments from the Clamps.

Dennis Frick Builders was the contractor.

The interior was designed by the Clamps and their daughter, Carol Hill, with assistance from Linda Perrow of Pulliam-Morris Interiors.

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That area includes a small kitchen, game room with pool table, large screen TV area, bedroom suite, two bathrooms, boating/fishing supplies, storage area and workroom. Also, their only granddaughter has a special area where she can read, play games and get away from the boys when she wants.

The Clamps say the lower level is especially "grandchildren friendly" and perfectly suited for large group activities and parties. The grandchildren "are the last ones to go to bed at night and the first up in the morning to go fishing, swimming or canoeing," Wendell Clamp says.

On the main floor, a "Gone With the Wind" free-standing curved staircase greets visitors in the entrance foyer. To the right of the foyer is the parlor, highlighted by their first antique purchase — a turn-of-the-century grand piano — as well as oil portraits of Nancy's and Wendell's parents.

The home contains a number of 19th century English and French antiques and early 20th century heirlooms, blended with current traditional furnishings. Every piece tells a story. Many of the antique porcelain and china pieces were gifts from dear friends who were neighbors in Covington.

The English furnishings include a secretary/bookcase, cottage sideboard, linen press and numerous chests. A number of original English oil paintings and oils painted by an aunt hang alongside family portraits. These are highlighted by an oil on tent canvas of Wendell, his brother and mother, painted by an Italian nun in 1944 from a small photograph carried by Wendell's father, who was an officer in World War II.

The formal dining area features several pieces of mid-19th century English Sheffield silver.

The Clamps enjoy the home's open floor plan with interior columns and spacious kitchen/eating/keeping room area. The cherry kitchen cabinets have granite countertops. Wendell's grandfather's butcher block is in the center work area, and his office is adjacent to the kitchen.

The master bedroom, also on the main floor, has a private balcony overlooking the lake.

