

## MOUNTAIN SETTING

With our house nestled on a corner lot in Mt Laurel, a community located between Birmingham (our hometown!) and Double Oak Mountain, Ingram played to the woodsy locale with a dark gray palette.

THE NEXT GENERATION OF

# Southern Decorating

For our **50th Anniversary Idea House**, we selected five of today's best young designers, shared old *Southern Living* stories for inspiration, and set them loose to decorate this charming cottage designed by Bill Ingram Architect. See their fresh takes on traditional Southern style

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# Bill Ingram / THE NOSTALGIC MODERNIST

## HIS STYLE

► “I could live in one of two types of houses,” says Birmingham-based architect Bill Ingram: “a Colonial Williamsburg-style cottage or a stark modern home.” As dissimilar as those seem, it’s that push-pull between traditional and modern that gives each of his houses an enduring freshness. His projects never lack a classic Southern sensibility, but there’s always a twist, like the mansard roof atop this raised cottage.

## HIS ROLE

► Ingram was born in Birmingham, graduated from Auburn University, and now has an office in Atlanta in addition to his Birmingham base. Several of Ingram’s projects—including his own home—have graced our pages in the past, so he was a natural choice for designing our 50th Anniversary house. In addition to being responsible for the home’s architecture, he also decorated the kitchen, family room, and back hall.

**opposite:** Slipcovered, upholstered pieces (the Spruce Street sofa and Kent chairs from Serena & Lily) look like they could have been covered in overage from the ceiling fabric.



*“I like anything, traditional or modern, that’s classic in spirit.”*

—BILL INGRAM

TAKE THE VIDEO TOUR!

Get more tips and secrets from the decorators themselves at [southernliving.com/ideahouse](http://southernliving.com/ideahouse).



**FRESH TAKE**  
Greek key trim ([phoenixtrimworks.com](http://phoenixtrimworks.com)) adds an edgy touch to 140 yards of soft cotton draping.

## THE FAMILY ROOM / Start from the top.

Open to the dark green kitchen (page 108), the square family room needed a boost. “The tented ceiling lightens up the space, and it’s a 1960s throwback,” says Ingram. The secret to pulling off the look is to use only simple, inexpensive fabrics sold by the bolt. You must also realize that the ceiling’s labor is not for the faint of heart. First, line the room with curtain rods and drapery panels at the top of the walls. Instead of letting the panels hang down like curtains, pull them up to the center of the ceiling and secure above the pendant light. The valances hide the rods and conceal the junctures of the curtains. “It’s a lot of work,” says Ingram, “but there is no other treatment with such impact.”



THE EXTERIOR /  
**Turn the  
corner.**

“When we settled on this corner property, it begged for a wraparound porch that faced both streets,” says Ingram about his Southern raised cottage. “I think this house could work anywhere. Painted white, it could be in an open field, but here in this rocky locale, we wanted it dark gray. But it still has classic white trim.” Try the mountain palette for yourself with Sherwin-Williams Night Owl on the siding, Meadowland on the shutters, and Pure White for the trim. (Note: The siding of the house is actually HardiePlank Smooth Lap Siding with ColorPlus Technology in Iron Gray.) In addition to the huge porch, there’s also a dining terrace designed by Margaret Kirkland, with the native landscape and hardscape done by David N. Brush.



*clockwise from top:* The Ballard Designs Suzanne Kasler Directoire dining set sits on the terrace; A relaxing side porch opens off the living room; The side entrance to the house is directly off the terrace.