RUSTIC RETREAT. The home’s entryway is like a calling card to the rest of the residence. Maggie made sure it was welcoming and warm with outdoor spool chairs and plenty of pretty lanterns.

OPPOSITE: SYMMETRY, SERENITY. An artful study in symmetry is found in the main living room, where several features mirror one another. “Symmetry creates balance,” Maggie says. “There’s something about the symmetry of this room that makes you feel immediately at ease.”
An empty nester enlists the help of a top designer to give his home sophisticated yet charming cottage style that works when he's living solo, or hosting his family.
“This home is a wonderful place to entertain family and friends. It was essential to the homeowner that he have plenty of space to fit everyone, be it larger holiday gatherings or simple family dinners.”
SOOTHING SHADES. Various shades of oatmeal and natural tones combine in the main living room, along with a few pops of green and coral. "Our goal was to create a comfortable yet elegant space, and the color scheme helps facilitate that," Maggie says.
**[Top Left] Outdoor Ease.** Jack's home has amazing outdoor entertaining areas. This particular porch is next to the kitchen, near the breezeway from the garage. "Working with Jack’s sofas, we added a few indoor and outdoor pillows from Schumacher, a custom succulent arrangement and lamps from inside," Maggie says. Guests and family alike can enjoy the fireplace in comfort and style, which Maggie says is "a wonderful feature to have during the fall."

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**A Rustic Craftsman Cottage with Modern Touches.** That's what Jack Hodge, the father of three grown daughters, sought for his 1989 Gainesville, Georgia, home. The empty nester enlisted Maggie Griffin, founder and lead designer of Maggie Griffin Design, along with contractor Jon Canada of Canada Builders, to give the residence a cozy vibe that follows you from room to room. The priority aligned perfectly with Maggie's design philosophy, which is to "create homes that nurture you from the inside out." By the time she was finished, the home was stylishly refreshed and completely livable. The resulting spaces are expansive for when Jack's daughters are home, but intimate and cozy for when he has the place to himself. "I wanted to create a home where Jack can feel inspired," Maggie says. Through beautiful textiles, exquisite color schemes and thoughtful furniture arrangements, the home embodies a sophisticated spirit that's apparent from the moment you cross the threshold and stays with you as you venture out into the world.
PROPORTIONAL DESIGN

The main living room beckons right by the entry of the home, inviting you to come and enjoy its stunning proportions and views. Exposed pine beams and large windows pay homage to the natural setting surrounding the home—it’s situated by a small pond and livestock fields with dense woods just behind the residence. A few years ago, Tami Ramsay of Cloth & Kind oversaw a large overhaul of the home, including implementing great fabrics, fun patterns and pretty wall coverings. With those aspects already in place, Maggie sought to refresh the spaces and work within the existing design choices. “In here, we brought in new drapes, a few new pillows, lamps and rearranged the art,” she says. “Since this is the main living room, our goal was to achieve the perfect balance between coziness for when it’s just Jack and spaciousness for when the whole family is home.” Scale was an important consideration for the grand ceilings. Maggie used deep sofas and elegant shades of coral and green to complement the stars of the room: the reclaimed pine beams and stained ceiling.

TOP LEFT | OUTDOOR LIVING. Maggie is extremely intentional when it comes to designing for outdoors. “We always use fabrics that are made for outdoor use. When designing for climate, it’s important to source materials that can withstand the elements. Bonus if they patina over time and get more attractive as they age,” she says. In addition, she says that outdoor pieces can be quite expensive but that you do get what you pay for. “I recommend investing in quality items that can last for a long time,” she says. “Plus, you won’t feel the urge to replace them each year.”
INGREDIENTS FOR COZINESS. An intricacy of details gives the breakfast nook a welcoming aesthetic. New Schumacher drapes, along with a layered rug, bring a supple texture to the area. Maggie says, “The layered textiles bring a lot to the breakfast nook.”
A QUAIN'T COTTAGE NOOK

The breakfast nook is part of the eat-in kitchen and is open to the main living room. It provides a casual spot for morning coffee and informal meals. Maggie added draperies to the windows, a custom iron and wood etagere and a layered rug. "The room is a great blend of modern and rustic with interesting patterns, layered textiles and a happy shade of green on the cabinets," she says. The nook is integrated with the other nearby spaces. A coffered ceiling mimics the pine
beams and tongue-and-groove in the living room and the table is situated near the kitchen island, which offers more seating. "This home is a wonderful place to entertain family and friends," Maggie says. "It was essential to the homeowner that he have plenty of space to fit everyone, be it larger holiday gatherings or simple family dinners."

**MUSIC TO YOUR EARS.** Acoustics were a concern in the dining room, so Maggie added grasscloth to the walls. She adds, "The grasscloth brings softness and absorbs a bit of sound."
KEEPING IT CLASSIC. Shaker style cabinets in an earthy shade of green blue (Maggie says it's very close to Benjamin Moore's Jack Pine paint color) give warmth to the kitchen, which was originally done by Tami Ramsay of Cloth & Kind. Simple, complementary accessories were all the kitchen needed to be updated. These include a runner, which is luxurious beneath the feet while standing at the sink. "The runner is a happy mix of brighter tones," Maggie says. "It can hide a spill or two easily in its detailed pattern."
COMPARE & CONTRAST. In the dining room, Maggie added large blue and white lamps, modern host chairs, draperies and pillows on a bench. She wanted something unexpected in the room and found the right statement-making element: black and white host chairs. "They stand out, which is exactly what I wanted," she says.
Easy Cottage Charm

Maggie shares how to easily achieve elegant cottage style in your home.

1. COLOR AND PATTERN. Cottage style is about comfort and color. "Don't be afraid to use pattern and color liberally! Wallpaper your foyer, use grasscloth in your dining room, and paint your den a happy hue," Maggie says.

2. LAYER WITH RUGS. Choose rugs you can layer to convey a collected vibe. Maggie says, "We love using inexpensive natural fiber sisals or jutes with antique rugs layered on top."

3. DECORATE WITH IMPERFECTION. Patinated items look like they have been collected over time. 'Mix in a few pieces that have nicks or scratches,' Maggie says. 'They will add just the right amount of character.'

4. GO UPHOLSTERED. Upholstery in a fun checked or floral pattern can instantly give that favorite cottage, granny-chic feel.

5. LIGHT IT UP. Add plenty of lamps in a room versus overhead lighting. 'That's the secret to creating the warm cottage feel,' Maggie says.
“Our goal was to achieve the perfect balance between coziness for when it's just Jack and spaciousness for when the whole family is home.”

TOP| DOUBLE DUTY. With three grown daughters, Jack was looking for a guest room that could fit a few adults. “We decided on two queen beds with custom headboards and new bedding,” Maggie says. The style is cottage chic with a rustic touch. “Since it’s a guest room, you want visitors to feel comfortable in the space. We created a cozy aesthetic throughout the space with a sage green grasscloth,” she adds.

OPPOSITE| NEW RUSTIC. The master bathroom blends contemporary touches with a cottage look. Shiplap envelopes the walls while a built-in vanity area features a Schumacher café curtain and a chic stool from Wayfair.

MASTERY OF THE BATH
A newly-renovated master bathroom is full of natural light, which imparts an energizing feeling while Jack gets ready for the day. The back wall features a vanity area and is the perfect place to put on shoes in the morning while also allowing extra light into the bathroom. “We chose a hardy, porcelain tile that looks like textured wood for both its durability and matching aesthetic to the home,” Maggie says. “In addition, we went with shiplap to add a little dimension and warmth to the space.” Form and function are found in a dark wood cabinet that sits opposite the dual sinks. “The cabinet is both a beautiful piece of furniture and offers convenient storage with easy-to-open drawers, divided spaces and plenty of room for shirts, sweaters and seasonal clothing,” she says. In order to add color and a treat for bare feet, a rug from Scott’s Antique Market runs down the center of the space. “I was immediately drawn to the rug’s bold colors, rustic feel and dramatic black border,” Maggie says. A painting by Fran Hazel for Caroline Nix Gallery hangs above the cabinet and artfully adds another dash of color to the master bathroom. With just the right touches, the home now tells a modern rustic cottage story and is beautifully suited for both the happy bustle of family and the restive peace of empty nesting.