

Southern Home

THE SOUTH'S BEST DESIGN AND STYLE IDEAS

BEFORE & AFTER

Boost Your Curb Appeal

Get all the inspiration you need to tackle that fixer-upper or give your home the face-lift it deserves. See how simple changes on three houses took them from blah to beautiful

Turn the page to see how Ashley Gilbreath transformed her sagging home into a stunning Southern beauty.



1

Restore a Southern Craftsman

Montgomery, Alabama-based designer Ashley Gilbreath works through years of neglect to restore her 1910 Craftsman-style home that's just doors down from where Zelda Fitzgerald once lived



BEFORE

INTENT ON PRESERVING HER home's architectural details and character, Ashley Gilbreath wanted to salvage and restore. "I reused what I could and replicated anything new to be as close to the original as possible," she says. "If I'd wanted a brand-new house, I would have bought one." With extensive structural rebuilding, she brought back the beauty. Here's how she made the transformation.



EDITOR'S TIP

Choose a creamy white from top to bottom to help unify old and new materials.

A SALVAGED AND REPAINTED

While many of the porches' floorboards and railings had rotted and needed to be replaced, the front door (including sidelights) and all of the front windows and siding needed only cosmetic maintenance. The ebony door was retained, windows reglazed, and siding repainted with Sherwin-Williams' Palais

White. "We had to pressure wash and scrape a bunch!" says Ashley.

B RESTORED THE SECOND LEVEL

"A contractor had convinced a previous owner to put solar panels on the outside," says Ashley. After the unattractive panels were removed, the exterior wall just needed to be patched and painted.

Using old photos as inspiration, Ashley also had skilled carpenters copy the home's original second-story porch.

C TAMED THE YARD Landscape designer James Farmer helped Ashley complement her home with a low-key front garden of iconic Southern plants and casual pea-gravel paths.



WINDOWS

400 Series Tilt-Wash Double Hung Insert with Colonial Grille, from \$300; andersenwindows.com



LANTERN

Williamsburg Flush Mount, from \$375; bevolo.com

GET THE LOOK

Take home Ashley's classic Southern style with these timeless picks.



HOUSE NUMBERS

2" Stamped Brass, \$5.79 each; houseofantiquehardware.com



FRONT DOOR

D102 in Red Oak (shown in Jacobean, 2750, Wood Finish; minwax.com), \$1,139; vintagedoors.com



MAILBOX

Huntington with hooks, \$215; mahvelousmailboxes.com
Reader deal! 20% off entire site with code YELLOWDUCK

BEFORE



2 Re-create Colonial Williamsburg Style

Birmingham architect Bill Ingram gives his 1940s cottage some character-building TLC with materials chosen for their authentic looks and low upkeep



EDITOR'S TIP

Look to history when choosing exterior hues. Bill borrowed his gray-and-green combo from Williamsburg.

► **FLIMSY MATERIALS DILUTED** the charm of this 1,400-square-foot cottage, but architect Bill Ingram couldn't overlook its pleasing proportions. He was also drawn to its ideal location—tucked away from traffic but only a stone's throw from shops and restaurants. Inspired by the architecture of Colonial Williamsburg, Bill gave his home the authenticity and substance it needed with a few elegant upgrades.

A ELEVATED THE MATERIALS Bill first got rid of the lifeless siding, asphalt roof, mismatched windows, and flat, nonfunctioning shutters. He opted to cover the exterior walls and roof with more-tactile cedar shakes. “The house was static before, but now it's more animated,” he says. “The shadows and textures all enliven it.”

B CHOSE THE RIGHT WINDOWS The new cottage-style windows (the bottom sash is longer than the top) work better with the home's architecture. They are also shorter than the originals, which allowed Bill to break the windows' previously awkward alignment with the front door. New operable shutters, painted Benjamin Moore's Georgian Green, flank the windows. Bill left the shutter hardware unpainted because he likes the crisp black color of the iron.

C IMPROVED THE DORMERS “They weren't bad as far as their shape went, but I felt they would look better with the same roof style as the main house,” says Bill. He replaced their squatty, hipped roofs with pointy gables. He also added a third dormer in the middle, explaining, “They were just too far apart. It looked like something was missing.” Lastly, he installed new double-hung windows to complement the first story.

D SKIPPED THE LAWN Bill put every inch of his small front yard to good use by forgoing grass for a more impactful garden. He replaced the unruly vines, sloppy shrubs, and front walk with a tailored parterre of boxwoods and paths of antique bricks. “The house is only 27 feet wide,” he says. “It's no issue walking around that garden, and it adds a bit of green around the front door.”

GET THE LOOK

Add iconic cottage style to your home with these charming picks.



LANTERN
French
Conductor in
Antique Brass
(CHO2100),
\$1,050; circa-lighting.com



FLAG
3' by 5' US Polyester Flag,
\$36.95; tidmoreflags.com
■ Reader deal! 10% off
with code SLI3



SHAKES
#1 Medium Handsplit
Treated Cedar,
from \$2.59/sq. ft.,
available through Cole-
Hall Lumber Company;
205/663-2900



BRICKS
Chamfered Full Range Pavers
by Ragland Clay (raglandclay.com), \$2.43/sq. ft.; available
through alabamabrick.com

EDITOR'S TIP

Soften red brick with limewashing. The mellow patina only gets better with age!



3 Modernize a Georgian

Architects Paul Bates and Jeremy Corkern of Bates Corkern Studio bring life back to a traditional 1920s Charlotte, North Carolina, home

▶ WHEN A YOUNG COUPLE

bought this stately brick house, they knew it had great bones and wouldn't require too much work. Their only concern was that it felt dark and dowdy—a problem Birmingham-based architects Paul Bates and Jeremy Corkern easily remedied. “The house was already charming, but the brick was hard and it was lacking something,” says Jeremy. “It needed some depth and lightness to reflect the homeowners' lifestyle.” Here's how Bates Corkern Studio enlivened the home.

A LIGHTENED UP THE PALETTE

“The red brick was hard and lifeless before,” says Jeremy. A limewash (paint diluted with water and mixed with sand) softened up the harsh brick. They continued to fine-tune the facade by painting all the shutters and trim Pratt & Lambert's Lambswool. This new creamy color scheme makes the home's original (and much envied) Buckingham gray slate roof stand out.

B BALANCED THE COMPOSITION

Before, the home's exterior seemed too one-dimensional. “It felt like the house didn't have a nose. So we added the bay window on the right side,” Jeremy

explains. A previous addition on the left side was out of scale with the rest of the house. Paul and Jeremy reworked the structure to make it look more substantial and built a low garden wall to give the home more depth from the street.

C MAXIMIZED THE STATURE

“Everything was done to give the house some height because the homes on either side loom over it,” says Jeremy. “We tried to pick it up a bit.” They added the tall bay window and the arched front doors to keep eyes moving up. A bell-shaped front lawn furthers the illusion of more height.

NOTICE THE DETAILS

Get inspired by the elements that make this home outstanding.



SHOWSTOPPING BAY WINDOW

Extra-thick molding surrounds the new copper-topped bay window, lending it the visual weight of limestone without the cost. Traditional panes would have looked too heavy, so Paul and Jeremy chose delicate leaded windows with wavy restoration-style glass.



ENLARGED ENTRANCE Paul and Jeremy created an oversize but not imposing 9-foot-tall limestone entryway. Light spills into the foyer through the 7-foot French doors and leaded-glass transom. A pair of Palladian-style shutters adds a single punch of color (Pratt & Lambert's Artichoke).



REFINED ADDITION A ho-hum porch enclosure on the home's far left side wasn't working. "It was like someone said, 'Let's just fill that in,'" Jeremy says. So they refined it, replacing the siding with flush boards and adding a parapet (extra-thick molding) to the top for height and deep shadow lines.



STYLISH GARAGE Paul and Jeremy updated the rear garage with punchy green-and-white stripes that mimic an awning. They also installed a more rustic cedar-shake roof on the structure, because "outbuildings should always have lesser roofs than the main house," says Jeremy.

GET THE LOOK

Mimic this Georgian's light and airy style.

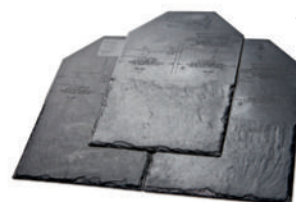
LANTERN & BRACKET

5001 in Rust by Fourteenth Colony (fourteenthcolonylighting.com), from \$1,322, available from Brandino Brass; 205/978-8900



DOOR SHUTTERS

Western Red Cedar Horizontal Louver with Radius Top (in Artichoke; prattandlambert.com) from \$700/pair; timberlane.com



ROOF TILES

Majestic Slate in Midnight Gray by EcoStar (ecostarllc.com), \$4/sq. ft., available through Emack Slate Company; emackslate.com



PLANTER

24-Inch Cube Planter in White, \$186.53; cedarwoodfurniture.com

\$ Reader deal! 10% off entire site with code **SOUTHERNLIVING**