

RIGHT | The home's symmetrical facade and third-level pediment-style dormer bridges its Georgian and Greek Revival roots. It's located in a development of equally traditional houses in Charleston, South Carolina.

Comfortably clad in Colonial elements yet offering modern surprises inside, this home combines neighborly design with independent spirit.

Fitting

In





T

o owners Lana and Branco Damjanovic, their home is the ideal marriage of styles. It's a personal, creative blend inspired by the couple's contemporary European roots while upholding local tradition and design standards.

Mixing vintage charms and modern conveniences, the Damjanovics' home was built in I'On Village, a Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) only five minutes from downtown Charleston. In TNDs, also called New Urbanism, classically designed homes are knit into a homogenous community with paths, sidewalks, and greenbelts that encourage walking.

Like other TNDs, I'On Village has strict design rules, which the couple found helped them to define their home. "First, the subdivision had exterior guidelines," Lana says. "Then, the small lot gave us another set of boundaries, including required porches on the back."

Reflecting what the home's architect, Joe Credle, sees as the flexibility and vitality of the TND concept, the Damjanovics' home blends early Georgian, Greek Revival, and Charleston architectural influences with modern living

RIGHT | Open to the entry, the dining room is the room visitors notice first, so it has been dressed for the occasion. Paneled walls, an elaborate tray ceiling, and richly grained hardwood flooring are details that reflect its traditional architecture.

Piecing Together a Style



Broadly handsome

The dining room's high-energy chocolate-and-white scheme plays to the homeowners' modern design sensibilities.



Elegantly timeless

With its clean, square edges and minimal detailing, the paneling creates a contemporary, almost Craftsman, atmosphere.







LEFT | In the great-room's living area, crown molding and French doors set the old Charleston scene.
THIS PHOTO | On the fireplace wall, the wide hearth and flanking built-ins are a bold, modern touch. Even the fireplace materials are a Colonial/contemporary blend of time-honored brick painted white.



New/Old Urban Living

Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND), also known as New Urbanism (see "A Stylish Sense of Place" on page 40), offers undeniable charm. House styles are cohesive, yet allow enough variation to remain interesting.

- **What's your vision?** If you've always wanted a house set back from the street on a large parcel of land, a TND may not be right for you. TNDs consist of modest size lots and homes close to the street for a friendly environment. Take time to visit the neighborhood, tour model homes, walk the streets, and assess the TND's charm and character.
- **What's your motivation?** Most TNDs have been built on the notion of eco-friendly sustainability and designing communities that limit the need for car travel. Are you the kind of person who dreams about walking or riding a bike to work? Would you rather jog than drive across the village to get a quart of milk? If so, a TND may be just what you are looking for.
- **How neighborly are you?** Would neighbors strolling a few feet from your front door or on a path behind your home make you want to step out and say "hi" or rush to close the shades? Narrow streets and neighbors living close together are the norm in TNDs.





spaces. Gaze at the front entry, and a signature Charleston element—the elevated main level—sets the scene. The home is raised not because of flood dangers or water table issues, but to give an accurate historical stance.

Drawn as they were to the development's historical feel and neighborly disposition, the Damjanovics' priorities inside the home were to maintain privacy and respect their European roots. The couple is from Sarajevo, which is now the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They fled from civil war there in the early 1990s and came to the United States about 10 years ago. Today, they are an American success story, having established a respected construction company.

The foyer greets visitors with a handsome staircase and classic center hall open to a spacious dining room on one side and a study on the other. But that's where tradition ends. A peek into the dining room lets visitors know this is not an 18th-century reenactment. Clean-lined and decorated in warm brown tones, the dining room has a trio of chandeliers—a traditional note—but they are contemporary in style and hung at varying heights.

"It's a high-energy room... very stimulating," Lana says.

The airy kitchen, breakfast area, and family room span the home's entire 42-foot width. Interior

designidea

Give up a little storage in return for visual impact by leaving space between the top of the cabinets and the ceiling. What you lose in utility, you'll gain in relaxed and stylish ambience.

RIGHT | The kitchen does its own classical-contemporary dance. The Colonial-inspired cabinetry and moldings nod to one era, while the stainless-steel appliances, sculptural gooseneck faucet, and modern white pendant lights reflect another.

ABOVE | Designer Philippe Starck's transparent Louis Ghost chairs reinterpret the late 1700s with appealing grace.







OPPOSITE | Pale, neutral walls relax the master suite, which is anchored by a grand four-poster and warmed with rich textures and a handful of orange accents. French doors open to the upper-level porch, which overlooks a wooded marsh.

About This Home

SQUARE FEET: 3,985
BEDROOMS: 4
BATHROOMS: 3 full, 1 half

FOOTPRINT: 42x32 feet
LOCATION: Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

- 1 Formality up front.** The entry features a traditional center hall flanked by a formal dining room and a study.
- 2 Today is great.** Colonial gives way to contemporary in the 42-foot-wide great-room, which includes the kitchen, breakfast area, and family living space.
- 3 Two is better.** Porches on two levels at the rear of the home are features required within this development. The porches serve the great-room on the first level and the upper-level master bedroom and hallway.

designer Regina Garcia helped bring in shapes, colors, and surfaces that are a fresh combination of traditional and contemporary. The results are distinctive and fun. A chair upholstered in zebra-skin print fabric looks at home next to a fireplace lined with crisp white paneling.

"I like a bit of pop in my rooms," Lana says.

On the upper level, the serene master suite also bridges the centuries. Dark wood floors and a skillfully crafted tester bed in contemporary black play off a shaggy modern rug, white linens, and a free-form contemporary chandelier.

As a whole, the home typifies what more buyers want today, architect Credle says.

"There's the contrast of what people expect and want on the outside, and the way they really want to live inside," he says. "So many clients don't want walls. It has to be open. The challenge was trying to have a feeling on the outside of old Charleston yet giving way to a contemporary home inside."

"Before we came to the U.S.," Lana says, "we would have built a contemporary house inside and out. Now, I don't think so. I've grown to love the paneling, the woodwork, and all the old details that are so warm and interesting." *

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"This is a high-density place to live," Lana Damjanovic says. "Neighbors are close, so you can walk the streets and meet a lot of people."

