

As Seen In

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HOMES & DESIGN

# *Provence* MEETS *Paris*

In this home, builder Matt Brown of Raines Brothers, Inc. and architect Jay Caughman of Caughman + Caughman Architects worked to seamlessly marry rustic French provincial with classic Parisian style. This home's unique interior design was brought to life by designer Laura Hertle and captures the owners' love of authentic French architecture and design. All the while, breathtaking lake views dance in the background, as nearly every room in the house has a window toward the water.

BY KATIE FAULKNER  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHILIP SLOWIAK

Builder: Matt Brown, Raines Brothers, Inc.

Architect: Jay Caughman,  
Caughman + Caughman Architects

Interior designer: Laura Hertle,  
Laura Hertle Designs





Upon entering, you're greeted with the traditionally elevated aesthetic of a Parisian residence. Overhead, a coffered ceiling crowns warm brown and beige velvet furniture. And the perfectly-proportioned coffee table is a 19th-century French antique. But it is the custom-cast fireplace that draws focus in this room. After researching antique French fireplaces, Hertle and the homeowner designed a one-of-a-kind fireplace. The elegant architectural elements of this room are set against a gentle dove white tint, easing the transition into the more rustic style of connecting rooms.

“All we do are custom homes and everything in this home is custom. We were so happy to work with these clients and incorporate really unique finds wherever we could.”

- Matt Brown,  
Raines Brothers, Inc.



## DECADENT DINING

Inspired by the vision of the homeowners and Hertle, the pièce de résistance of this home is, in many ways, the dining room. Caughman, Brown, and Hertle all speak about the views captured in this stately, stone alcove. “With the windows we really tried to replicate antique French windows with a dark iron muntin bar in the frame,” Caughman says. The walls are a painstakingly chosen combination of the perfect stone and mortar colors. After landing on limestone, Hertle and the homeowners added a personal touch by having the stone mason blend in some peach-colored stones the owners had collected from Jerusalem (**left**). Overhead, a Swarovski crystal chandelier adds a contemporary twist and touch of sparkle. **See more from Raines Brothers, Inc. at [rainesbrothersinc.com](http://rainesbrothersinc.com).**



In choosing a light earth tone, the kitchen continues the rustic French provincial style that is so perfectly accomplished by course wooden beams and the focal point of the room, a masterfully crafted custom-cast limestone hood. The top portion of the hood is colored by ground copper flakes for a metallic finish. Soapstone countertops and white bronze Tabarka tile round out the room's established, pastoral style. "The homeowner knew she wanted a light-colored kitchen, but we wanted to stay away from stark white," Hertle explains.

The adjacent keeping room is a carefully integrated feature. Caughman explains, "That is a space which they originally hadn't asked for. But I really wanted them to have somewhere cozier to spend their time. With 12-foot ceilings in the great room, I wanted them to be able to sit and talk where they didn't have to feel like they were having a conversation in a racket ball court!" The room's provincial feel is carried through with a pecky cypress mantle, custom-built by Raines Brothers, Inc. "We replicated that from a picture the homeowner brought us," Brown says.

**(Below)** Nearby, the wet bar is stunning, with sparkling, backlit onyx countertops, contemporary hardware, and glass-front, cremone-bolted cabinets.



*The room's provincial feel is carried through with a pecky cypress mantle, custom-built by Raines Brothers, Inc.*





Appliances, plumbing, and lighting fixtures: Ferguson  
Custom woodwork: Raines Brothers, Inc.



## ARTFUL ARCHITECTURE

Surrounded by windows, the four-seasons room offers a space to entertain or relax. "It needed to be livable for the owners while still being able to entertain 60 people. And this room is great for that," Caughman says. With the main wall consisting of accordion-style windowed doors, the entire room can open up to be an airy porch. **See more from Caughman + Caughman Architects at [caughmanarchitects.com](http://caughmanarchitects.com).**





*Also on the main level, this posh powder room makes a bold statement with wall-to-wall Calacatta marble. Custom-cut baseboards and crown moulding create an uninterrupted milky marble façade. This brilliant backdrop allows a fully restored vintage chandelier and easel-propped artwork to shine.*

*“This room was so thoughtfully planned, from the unique ceiling to the fact that it steps down to feel lower, like an actual cellar would.”*

- Jay Caughman, Caughman + Caughman Architects



A work of art in its own right, the wine cellar features an arched ceiling crafted from a vintage wooden barrel repurposed from an old cotton gin. “It works perfectly with the arched design of that room,” Brown explains. Caughman continues, “This room was so thoughtfully planned, from the unique ceiling to the fact that it steps down to feel lower, like an actual cellar would.”



The peaceful color scheme from the master bedroom carries over into the bathroom's ceiling to cast a spa-like blue hue over the white and marble palette. The fully encased glass shower reinforces the spa experience with a heated marble bench and steam vents in the honeycomb-patterned marble floor. A Victoria and Albert soaker tub is positioned between the windows, with a view of the gently crashing waves on the lakeshore. The soothing color scheme of this palatial room is punched up with tiny hints of silver and gold luster in the starburst-patterned curtains, spherical glass light pendant, mixed metal hardware, and subtly shimmering veins in the honed white marble.

*The soothing color scheme of this palatial room is punched up with tiny hints of silver and gold luster in the starburst-patterned curtains, spherical glass light pendant, mixed metal hardware, and subtly shimmering veins in the honed white marble.*





A tranquil escape, the master suite is elegantly accented by Parisian wall moulding trimmed in dual gold tones and a pale Tiffany blue shade. French doors lead to a curved terrace facing the lake. Sumptuous white bedding and richly burlled, antique furniture maintain an opulent atmosphere. "The detail of this room took a lot of time," Hertle says. Besides the accuracy of planning the wall moulding, the window's cornice is a custom-carved piece of wood, fitted, mounted, and painted by Brown's team to match the gold wall details. "I think that piece turned out beautifully and works well in that room," Brown says.

**Windows and doors: Window & Door Gallery**



*Other Suppliers:* Beams: James & Company  
 Kitchen hood and fireplace: Architectural Elements  
 Shower and wine room glass enclosures: Independent Glass Co.  
 Stone: Chattanooga Stone Center  
 Wooden armoire (in kitchen): Newsom Woodworks

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— *SMARTLY* —  
*SCANDINAVIAN*

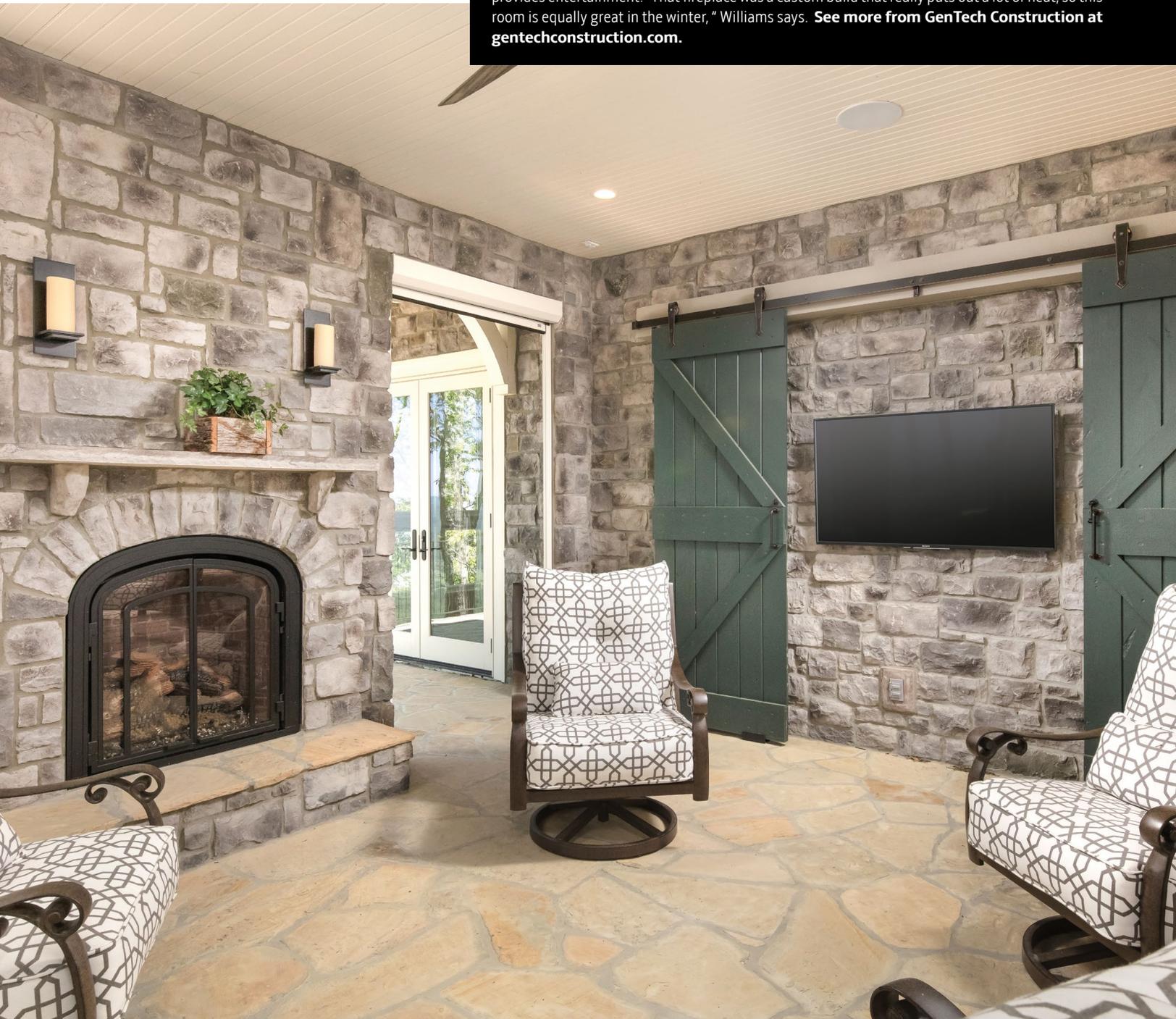
*MIRRORING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF ITS SURROUNDINGS, THIS SOPHISTICATED STONE COTTAGE ON THE MOUNTAIN TAKES FULL ADVANTAGE OF AWE-INSPIRING VALLEY VIEWS. CHUCK WILLIAMS OF GENTECH CONSTRUCTION WORKED WITH JIMMY ADAMS OF NELL'S HOME, GIFTS, & INTERIOR DESIGN TO CREATE THE MINIMAL, WELCOMING AESTHETIC OF THE HOMEOWNERS' SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE. TOGETHER WITH ARCHITECT ANN AIKEN, THEY CRAFTED A MASTERPIECE WORTHY OF A PLACE IN THE PAGES OF A STORYBOOK.*

BY KATIE FAULKNER  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHILIP SLOWIAK

**Builder:** Chuck Williams, GenTech Construction  
**Interior designer:** Jimmy Adams, Nell's Home, Gifts, & Interior Design  
**Architect:** Ann Aiken, AMA Architects

## OPULENT OUTDOORS

One of the grandest features of this home is the luxurious outdoor terrace, adjacent to the kitchen. Wall-to-wall flagstone and a crisply painted white plank ceiling elevate this exterior extension of the house. The comfortable atmosphere of this entertaining area makes the transition from inside to out barely noticeable. Three open doorways offer scenes of the valley and fresh air, but can easily be closed to create a weather-proof space. A fireplace adds warmth and charm, making the room usable year-round, and a flat screen television, discreetly hidden behind sliding barn doors, provides entertainment. "That fireplace was a custom build that really puts out a lot of heat, so this room is equally great in the winter," Williams says. **See more from GenTech Construction at [gentechconstruction.com](http://gentechconstruction.com).**



Outdoor furniture: The Patio Shop

Entering the kitchen your eyes are treated to valley vistas via a wall of nearly floor-to-ceiling windows. A minimal, polished aesthetic is warmed with homey Scandinavian touches like vintage wooden spoons and traditional rose-male-painted objects. A farmhouse sink and vintage-inspired bridge faucet also lend charm. "From the richly stained beams to wainscoting to a classic style hood and the pass through to the family room, this kitchen is so inviting," says Jackie Howard of Scarlett's Cabinetry. "Keeping the cabinetry light with a soft gray hue and using coffee brown granite countertops allows this kitchen to successfully mix an established, lived-in feeling with the convenient, modern appliances."

The window-framed landscape pulls eyes toward the welcoming dining area. Adams says, "I incorporated the owners' affinity for red in subtle ways, like the Oriental rug in the dining area."

**Appliances and fixtures:** Ferguson

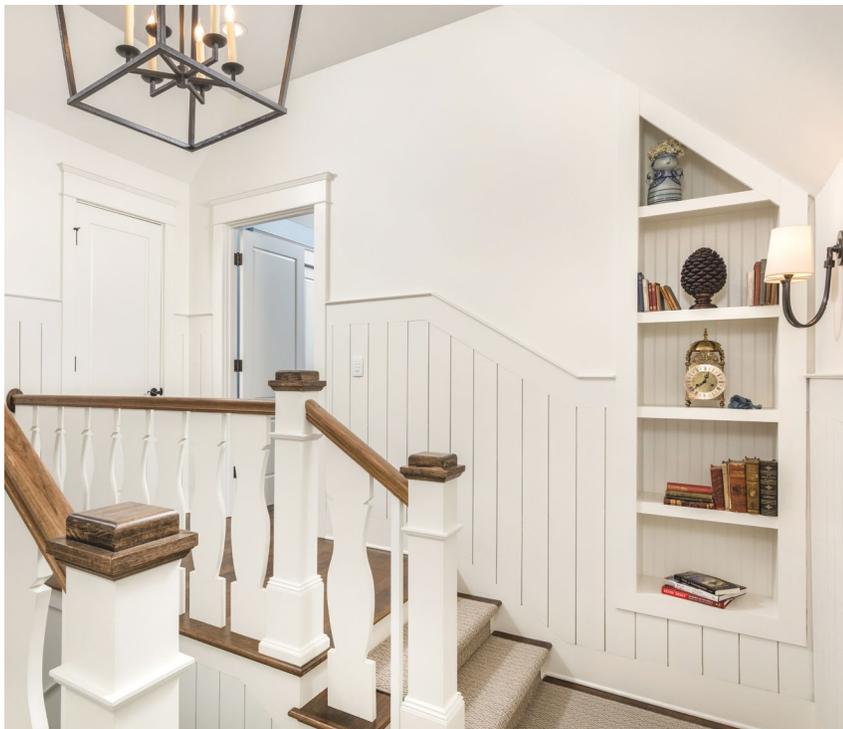
**Cabinetry:** Scarlett's Cabinetry

**Cabinetry design:** Jackie Howard, Scarlett's Cabinetry

**Tile and countertops:** The Tile Store

**Windows:** Window & Door Gallery





The Scandinavian styling is most evident in this cozy living room. "The owners really wanted to keep everything in light and welcoming colors, inspired by nature," Adams explains. "So, we used a lot of light greens and blues and even stone grays throughout the home." Light-colored furniture and walls cultivate an ethereal atmosphere.

From this intimate family area, views of the valley can be enjoyed through extra-large picture windows. And European elements, like custom-carved balusters in the staircase featuring a heart-shaped cutout, add a charming hominess. The whimsical focal point of the room is the off-kilter fireplace, adorned with a rustic cherry wood mantle. "The owner gave our masons a picture of what she wanted and they crafted this custom fireplace from synthetic river stone with an asymmetrical, cottage-like design," says Williams.

**Interior doors and trim:**  
East Chattanooga Lumber & Supply Co.

*“THE OWNER GAVE OUR MASONS A PICTURE OF WHAT SHE WANTED AND THEY CRAFTED THIS CUSTOM FIREPLACE FROM SYNTHETIC RIVER STONE WITH AN ASYMMETRICAL, COTTAGE-LIKE DESIGN.”*

- Chuck Williams, GenTech Construction







The master suite also calls on nature's hues and mirrors the colors of the home's wooded surroundings. In this peaceful oasis, wide moulding speaks to the craftsmanship of this home, and broad door casings make the most of every strategically placed window. "The tone of this room is soft and doesn't detract from the view," says Adams. The master suite is equipped with a control panel the owners can use to put the whole house "to sleep" at night, or where they can schedule all the lighting.

In the master bathroom, custom cabinetry and a patterned marble floor emphasize a luxurious appearance. Complete with a walk-in shower and lavish soaker tub, the beautiful sky blue exudes a soothing quality.

*Other Suppliers:*

Carpet: Choo Choo Carpets & Floor Coverings | Concrete: Case Concrete  
 Excavation: McClure Development Company | Fireplaces: Southern Hearth & Patio, Inc.  
 Framing carpenter: Ooltewah Construction | Hardwood flooring: Kenworthy Hardwood Flooring  
 Metal railings: Beaty Fabricating & Ornamental Iron | Mirrors: Independent Glass Co.  
 Painting: Hazelwood Painting and Decorating | Smart home system: Smart Systems Chattanooga  
 Stonework: Stonehouse Solutions | Tile installation: B&B Tile | Trim carpentry: Sofield Construction

Just off the master bedroom, an airy seating nook with a vaulted ceiling and wall of picture windows provides an other-worldly atmosphere. The private, simplistically serene seating area is anchored by a cozy, cream knotted rug and plush gray velvet chairs. A soft sage color is the perfect complement to the mountainous views. "That sitting room is a magical, little space," Adams says. "I wanted to keep it comfortable and simple."

