

BUILDING ON A DREAM

A luxury home grows with its owners.



MORGAN-KEEFE
BUILDERS



Twice charmed

Morgan-Keefe Builders is dedicated to exceeding expectations. Which explains why Morgan-Keefe's clients invariably say they would "do it all over again" and often maintain long-standing friendships with the Carolina mountain builder.

While homeowners consistently enjoy the process of building their custom homes with Morgan-Keefe, not many have the occasion to do so twice.

For one Lake Keowee couple, the prospect of welcoming their first grandchild provided the perfect opportunity.

"When we started thinking about building our addition, there was never any question that we would use Malcolm and Morgan-Keefe again," the homeowners share. "Malcolm and his team are tops in class."



Original Loka Kewee home built in 2001.

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Building a carriage house addition provided the perfect opportunity to rethink the home's exterior and incorporate more natural building materials such as native fieldstone, granite and rustic wavy pine siding.

Exterior renovations also included installing a lightweight Vermont slate 2.0 roofing system, extending the roofline, and handcrafted stone features including an inviting and sheltered main entrance.

The new carriage house is a retreat in its own right. This private guest suite has a separate entrance off the front courtyard and is accessible from within the main house through a private hallway off the kitchen.

Located in one of The Cliffs' communities nestled in South Carolina's foothills, this exceptional lake home slowly reveals itself through lush hardwoods as you wind around a gently curving stone-paved drive.

With its elegant carriage house and artfully crafted stone and timber exterior, this lakefront estate has a timeless quality that makes it hard to believe renovations were only recently completed.

A handcrafted mahogany front door opens into the home's great room, revealing a stunning mountains and lake view, one of the home's many treasured features.

"We already loved this house, especially the interior," the homeowners share. "The quality of the workmanship is exceptional. With the renovation, we wanted to bring more of what we loved on the interior to the exterior as well," they explain.



A new mahogany and glass entry lends Old World charm to the lake house. The German custom doors and windows used throughout the house reflect more than 180 years of fine craftsmanship.





Tim Adams of TS Adams Studio, Architects in Atlanta designed the guest suite addition and used native stone and other natural building materials to unify the home's exterior and emphasize the beauty of its natural surroundings. Morgan-Keefe took it from there.


The home's redesigned exterior now features native field-stone and granite entryways that create a rustic elegance that echoes the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains surrounding this unique lake community.

The dormered carriage house, new slate roofing, and sunken entryway evoke European charm, while wavy pine siding and indigenous plantings by Cosgrove Landscaping firmly anchor the home in the lush Carolina mountain soil.

Stone retaining walls support the new stone driveway and gently curve around native landscaping. An elegant sunken entry lets guests know they have arrived in this magical place.

Turning the original garage into a two-story carriage house inspired a redesigning of the home's entire roofline. New dormers add to the sophisticated charm of this mountain-lake home.





"We loved our porch before, but now we're not sure you're going to be able to get us to come inside!"

The homeowners' favorite place to relax is the screened-in porch. Morgan-Keefe extended the porch by 10 feet to create a comfortable outdoor living area and a separate outdoor dining area. An Isckern masonry fireplace warms the porch on cool mountain evenings.

"After you've lived in a home a while, you always see things you could have done differently," the homeowners acknowledge. "Creating a guest suite gave us an opportunity to make some other changes to enhance the living spaces we use the most."

One of the couple's favorite places to relax is the home's screened-in porch overlooking Lake Keowee. Early in the renovation process, they asked if it would be possible to extend the porch another 10 feet.

"We can't say enough about the Morgan-Keefe team," the couple shares. "No matter what we asked, everyone only knew how to get to yes."

"Yes" in this case not only resulted in a larger outdoor living area, it also enhanced the way the space is used. Morgan-Keefe created a stone fireplace as a focal point for the living area and added a grilling nook and separate dining area. A beautiful new spiral staircase provides easy access from the main deck to the boathouse and the downstairs media and guest rooms.



Original great room.



Exceptional German engineering and materials have made larger expanses of glass possible than when the home was originally built. Now the great room provides even more breathtaking views. The casement windows' tilt-in operation enhances their functionality.

"We loved our porch before, but now we're not sure you're going to be able to get us to come inside!" confess both of the homeowners.

When they do come in, the couple now enjoys more breathtaking lake and mountain views with new windows and doors custom-crafted by Schöten Fenster. For nearly 200 years, the German manufacturer has refined the window and door-making process to an art form to enhance functionality and beauty.

The new carriage house, the original impetus for the renovations, is a private retreat in its own right. The guest suite is accessible from inside the main house through a private hallway but also has its own stone-covered entry that opens onto the front courtyard. An enclosed sunlit stairway provides additional privacy as it leads up to the second-floor suite with a kitchenette, spacious sitting and sleeping area, and a luxury bath.

Soft green board-and-batten walls awash with filtered light and glowing heart pine floors provide a tranquil and quiet backdrop for children and guests to retreat from the bustling activities of the main house. The carriage house offers plenty of room to daydream on a cozy window seat, relax in a comfortable chair, or indulge in a warm bath in the suite's oversized claw-footed tub.



Board and batten walls in an inviting shade of green and glowing heart pine floors make the guest suite a cozy retreat from the hustle and bustle of the main house.



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No matter what we asked, everyone only knew how to get to yes."

With 900 square feet of living space including a kitchenette and luxury bath, the guest suite is truly a retreat within a retreat.





New mahogany-clad windows blend beautifully with custom cabinetry and enhance the overall design of this kitchen.

Partnering again with Morgan-Keefe enabled the Lake Keowee couple to take a home they already loved and make it even better. It was equally rewarding for Morgan-Keefe.

"There is no higher compliment a builder can receive than to be asked by a former client to work together again," Malcolm Morgan shares. "As the years passed, the relationship our clients had with their home evolved and some needs changed. Renovation and expansion offered an exciting way to revision their original dream home."

"I'm honored by their trust and confidence and delighted by their satisfaction and enjoyment of the new spaces created by the renovation," he adds.

It is Morgan-Keefe's dedication to building and maintaining strong relationships with clients that has made projects like this one possible.

"In the end, it's not the big things that separate good builders and make the difference between a good outcome and an outstanding one," the homeowners explain. "It's the little things. The attention to detail, the strong relationships, the people."

Morgan-Keefe also works collaboratively with its building partners to ensure excellence in all aspects of the construction process from the initial concept through installation of the final window treatments.



Artful touches are featured throughout the home, like these gorgeous hand-blown glass sculptures in the master bedroom. The owners love collecting unique pieces and working closely with Cheryl to create beautiful and inviting living spaces.

Interior designer Cheryl Smith, ASID, of Cheryl Smith Associates, was another key member of Morgan-Keefe's construction team who was brought back in during the renovation process.

"When we built the house originally, we didn't think we needed an interior designer," the couple admits. Now more than 10 years later, they can't imagine doing a home without her.

"We would never build or redecorate without Cheryl," they confess. And indeed, they have used her talents many times over the years.

Cheryl worked side by side with Morgan-Keefe on the renovations to ensure the home was ready to welcome family and guests as soon as construction was completed.

"The team Morgan-Keefe put together is fabulous," the couple shares. "We wish we had another project to do because we had so much fun with them—except we're so happy with this one!"

Then again, grandchildren do have a way of multiplying...



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