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Azaleas, roses, gardenias, and crape myrtles add pops of color against the creamy-white tones of the residence.

EUROPEAN FLAIR IN MONTGOMERY

MATHEWS CONSTRUCTION, BUILDER
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Located in eastern Montgomery, Alabama, this lovely home began as the brainchild of a homebuilder and his wife, who is a designer, for their personal residence. With family roots in both England and the Provence region of southern France, the couple wanted the home to reflect their love of European design with a refined but relaxed design style. Additionally, the property overlooks the sixteenth green of a golf course, as well as a picturesque lake, so it was important to incorporate the beautiful views. The exterior of the 5,000+-square-foot residence embodies an English Tudor flair with an emphasis on high-pitched, gabled roofs, cedar timbers and brackets, and tall groupings of windows. Large, double front doors are made of solid teak accented with beautiful copper gas lanterns on either side.



Sylvan in feel, the property overlooks a golf course and natural lake.

Handmade leaded glass windows are featured in the transom above the doorway. Above the transom are more windows that also feature custom-made leaded glass. Upon entering, an open foyer, inspired by the architectural style of Aix-en-Provence in southern France, provides a beautifully striking and warm welcome. Hardwood flooring is custom-milled, white oak stained with a process to fully enhance its rich, dark brown Jacobean tone. From here, an elliptical



Awash in sunlight through floor-to-ceiling and transom windows, the living room combines a mix of modern and vintage pieces.

archway leads into the living room where floor-to-ceiling windows showcase the outdoor views while allowing sunlight to fill the entire space. The living room, kitchen, and breakfast room are all open to each other to create a perfect space for entertaining. The ceiling soars to 16 feet, and hanging in the center of it is a forged-iron chandelier. This exquisite chandelier reaches five feet in height with three tiers and a circular fleur-de-lis pattern. Below, the seating area is anchored by a creamy-white upholstered sofa and armchair with clean lines and tapered legs. There also are two flared-back swivel chairs. Custom pillows add pattern, texture, and color to the solid, upholstered pieces in the room. Two round, mahogany end tables with carved,

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A dark leather tufted bench with nail head trim serves as a coffee table.

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The kitchen's dark-stained hardwoods, and bronze plumbing and cabinet hardware, provide a pleasing contrast to the neutral tones.

curved legs are accented with a selection of the homeowners' collectibles, including vintage crystal. Serving as a coffee table is a dark-brown, tufted leather bench with nail head detailing. Across from the seating area, the fireplace is enhanced by a cream colored, arched-top mirror that hangs above the mantel. Flanking the fireplace are symmetrical bookcases and cabinets where vintage books, hand-painted plates, and collectibles are displayed. This combination of modern and vintage pieces evokes a timeless elegance in this relaxing space. An elliptical archway between the living room and kitchen provides visual separation while repeating an architectural element seen between the foyer and living room. The kitchen features custom, handmade cabinetry in a light neutral tone to maintain the overall airiness. Granite countertops embody creamy hues mixed with dark brown and grays, as well as sections of glass-like transparency, providing rich

visual movement. The backsplash is in an antiqued, creamy-white porcelain tile bordered with a relief pattern and accented with focal point tiles above the range. The Jacobean stained hardwoods, along with the café-brown-colored granite composite sink, and bronze plumbing and cabinet hardware provide a pleasing contrast to the neutral tones. Four beautifully carved, scroll-patterned corbels accent the breakfast bar where three espresso colored swivel bar chairs with leather upholstery provide comfortable seating. The nearby breakfast room provides additional seating. For a more formal setting, there is the dining room. Located off the foyer, the dining room carries the same darker neutral color tone as the foyer, delivering a refined elegance to the space and serving as the perfect backdrop to the room's rich accent colors of ivory, black, and gold with highlights of greens, blues, and rose tones. Cherished family heirlooms are showcased here, so family stories



Heirlooms in the elegant dining room include the mahogany dining table with a double gate leg, and the Empire-style chairs.



enhance the richness of the many interesting and beautiful pieces. Vintage Empire-style chairs surround the antique mahogany dining table with its double-gate leg. A flame mahogany sideboard is flanked by two vintage glass lamps and accented with a stunning European oil painting. Another eye-catching piece is the antique Louis XVI walnut buffet with intricate carvings and marble top. Above it hangs a large, French mirror with beautiful open woodcarvings. Incorporating the color palette of the room is a wool rug with an elegant woven arabesque design with lush flower heads on a cream background with ebony, papyrus, and ruby colored details. Although not shown, a nearby parlor embraces the concept of mixing vintage and contemporary pieces to arrive at a very sophisticated but warm and inviting

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A French mirror hangs above the antique Louis XVI walnut buffet.



The massive, vintage, four-poster bed in the master bedroom is flanked by two antique, marble-top French nightstands.



space. One of five bedrooms, the master bedroom takes full advantage of the outdoor views with windows across an entire wall. The windows are accented with an ivory-colored drapery woven with a golden geometric pattern. A massive, vintage, carved-mahogany, four-poster bed features custom bedding in a light tone to contrast the dark wood of the bed and the flooring. The bed is flanked on either side by an antique, marble-top, French nightstand on top of which is a barley-twist bronze lamp. Sitting at the foot of the bed is a handsome leather bench with nail-head trim. A pair of carved accent chairs features patterned upholstery which repeats the cream, blues, greens, and rose-colored accents of the home. Embracing the color scheme is the

The master bath continues the soothing color scheme.

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sky-blue wool rug with a large-scale, leaf-and-vine motif accented in cream and bronze tones. The en-suite master bathroom continues the neutral tones with pops of blue-green accents. Custom-made cabinetry is in a gray-green color with beautifully-veined silver travertine countertops adding pattern and movement. The homeowners wanted plenty of natural light, so there is a transom window above the vanity space. Vintage and antique elements in the room include a barley-twist bench, Old World-inspired plumbing fixtures and vanity lights, and a seaside-themed oil painting from the 19th century. Clearly, this home features a sophistication that embraces a warm and personal sense of the past while also accommodating the needs of today. European ancestors on both sides of the family would be amazed and, undoubtedly, genuinely honored.



A comfortably appointed covered porch overlooks the golf course and lake.



The home was designed so all primary living spaces face the rear with expansive windows to maximize the golf course and water views.