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Architect Beau Clowney placed the living spaces on the second floor—turning the ground floor into a pool house. Below: The screened porch's fireplace is covered in whole oyster shells.



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efore moving in nearly a year ago, Joan Berger had some time to think about what she wanted—and didn't want—in her forever house. She and her husband, Dennis, had been vacationing on Isle of Palms, South Carolina, for 17 years before they bought their broad, acre-and-a-half lot overlooking the Atlantic. The town's ultra-casual ethos is what attracted the Chicago transplants to IOP (as the locals call it), a slim barrier island outside of Charleston. "It's more laid-back than anywhere else we'd been," says Joan. "I've never met anyone who isn't friendly here, and the rentals don't bother me—it's nice to see people on vacation, because sometimes you get caught up in your life and it's a reminder that you haven't been out to the beach in a while."

From the sand, there's no mistaking the shingle-and-mahogany home tucked into a row of pastel cottages. "It's modern, to a degree," says architect Beau Clowney, but he emphasizes that even the modern elements are grounded in classical forms. For example, he borrowed from Greek Revival principles seen throughout the South when designing the home's exterior columns, which tower from the first elevated floor to the top without interruption, despite myriad stacked and recessed porches on each level. Clowney also incorporated a variety of hipped roof forms, a key ingredient of Lowcountry architecture.



One of the Bergers' many screened porches contains a dining nook with a Clubcu table and JANUS et Cie chairs.

