

Vintage Charm with Modern Flair

**Rustic, yet chic.
Contemporary, yet pastoral.**

This modern Louisiana Colonial home—located in the heart of Bossier City’s Oak Alley subdivision—marries the best of old and new. Encompassing over 5,700 square feet of living space, the exterior whitewashing and light brick give the exterior an airy and elegant feel, while the interior blends modern interior spaces. In offering both privacy and incredible outdoor living spaces—move over Cape Cod and Craftsman—the Louisiana Colonial home is here to stay!

Alex & Katie Dempsey knew exactly what they were looking for when they started looking for a new home. Their focus was to harness country elements with a contemporary spin—wanting a home with modern conveniences that focused on livable spaces for a family with young kids. Their aim was to design something that blended clean lines, neutral color palettes, layered textures, and natural materials that would create a timeless look bursting with character. According to Alex Dempsey, “Katie and I have a casual lifestyle, so we didn’t want anything too fussy or formal. We tried to shy away from current trends, and just create a space that worked for the family.”



The terms “modern,” “Louisiana Colonial” and “architecture” might have once all seemed like opposites, but this combination of home design is currently trending in a big way. Today’s modern Louisiana Colonial homes share a French Creole panache and can be found all over Louisiana (and the southeast), and often include generous galleries, a broad spreading roofline, roofs supported by light wooden colonnettes, heavy timber frame construction combined with an infill made of brick (brique

entre poteaux), and the placement of the principal rooms. The style successfully blends authentic period French Creole architecture with the spatial and functional requirements of today's twenty-first century technology and building materials.

To help the Dempsey's create the Louisiana Colonial home they desired, the couple enlisted the help of architect Scott Payne of Farmer Payne Architects. As it happens, Scott Payne knows a thing or two when it comes to Louisiana architecture. As ninth generation Creole, Payne's love of "French Creole" architecture has been heavily influenced by Louisiana's famous architect, A. Hays Town. Using the basic fundamentals of Louisiana Colonial architectural design to guide his approach for the Dempsey's future home, Payne's goal was to thoughtfully design spaces and forms that enriched the Dempsey's lives and experiences.

The end result? Payne created a sleek, sophisticated world far removed from the traditional Louisiana Colonial home one might imagine. He was able to capture the Dempsey's vision by creating the ultimate place for comfort and style by using a clean, French Creole design that counterbalanced rustic elements (wood beams, brick fireplaces, etc.) with volumetric spaces—making it feel that nothing is too particularly precious or too formal.



Quick to recognize that his design services were just one element of the project's overall success, several design professionals collaborated with Payne to help fully construct the Dempsey's dream home—interior designer Kori Shurley (Kori Shurley Design), home builder Ryan Smith (Ryan Smith Builders), and swimming pool designer Michael Morehead (Morehead Pools). Payne said “it takes a village to design and build these projects and I was pleased to be a part of the strong collaborative design effort that produced a home that is nothing less than exceptional.”

Completed in July 2020, this five-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bathroom home is full of modern conveniences and vintage touches. Here's how some of the special spaces that make this Louisiana Colonial home really stand out.

The Overall Design and Layout

Nested on 1.5 acres, the home is asymmetrical, with the southern wing holding the garage, the main entry in the middle, and a separate two-story wing to the north. A “false” porch creates a grand welcome—giving you a spacious spot to kick your feet up, sip some lemonade, and wave hello to the neighbors. The floorplan doesn't sacrifice privacy, with an open arrangement that is both fresh and modern. And while most of the home features a one-story, split-bedroom layout (with a large bonus space above the children's bedrooms playroom, a guestroom and extra storage).

Dempsey stated that “having a one-story house makes it easier, since you don't have to worry about navigating a lot of stairs to get to the bedrooms.” With the master suite lying across the house from the children's bedrooms, mom and dad get to enjoy privacy in their own suite while the kids, and any guests, occupy the other side of the home. Everyone can then meet in the middle to relax together when watching a movie, enjoying a meal, or stepping out to the back porch for a dip in the pool.

Open Kitchen and Dining

Perfect for relaxed entertaining, two grand islands encompass an open kitchen where visitors can pull up a bar stool and relax and be entertained. The overall kitchen space allows you to serve up snacks or drinks with ease, while carrying on a conversation with friends and family. In fact, this gorgeous two-tone kitchen is a great example of why using two different colors works so well. Grey and gold—a tried and true combo—provide warm, eye-catching accents in the otherwise neutral kitchen. You'll find gold elements on the light fixtures, cabinet hardware, and even the kitchen island stools. The two-tone look is further emphasized by the contrasting cabinets and natural wood floor finish. The kitchen has the perfect dose of rustic comfort with all the pros of modern design.

Likewise, its layout offers a natural gathering spot for guests, which allows the kitchen to be more of a “show stopper” since it's so open to the rest of the house. Around the corner, the butler's pantry provides the opportunity to be used as a utilitarian space—with the ice maker, microwave, freezer and coffee station—further cementing the clutter-free notion.

The far side of the kitchen houses the dining room table, with a built-in china cabinet showcasing the Dempsey's china collection. The natural lighting from floor-to-ceiling win-





dows overlooks an outdoor seating/dining area and makes the dining area charismatic.

Master Bedroom and Bath

Understanding the need to delineate between public and private, the master bedroom and bath are nicely isolated from the rest of the house—a welcoming retreat for the Dempsey’s from their three children. Payne downplayed the link between the rest of the house by keeping master suite isolated. It was important “to create a separation between the private spaces which was a priority to the client.” The main design element is the large windows, which brings in both natural light and views of the pool and outdoor dining areas.

The Dempsey’s each have their own walk-in closet, flanked off the master bedroom, with multiple storage spaces and built-in shelving. The master bath, while one room, is separated into his-and-her vanities, with the shower and tub occupying the middle space.

Kids’ Bedrooms

For a child, a bedroom is more than just a place to sleep. It’s a spot to do schoolwork, play games, rough-house, read, daydream, visit with friends and stockpile toys. Each of the kids’ rooms was designed around their personalities, and each room has its own special element. One has an exposed red brick wall and another has a nook with built-

in shelves and a reading bench carved out from under the stairs. The third has a large bay floor-to-ceiling window with custom accent chairs for lounging or reading. Shurley stated that “the colors, wall-papers and furnishings were selected to match all the kids’ different personalities—adding their own element of fun, growth and practicality.”

Mud Room and Laundry Room

An inviting first impression is key to farmhouse-style homes. And what better way to welcome guests than with a cozy modern farmhouse mudroom and laundry space! The mudroom entryway, off the garage, nails the look with battleship gray cabinets and natural wood accents. Built-in storage lockers add iconic farmhouse flair.

The laundry room focuses on maximizing storage, the space is very organized and as simplistic as possible to avoid clutter. Unsightly laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, and any other products are concealed in fronted cabinets. The washer and dryer are tucked away in the corner, allowing the remainder of the room to be used for built-in storage and desks. In the center of the room a storage island doubles as a folding area.

Back Porch Patio and Pool

The back porch and swimming pool are the pinnacle of the outdoor appeal. Making the most of the space, the patio runs the length of the back facade, and is truly multi-functional. The bluestone tiles, which connects with the dining room, gives this area a gorgeous, faded, lived-in quality—proving great views of the swimming pool and surrounding landscape. A pigeonniere doubles as a changing room, as well as entertaining area—with a large television mounted to the side.

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